

Short Reference for the Activator Pro 64/80

Version January 2026

Before using the Activator Pro, please read the printed and digitally enclosed instructions for use with safety instructions. The digital version is located on the included StartStick. On the StartStick, you will also find the detailed user manual, which describes all the functions of the Activator Pro in detail.

The Activator Pro at a Glance

Top of the Unit

Please place the Activator Pro on the table in front of you so that the Braille display is directly in front of you. The two keys in the front center are the two space bars. The left space bar is later referred to as [SPCL] and the right one correspondingly as [SPCR]. In case that both left and right space bars can be pressed, they are designated [SPC].

Behind the space bars are the 64 or 80 ergonomic Braille cells with integrated cursor routing keys. With the integrated cursor routing keys, hereinafter referred to as [CR] keys, the cursor can be placed directly at the text position of a specific Braille cell.

To the left and right of the Braille display there are three separate navigation keys, marked N followed by 1 to 6, according to the arrangement of the Braille dots. So at the top left [N1], below [N2] and [N3], on the right [N4], [N5] and [N6]. They are embedded in the housing in such a way that they do not stand out from the Braille cells. The navigation keys have the following functions:

The upper left or right navigation key serves as a reading key to move back in the text and is subsequently called [N1] or [N4].

The lower left or right navigation key is used for reading forward and is subsequently called [N3] or [N6].

When the left or right center navigation key is pressed, various additional functions are triggered.

The high-quality, ultra-slim computer keyboard is located above the Braille cells. In addition to a standard keyboard, this one has an extra row of function keys (F13 to F24) at the very top, as well as three blue special keys directly next to them.

The Activator Pro 80 is also equipped with 10 QuickAccess keys to the right of the keyboard. These are labeled from the top left to the bottom right with [QA1] to [QA10]. This means that the top two keys are called [QA1] and [QA2], below them are [QA3] and [QA4] and so on.

The Activator Pro 64 does not have these 10 [QA] keys due to its shorter design. The functions of these [QA] keys can be called up by pressing {Fn+digit 1 to 0}. This means that pressing {Fn+1} triggers the same function as [QA1] on the Activator Pro 80 and {Fn+0} is equivalent to [QA10].

Left side of the Device

If you move from front to back on the left side of the case, you can feel the round on/off button. There is a USB-C port about 0.78 inch (2 cm) behind it for connecting the Activator Pro to a PC or, if necessary, for power supply via a plug-in power supply.

Note: The Activator Pro is powered exclusively via this interface.

Right side of the Device

On the right side of the case, there is another USB-C port for connecting the Activator Pro to a PC, tablet or mobile phone. This port does not power the Activator Pro.

Switching between connected devices

To switch between the different channels, i.e. also between different connected devices, press the left of the three special keys located in the top row of the keyboard.

Order starting from the menu mode (which is also considered a channel):

- USB device left side
- USB device right side
- After that, all Bluetooth devices will follow (the name of the Bluetooth device will be displayed or Bluetooth device with number 1 to 3)
- Finally menu mode again

When ActiveSplit is activated, the left special key changes the channel for the left Braille display area and the middle special key changes the channel for the right Braille display area.

ActiveSplit

The idea of ActiveSplit is to be able to operate two independent computer systems at the same time with a Braille display divided into two segments. With two USB-C ports – e.g. left to the PC and right to the smartphone or tablet - and up to 3 Bluetooth connections, the Activator Pro offers many possible combinations.

To activate ActiveSplit, press the middle of the three special keys located in the top row of the keyboard.

After activating ActiveSplit, the Braille display is split at position 49. We call the separating Braille cell at position 49 a divider. Both Braille ranges behave like two separate Braille displays. On the left as a 48 Braille display and on the right as a 31 (Activator Pro 80) or 15 (Activator Pro 64) Braille display. Thanks to the intelligent control, JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver dynamically adapt to the respective Braille display length, and thanks to BrailleHID, this also applies to iPhones and iPads connected via USB. The left navigation keys [N1], [N2] and [N3] are used to operate the left Braille segment – and the right navigation keys [N4], [N5] and [N6] are used to operate the right Braille segment.

The last reading position, determined via ATC, assigns the keyboard and other controls to the last Braille range read. If the controls are assigned to the left area, the divider symbol on the Braille display (an arrow) points to the left with the dots 2, 3, 4, 8, and if the right side is assigned, the divider shows the dots 1, 5, 6, 7. This assignment can also be changed by pressing a [CR] key above the respective Braille segment.

