



**Augmentative Communication Services
The ALS Center at UCSF**



Phone Link Hands Free System

The Minomech Phone Link allows you to connect your Windows based computer or speech generating device directly to the telephone. This allows the sound output from your communication system to go directly into the telephone, as opposed to using a speaker phone. This allows for a much cleaner, clearer sound.

The following handout describes a way to use the Phone Link with a telephone head set, in order to make private, hands-free phone calls. (The Phone Link will also work with a LightWriter or LINK communication device)



Item		Function	Vendor	Price
Hardware (Required)				
Telephone 	Any telephone with a headset (Note: Not a cordless phone, but an actual handset) It must be a phone which allows you to dial the number from the base of the phone.	I received a REMOTE ANSWER PHONE from CTAP http://www.ddtp.org	FREE	
Minomech Phone Link 	Allows you to directly connect your Communication Device or your PC to the telephone	www.minomech.com (Product Number: EC-PL03) Can also be purchased from Zygo Industries www.zygo-usa.com	\$70.00 +/-	

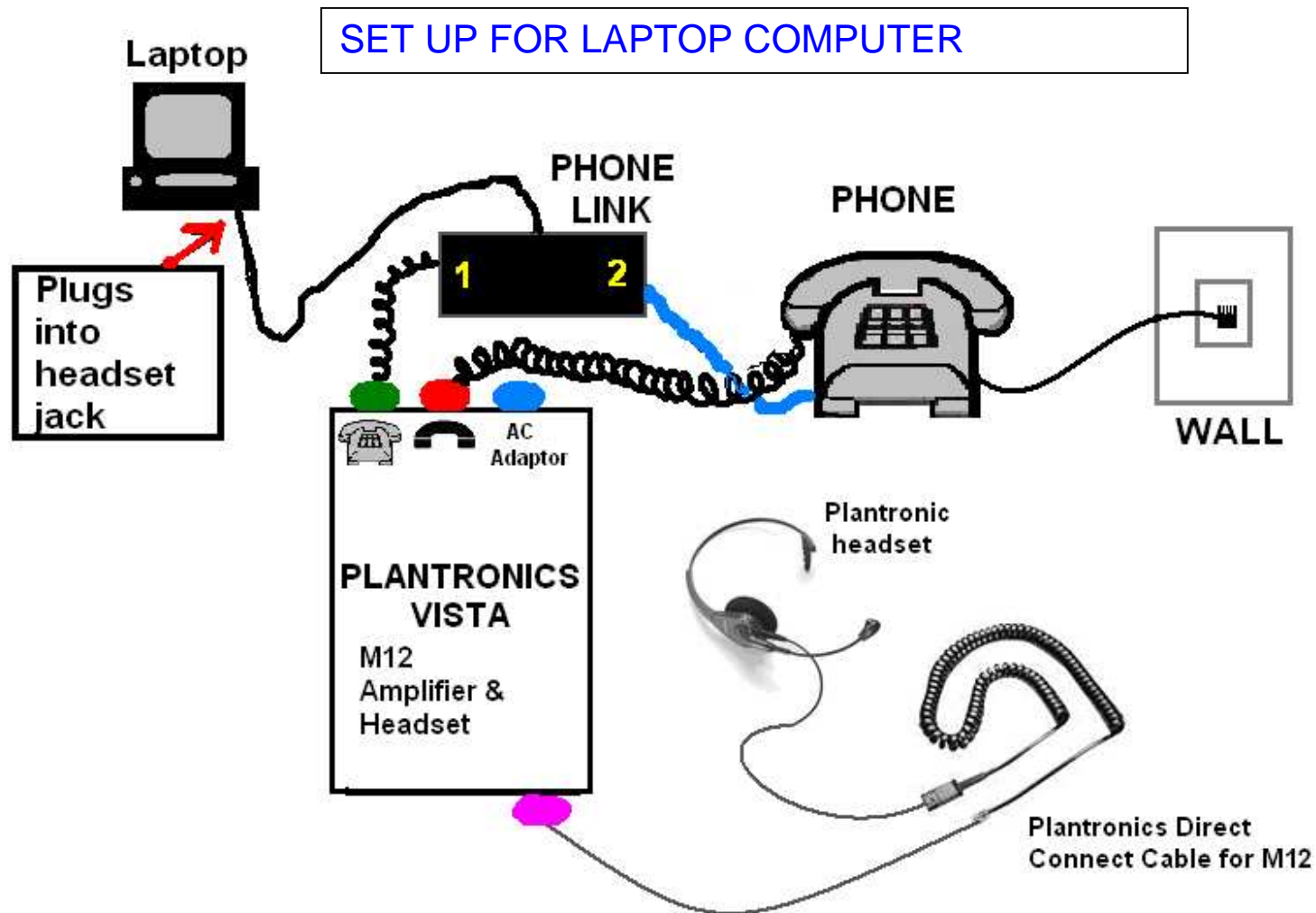
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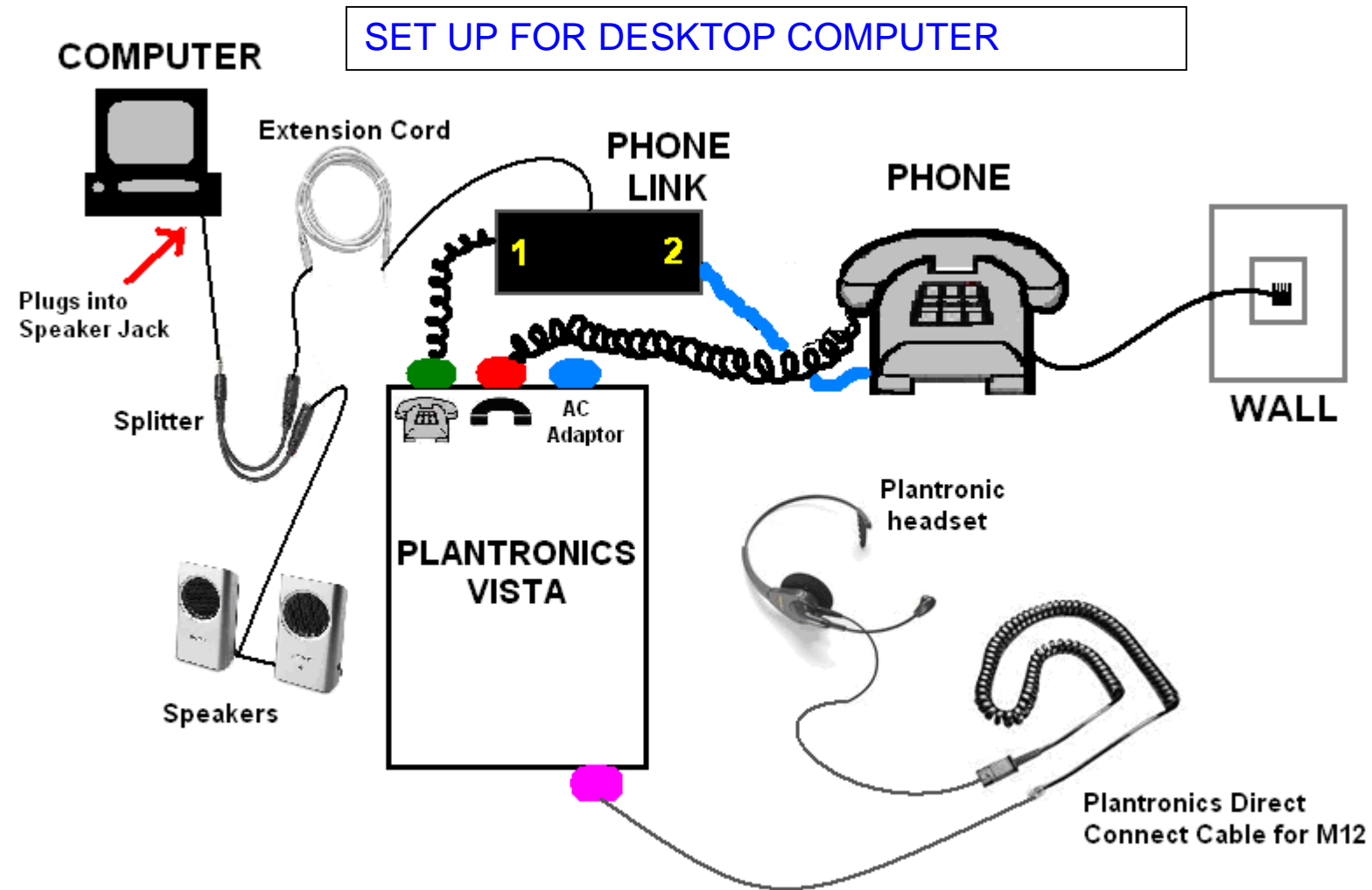
Optional HARDWARE (for desktop computer)				
