

Unmasking the Mask

(and other voice writing equipment)



SEIZE THE WAVE
NVRA Annual Convention

June 27-30, 2018 • Myrtle Beach, SC





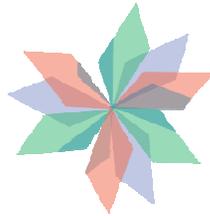
Facilitated by Becky Young
CSR, RPR, RCP, RCP-M, CLVS

Total Access Captioning
www.totalaccesscaptioning.com
totalaccesscaptioning@gmail.com
Office 405-470-4404 Cell 405-740-6833



Disclaimer

I'm just the Facilitator. Let's share!!!



Who are your cohorts?

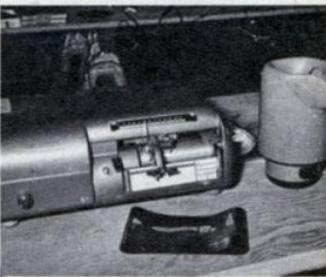
- 1 Mask only?
- 2 Headset only?
- 3 Both?
- 4 Neither?

Stenomask - A Bit of History

STENO for the BLIND (May, 1954)

STENO for the BLIND

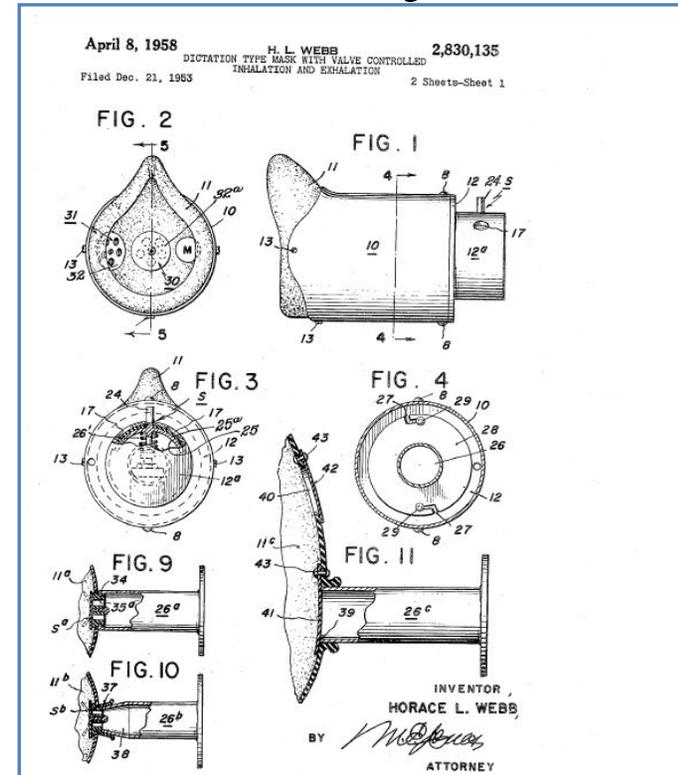
THE Stenomask, a silent microphone that can be attached to most office dictating machines, enables the blind to take dictation faster than the average person using shorthand. With it, the stenographer merely repeats the words of the speaker into the mouthpiece, which completely silences her own voice. The dictating machine in turn records her voice, playing it back later for transcription. Invented by Horace L. Webb, president of Talk, Inc.



Steno-microphone enables a blind person to take dictation orally through most dictating machines.

Here the stenographer holds the mask against her face, repeating the words of the speaker into it.

Mechanix Illustrated

<https://talktech.com/about-us/#Horace-Webb-Story>

<https://nvra.org/historical>

Vintage Mask (aka Moose Mask)

Is anyone still using these?



Masks

How Many Names Are There?

I'm Confused!

Stenomask
Steno Mask
Sylencer
Smart Mic
Classic
Steno SR
Mini Mask
Talk Tech Mask
Steno SR
SR Pro
SR-Pro 1
Pro 1

SR-1
SR-Pro 2
Pro 2
SR-2
Dragon Stenomask
Martel Mask
SM200
SM100
AudioScribe Mask
Wireless Mask
Accuspeak



Masks

Manufacturers



Talk Technologies

<https://talktech.com/>
<https://talktech.com/product-category/stenomask-store/>



Martel

<http://www.martelelectronics.com/>
<http://www.martelelectronics.com/stenomask-mini-microphones-for-court-reporters/>



AudioScribe (AccuSpeak)

<https://audioscribe.com/>
<https://audioscribe.com/portfolio-item/accuspeak/>

?

Other manufacturers I may not be aware of? These can be purchased from various sites and businesses, but these links are for the manufacturers.