The [CR] key of the divider can be used to dynamically reposition it. To do this, press the [CR] key above the divider and immediately afterwards press the [CR] key of the new desired divider position. Immediately, the layout of the Braille areas changes.

To exit ActiveSplit, either press the left special key for more than two seconds, in which case the left area will take up the entire Braille display length. Or you can press the middle special key for more than two seconds, in which case the right area takes over the entire Braille display length. ActiveSplit also terminates automatically if a Bluetooth device is selected for one of the

two segments and the connection to it is lost. In such a case, the opposite area takes over the entire Braille display length.

To swap the right and left Braille line areas, press the two special keys (left and center) together. The divider remains in its position, i.e. the length of the areas remains the same, only the contents are swapped.

Important: To switch to internal menu mode, ActiveSplit must be disabled.

BrailleShot

At BrailleShot, we were inspired by screenshots, as a frequently used way to quickly save a displayed piece of information. The idea of BrailleShot is to be able to quickly save interesting information displayed by any system on the Braille display. For example, BrailleShot can be used to store a phone number or text sections internally in the Activator Pro. In the BrailleShot folder, the information is stored as a file with date and time, and is also stored on the clipboard.

Press [QA3] or {Fn+3} to activate the BrailleShot function. Everything you read on the Braille display from now on will be saved. Press [QA3] or {Fn+3} again to stop recording.

The information stored on the clipboard can be edited and copied using the internal editor. To transfer this internal information to connected systems, you can use DirektTransfer by pressing [QA4].

An example to illustrate better: From the homepage of your favorite pizzeria, you can use BrailleShot to cache the phone number in order to send it directly to the iPhone with DirektTransfer and call there.

Since the information from the last BrailleShot is also stored on the clipboard, transferring short strings to another system is very easy. Use BrailleShot to cache an info, then switch to the iPhone and transfer the info with [QA4].

The HelpTech+ app

Together with our specially developed iOS app HelpTech+, the Activator Pro is enhanced with additional functions and smart services, such as a Braille monitor which allows a sighted person to follow the information displayed on the Braille display directly on the iPhone screen or the voice input service that allows you to dictate texts into the Activator Pro.

To use the HelpTech+ app, the iPhone must be connected to the Activator Pro via a cable. HelpTech+ cannot be used via a Bluetooth connection between the Activator Pro and iPhone.

Internal menu structure of the Activator Pro

- Editor:
New, Previous File, New directory
- iOS Apps:
Files, Safari, Mail, Word, HelpTech+, Edit.
- Smart Services:
News
- Clock:
Display date/time, Set Clock, Stopwatch
- Games:
BrailleHunt, Hangman
- Mass storage

- Braille sets:
Standard (internal), character sets 1 to 9, delete selection.
- Info:
Memory usage, keyboard layout, serial number, versions, maintenance info.
- Options

List of Key Combinations

Below you will find a list of the most important functions and their key combinations. The numbers in the right-hand column of the tables refer to the Braille dots to be pressed. Braille input must be activated via the "Braille" key on the keyboard.

Navigating in the internal Menu

Function	Keys
One menu item to the left	N1/N4 or SPC+7 or SPC+1
One menu item to the right	N3/N6 or SPC+8 or SPC+4
First menu item within this level	SPC+1 2 3
Last menu item within this level	SPC+4 5 6
Move up one menu level	N2
Select or move down one menu level	N5
Toggle checkbox	SPC or N5 or CR keys
Select menu item directly	Hotkeys
Return to suspended Editor	SPC+1 2 3 4 5 6

Keys while controlling connected devices

Function	Keys
Return to menu	Left special key with ActiveSplit turned off until "Menu Mode" is displayed
Switch between Braille display and status cell display	SPCL+SPCR
ATC forwarding with all screen readers	Chord 1 7 8 when Braille Input Mode is active