Splitter (Headphone Cable Y-Adapter) (FOR DESKTOP COMPUTER)	 (Optional for desktop)	Plug this into the speaker jack on your desktop computer. Plug your computer speakers into one of the female receptacles, and plug the Phone Link into the other. (This allows you to use your desktop speakers and the Phone Link at the same time.)	Radio Shack www.radioshack.com (Model: 42-2570 Catalog #: 42-2570)	\$5.99
Extender (8 foot long Audio Cable) (FOR DESKTOP COMPUTER)	 (Optional for desktop)	Extended phone cord for easy access. (This is for people who might be using a desktop computer, and don't want to have to keep pulling out the CPU in order to plug in the Phone Link.)	Radio Shack www.radioshack.com (Model: 42-2492 Catalog #: 42-2492)	\$6.99
Optional SOFTWARE (for desktop or laptop computer)				
Etriloquist Software		Communication software. (You type into the program, and it talks out loud.)	www.etriloquist.com	Free
Higher Quality Synthetic Speech	(Optional)	Etriloquist comes with free Microsoft synthetic speech. It may be worthwhile to invest \$35 in better quality speech.	www.nextup.com Check out the NeoSpeech Voices (Paul 16 and Kate 16) Also, the AT&T Natural Voices	\$35.00 +
ShortKeys	(Optional)	Free abbreviation expansion software (For example, if you type hh It will type out "Hi, How are you?")	www.shortkeys.com/lite.htm	Free