Masks

What's in the Future?



HushMe

<http://gethushme.com/>

Down the Pike
For Mobile Phones



MuteMike

<http://www.japantrendshop.com/noiseless-usb-karaoke-mic-for-wii-p-576.html>

A USB mic made
for Karaoke



Talk Technologies

<https://talktech.com/product-category/stenomask-store/>



Steno SR Pro-2

\$289.00 USD

Select options

Steno SR Pro-2
New style, smaller & lighter
Dual mics
SmartMic microphone
Enhanced sound-proofing



Steno SR Pro-1

\$259.00 USD

Select options

Steno SR Pro-1
New style, smaller & lighter
Single mic
SmartMic microphone
Enhanced sound-proofing



Steno SR

\$219.00 – \$229.00 USD

Select options

Steno SR
New style, smaller & lighter
Single mic
SmartMic microphone (unadjustable)
Less sound-proofing material



Classic Sylencer/SmartMic

Read more

Classic Sylencer (SM100 & SM200)
Older style
SmartMic microphone
Still available but phasing out

Talk Technologies

NEW Facepiece



Steno SR Pro-2
\$289.00 USD

Select options

Steno SR Pro-1
\$259.00 USD

Select options

Steno SR
\$219.00 – \$229.00 USD

Select options

<https://talktech.com/shop/stenomask-store/quiet-cushion-facepiece/>

Talk Technologies

Facepieces



Mouth-only
Facepiece



Over-Nose
Facepiece

Reversed Over-
Nose Facepiece



Martel

<http://www.martelelectronics.com/stenomask-mini-microphones-for-court-reporters/>



MM-18 Steno Mini Mask (for computers & handheld recorders) stenomask

\$179.00
★★★★★

Compare

Add To Cart

Martel Stenomask
Several Names
according to the plug(s)



Revolutionary Dragon Stenomask for Voice Recognition

\$299.99
★★★★★

Compare

Add To Cart

Dragon Mask
1 or 2 microphones
USB sound card is
built in
Breathing holes
bottom front



Wireless Stenomask -World's Only

\$699.99
★★★★★

Compare

Wireless Stenomask
Was a special
request, no longer in
production

Martel

Mouthpieces

SS1 Silicon Mouthpiece for stenomasks



Price: ~~\$24.00~~
SKU: 373
Brand: [Martel](#)
Availability: IN-STOCK
Shipping: **FREE** for orders over \$49

Quantity: [Add to Cart](#)



[Description](#) [Reviews](#) [Accessories](#)

Standard size silicon mouth piece. For use with all Martel steno mini masks. The surgical grade silicon prevents irritation and is hypo-allergenic. Easy to clean and bacterial resistant.

Silicon mouthpiece that comes standard with all Martel masks

FM1 Full Face Mouthpiece for stenomask



Price: ~~\$39.95~~
SKU: 1216
Brand: [Martel](#)
Condition: New
Rating: ★★★★★ (1 product review)
Availability: IN-STOCK
Shipping: **FREE** for orders over \$49

Quantity: [Add to Cart](#)



[Description](#) [Reviews](#) [Accessories](#)

The new Mini Mask Full Face Piece by Martel allows you to turn your Mini Mask into a full face stenomask. Covering both your mouth and your nose, sound is deadened even more than normal. It is made from non-allergenic silicon, so no worries about irritation. This is a must have accessory for the realtime court reporter who is using Dragon Voice recognition.

Full face mouthpiece is an accessory product

SS4 Soft Seal Leather Mouthpiece for stenomasks



Price: ~~\$39.99~~
SKU: 372
Brand: [Martel](#)
Availability: IN-STOCK
Shipping: **FREE** for orders over \$49

Quantity: [Add to Cart](#)



[Description](#) [Reviews](#) [Accessories](#)

The soft seal mouth piece greatly increases comfort for all day users of the mini mask. In addition, the soft seal makes a 30% better seal to your face, quieting your voice even more. Exclusively from Martel Electronics

Leather mousepiece is soft and cushiony. Website says it makes a better seal. Have seen folks adapt this to the TalkTech.

AudioScribe

<https://audioscribe.com/portfolio-item/accuspeak/>



“The **AccuSpeak dictation mask** was designed by The AudioScribe Corporation after eight years of repairing other dictation masks. It was specifically designed to add strengths where other masks often needed repairs. These advancements improve the reliability and sound quality of our masks. The AccuSpeak mask uses a ventilation tube that facilitates a constant flow of air. Some of the other masks available on the market rely on valves that can fail or ventilation holes that can whistle; both allowing sound to escape, or worse – make more sound. Another way we have minimized mask sound is to point the ventilation tube downward toward the floor and not forward into the room.”