COMPONENTS NEEDED FOR HANDS-FREE SET UP-

NOTE- If you go onto eBay, and do a search on: “Plantronics Vista” you will see dozens of used Plantronics amps and headsets, starting at \$10.00. I have purchased the Amplifier and headset together for \$20 plus shipping on eBay. It may be worthwhile to buy the headset and amp together, to make sure they work together.











<p>Plantronics Vista Headset Amplifier M12</p>		<p>Allows you to hear and amplifies the voice of the person on the other end of the telephone.</p>	<p>www.headsetplus.com (Model: 43596-14)</p> <p>[Plantronics TriStar Headset with M12 is a wireless version which costs around \$182 http://www.founderstelecom.com/]</p>	<p>Ranges from \$1.99-\$200+ (If you buy a used one on e-bay, it's much cheaper)</p>
<p>Plantronics Headset</p>			<p>www.headsetplus.com (Model: 43465-01)</p>	<p>\$104.95 (Sometimes, other vendors will sell this along with the amplifier)</p>





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HOW TO SETUP (FOR A DESKTOP COMPUTER):

1. Place 2 AA batteries in the Plantronics Vista M12 amplifier  or use AC adapter if available.
2. Plug the regular phone handset jack into the handset socket on the Plantronic Vista amplifier (the middle of the 3 sockets).
(You should see a handset symbol )
3. Using the short telephone cord, plug one end into the telephone's handset socket and the other end into the Minomech phone link.
4. The Minomech Phone Link will come with a short coil telephone cord. One end should already be plugged into the "1" side of the phone link. Plug the other end to Plantronic Vista's phone socket. (the left socket with a symbol of a telephone )
5. Plug your Plantronics headset  into the headset socket on the Plantronic Vista Machine (the socket should be in the front)
6. There should be a wire coming out of the Minomech phone link. Plug the end of that wire to the extension cord,  if using a desktop computer..
7. Plug the extension cord  to one end of the splitter 
8. Plug your external speakers  into the other female end of the splitter 
9. The male end of the splitter  should plug into the speaker jack in the back of the computer.

Once the setup is complete, to use the system:

1. If you want to listen to the sound through your Plantronics headset, press the headset button on the Plantronic Vista amplifier (a green indicator should be on)
2. If you want to use natural speech, do not turn on the switch on the right (the one with the symbol of a slash through the lips) It should be black.
3. To adjust the volume of the sound coming through the headset, roll the dial on the left side of the Plantronic Vista machine
4. To make a phone call, take the handset off the telephone, then dial your number using your telephone keypad.