AudioScribe

Seals - <https://audioscribe.com/portfolio-item/mask-seals/>



AccuSpeak mask photo shows it without a seal. The purchaser gets their choice of one seal. Seals are also sold separately.

AudioScribe has a unique gel seal.

Types of Audio Plugs



Common size 1/8"
Mono (left)
vs.
Stereo (right)



2.5 mm mono
3.5 mm 1/8" mono
3.5 mm 1/8" stereo
6.35 mm 1/4" stereo



XLR plug
For some recorders

Additional Sites to Purchase Masks



E-Verbatim

<https://www.everbatim.net/store/index.php/hardware/voice-writing-vox.html>

Advantage Software

<https://www.eclipsecat.com/catalog/audio>

Amazon (carries Talk Technologies)

https://www.amazon.com/SR-microphone-professional-communicate-microphone/dp/B0756KXK6G/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1529866574&sr=8-1&keywords=Talk+Technologies+Steno

Start Stop Dictation

<https://www.startstop.com/talktech-sylencer-speechmask/>

VoxRite

<https://www.voxrite.com/shop/>

eBay – might find used masks for students, but would recommend getting new.

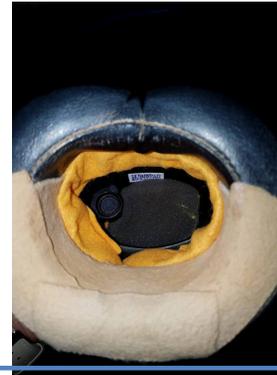
<https://www.ebay.com/i/132663238664?chn=ps> – found a wireless one for sale there

Let's Swap

Try a different brand mouthpiece on your mask

Let's face it, not one size fits all. Reporters may have a favorite mouthpiece that doesn't come with their preferred mask. It may take a bit of manipulation, but you can get *most* any mouthpiece to fit *most* masks.

"Debbie Villien This is what I do: cut the top part of the TT facepiece off so you have a tad over 1/2 inch left of the bottom part which fits onto the mask. (either one works, the regular or over the nose facepiece) Place that on the mask, then maneuver/work the SoftSeal on..it definitely takes some effort, and possibly some choice words I have mine cut so you can't see the grey of the facepiece once the SoftSeal is on. I don't want too much extra, I think it makes it more secure. I've been doing this since the original TalkTech came out, and I've never had a problem with them coming loose. I also pinch the top part of the SoftSeal where my nose is, and stitch it a few times, so I can breathe. I put moleskin around mine for comfort/so it doesn't make me sweat. I'll post a couple of pics in a minute (please excuse the makeup, This is an older one that I took apart for a demonstration) Last pic is some else's version of putting a padded mask on a TT.



Putting a padded Martel mouthpiece on a Tech Talk mask

Let's Swap

Rubber TT mouthpiece on a Martel mask.



Wrist sweat band on TT with over-nose turned upside down.



Customizing

Outside:

- Muffle Mitt – 1 or 2 muffle mitts
- Socks
- Auto sound dampening
- Faux leather
- Bubble wrap
- Black self-adhering bandage wrap

Inside:

- Shamwow (lightly glue layers)
- Nursing pads (use & toss)
- Straws to extend breathing holes
- Press n Seal over mic

Mouthpiece:

- Molefoam
- NVRA mask liners

Disclaimer: No specific recommendations.
Alter at your own risk!



Muffle Mitts

2 sizes:

Talk Tech Classic (old style)

Talk Tech Steno SR (new style, eVerbatim & VoxRite, others may have)

Martel & Accuspeak

Many sites that sell masks also sell muffle mitts - won't list all here



Doubled up!

Noico Automotive Sound Dampening



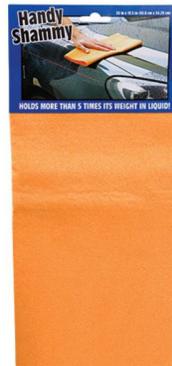
Shamwow

clean, change & dry frequently



Handy Shammy Cloths

★★★★★ 4.7 (6) [Write A Review](#)



Hands-Free



Hands-Free Mask stand by Voc Edit
<http://www.vocedit.com/product6.html>



Hands-Free Stand by Talk Tech
<https://talktech.com/shop/stenomask-store/steno-hands-free-stand/>



Hands-Free Strap by Talk Tech
<https://talktech.com/shop/stenomask-store/hands-free-strap/>

Look what I made. I tried the band for hands-free and it was just too uncomfortable for me. Then I tried the monster clamp and attaching the mask with Velcro. The clamp did not stay in place whenever I applied any pressure forward on the mask, and the bendable thingy didn't stay in place either. So I saw this desk lamp what has a huge clamp and a really sturdy bendy thingy. Attached the mask under the lamp part with Velcro, then wrapped with electrical tape and put a "specially-cut sock" around the whole thing. Works great. I can really lean into it and remove my hands to work on computer at the same time. Found the lamp at ACE Hardware. It is battery-operated so no electric cords. The lamp was \$29.99.



Hands-Free Strap by
Denise Carroll Halasey
<https://www.etsy.com/listing/506283419/handsfree-gadget>



Get creative and make your own!

Hands-Free



Donna Miller,
donna@donnamillerccr.com



Carrying Cases



Talk Tech Case

<https://talktech.com/shop/stenomask-store/light-carry-case/>

USB SoundAdapters

Sound pods can be purchased from a variety of websites, but for ease, just showing from Amazon. Some have dual inputs for microphone and headset. Some have an extender to move the plug device away from your computer.



Search this list | Filter & Sort

Item added June 22, 2016

Sound Blaster PLAT 3
★★★★☆ (43)
\$23.97
Price dropped 4% (was \$24.99 when added to list)
Size: Play 3
\$1 Used & New from \$22.94
Comment: Add
Priority: Add

Item added June 22, 2016

Buddy USB TG Sound Pod with Fiberglass Audio
★★★★☆ (4)
\$42.99
Comment: Add
Priority: Add

Item added June 22, 2016

Andrea Electronics C1-1021-150-1 model
USB-2.0 High Fidelity External Digital Sound Card with Noise Reduction Technology
★★★★☆ (22)
Business Price: \$32.99
\$1 Used & New from \$24.92
Country discount available.
Comment: Add
Priority: Add

Item added June 22, 2016

Skencor USB External Stereo Sound Adapter for Windows and Mac. Plug and play No drivers needed. (AU-8852A)
★★★★☆ (4,512)
\$6.99
Size: USB Type-A
\$1 Used & New from \$4.99
Comment: Add
Priority: Add

Item added June 22, 2016

2x5A External USB Stereo Sound Adapter for Windows, Mac, Linux, CentOS Audio Source with Microphone 20-28MHz USB
★★★★☆ (2,889)
\$6.49
Color: Black
\$1 Used & New from \$4.00
Comment: Add
Priority: Add

Item added June 22, 2016

Creative Sound Blaster X-Fi Go! Pro USB Audio System with 20000Hz 1300
★★★★☆ (427)
Business Price: \$32.99
\$1 Used & New from \$24.00
Comment: Add
Priority: Add

Item added June 22, 2016

SearchWare SpeechMatic USB MultiAdapter
★★★★☆ (8)
\$149.00
\$1 Used & New from \$141.62
Comment: Add
Priority: Add

End of List

**A Few Name Brands:
Andrea
Pure Audio
Creative
SoundBlaster
SpeechMatic
Buddy**

Headsets

Decide if you want:

1. Microphone only
2. Integrated Headset & Microphone



<http://shop.knowbrainer.com/store/pc/viewCategories.asp?idCategory=17>



<https://www.headsets.com/computer/usb/>

<https://www.headsets.com/headset/desktopmate-dual-ear-for-your-computer-usb-call-control/>



Voc Edit V-Mic

<http://www.vocedit.com/product12.html>

The screenshot displays a list of five headset products from an online store. Each product listing includes a small image of the headset, its name, price, rating (stars), and an 'Add to Cart' button. The products are:

- Audio-Technica PRO SHEM-V Hypercardioid Dynamic Headworn Microphone:** Price \$69.00 (prime), 11 Used & New from \$55.99.
- SpeechVare FlexiMike Dual Ear Cardioid Bundle:** Price \$159.00.
- Sennheiser Century SC 600 USB CTRL Premium Premium Dual-Sided Wired Headset (904555):** Price \$160.25 (prime), 29 Used & New from \$159.00.
- Sennheiser ME 3 II Dynamic Microphone:** Price \$149.95 (prime), 19 Used & New from \$149.95.
- Voice Recognition USB Headset with Noise Cancelling Microphone for Nuance Dragon Speech Recognition Software:** Business Price \$49.50 (prime), 7 Used & New from \$49.50.

Recording 2nd Audio Source to CAT



To record the audio from a computer (not the room), it needs to have the sound come from a *microphone input*. You need to take what you hear on your headset and figure out how to turn that into a microphone input. Our #1 audio mic input to our computer is the headset microphone that you speak into for Dragon. But that's not what you want to record; you want the speaker's voice. Makes it so easy to spot-check right where you want to. I personally prefer using two computers.

SCENARIO 1 – Using 2 Computers

1. The first computer has Dragon and CAT software. The meeting or class audio is coming from the second computer. You will need to split or duplicate the audio from Computer #2 out so you can listen from one and send the other one to your CAT computer. I like a Boostaroo because it not only gives me an extra "out" audio port, but you can also boost the sound in case you have a soft-spoken presenter <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00FZZ8N5O/?encoding=UTF8?coliid=I1LHYXJZFXCTL0&colid=LIANDCN19YRZ&psc=0>

2. Using a male-to-male audio cable, plug one end into the Boostaroo (or splitter) and plug the other into a sound pod. It will be simpler if you use a sound pod of a different brand than you do for Dragon, so it is easily identifiable which is which. Plug that sound pod USB into an available port on your computer. Your software will now recognize that you have two different microphones.



or



Recording 2nd Audio Source to CAT

SCENARIO 2 – Using 1 Computer



You will need to set up Windows have two audio outputs from your volume mixer. Generally you tell your computer you want to listen from your speakers or a headset, not both. For this to work, you need to listen from two audio outputs, called a “Stereo Mix” by Windows. (This doesn’t apply if you get your sound from a second computer.) Here’s two YouTube videos explaining how to do that.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zvezLmCDBI>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV46UXLsVW4&index=1&t=50s&list=LLyEvZX64_52MbVRTWy67mBA

Once you have the dual audio output set up, you then would plug the 3.5mm male/male cable <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B001O5J47U/?encoding=UTF8?coliid=I2TE3ZQR6L113P&colid=LIANDCN19YRZ&psc=0>) into your computer where you'd plug in regular analog headphones. Picture #1 shows my cheapo headphones - that's where you put one end of the male cable. The other end of the 3.5mm cable goes into a USB sound pod and plug that in, which your software will then recognize as microphone #2. (Picture #2 shows those 2 pieces). Ideally it should be a different brand than the other sound pod you are using.

The end result is that you have 2 audio in and 2 audio out. That's a lot of stuff going on for one computer, but it's doable with a powerful computer.

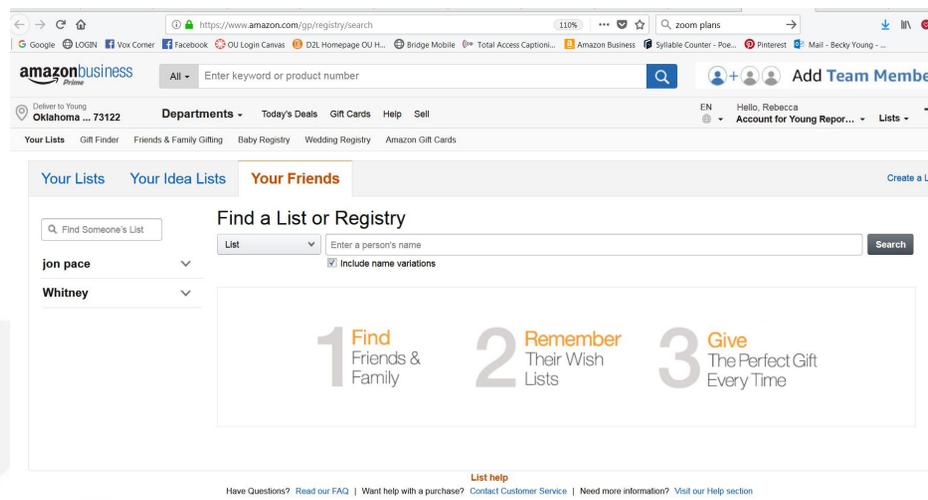


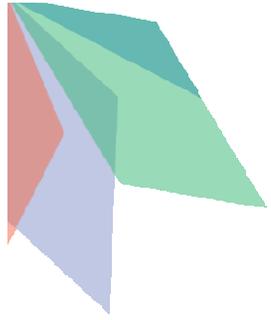
Miscellaneous

Boostaroo
Audio Splitter
Audio Extension Cable
Audio Adapters



Amazon Public List: <http://a.co/h5Y3jpz> Called Voice Writers Wish List





QR Barcode link to Total
Access Captioning



That's All!

It's Swap Time

THANKS!!!



QR Barcode link to
download PowerPoint