Key commands in the Editor

Function	Braille keys	Computer keyboard
Canceling operations, deselecting	N2	Esc
Read in the text	N1/N4 or N3/N6	Arrow keys
Start automatic reading	SPC + N3/N6	---
Changing the automatic reading speed	N1/N4 or N3/N6, if automatic reading is active	---
Scroll manually	SPC	Space bar
Stop automatic reading	CR keys	---
Automatic advance with ATC on/off	Chord A (SPC + 1 7)	---
Delete the character at the cursor	SPC + 4 5	Delete
Backspace key	Chord b (SPC + 1 2)	Backspace
Cursor to the beginning of the file (Home)	SPC + 1 2 3	Ctrl+Home
Cursor to the end of the file (End)	SPC + 4 5 6	Ctrl+End

Function	Braille keys	Computer keyboard
Cursor to the beginning of the line	SPC + 1 3	Home
Cursor to the end of the line	SPC + 4 6	End
Cursor to the beginning of the next sentence	SPC + 5	Ctrl+Arrow down
Cursor to the beginning of the previous record	SPC + 2	Ctrl+Arrow up
Cursor to the next word	SPC + 6	Ctrl+Arrow right
Cursor to the previous word	SPC + 3	Ctrl+Arrow left
Move cursor to the left	SPC + 7	Arrow left
Move cursor to the right	SPC + 8	Arrow right
Cursor one line up	SPC + 1	Arrow up
Cursor one line down	SPC + 4	Arrow down
Place cursor directly	Cursor routing keys	
Mark the beginning of the block	SPC + N5 or press the routing key twice at the start of the block	Ctrl+Enter
Cut out block	Chord x (SPC + 1 3 4 6)	Ctrl+x
Copy block	Chord c (SPC + 1 4)	Ctrl+c
Delete block (without copying)	Chord X (SPC + 1 3 4 6 7) or SPC + 1 2	Ctrl+X
Insert block	Chord v (SPC + 1 2 3 6)	Ctrl+v
Change mark and cursor	SPC + 7 8	---
Insert/overwrite mode	Chord i (SPC + 2 4), default setting is Insert	Insert
Set mark	N1/N4 + N3/N6	Ctrl+Shift+m
Jump to mark	Chord m (SPC + 1 3 4)	Ctrl+m
Search forward	Chord f (SPC + 1 2 4)	Ctrl+f
Searching backwards	Chord F (SPC + 1 2 4 7)	Ctrl+Shift+f
Replace forward	Chord r (SPC + 1 2 3 5)	Ctrl+r
Display characters in ASCII	Chord D (SPC + 1 4 5 7)	Ctrl+Shift+d
Insert current date	Chord d (SPC + 1 4 5)	---
Save file (without closing)	Chord s (SPC + 2 3 4)	Ctrl+s
Open file from the editor	Chord o (SPC + 1 3 5)	Ctrl+o
Open file in read-only mode	Chord O (SPC + 1 3 5 7)	---
Switch to the next file	SPC + 5 6 8	Alt+Tab
Go to previous file	SPC + 2 3 7	Alt+Shift+Tab
Save and close file	Chord e (SPC + 1 5)	Ctrl+e
Suspend editor	SPC + 1 2 3 4 5 6	Ctrl+Spacebar
Settings menu of the editor	Chord u (SPC + 1 3 6)	Ctrl+u
Status display	Chord S (SPC + 2 3 4 7)	Ctrl+Shift+s
Help function	Chord h (SPC + 1 2 5)	Ctrl+h
DirectTransfer - Transfer of the selected text block. If not marked, then transfer the entire text	Chord E (SPC + 1 5 7)	---

Assignment of the screen reader function

In the following table you will find the assignment using the example for JAWS. To do this, switch to Braille input mode with the Braille key. In the detailed user manual you will also find the tables for VoiceOver, as well as the complete table for JAWS.

Control Key/Braille Dot	Function
[7]	Activate PC cursor tracking.
[3]	Display the first line in the window (title).
[2]	Move the Braille display to the left.
[1]	Move the Braille display section one line up without changing the horizontal position.
[SPCL]	If there is any text to the left of the Braille display section, it moves to the left, if not, it moves one line up and moves the cursor.
[SPCR]	If there is any text to the right of the Braille display section, it moves to the right, if not, it moves one line down and moves the cursor.
[4]	Move the Braille display section one line down without changing the horizontal position.
[5]	Move the Braille display to the right.
[6]	Display the last line in the window.
[8]	Drag the JAWS cursor to the PC cursor and activate the JAWS cursor.
[N1/N4]	If there is any text to the left of the Braille display section, it moves to the left, if not, it moves one line up.
[N3/N6]	If there is any text to the right of the Braille display section, it moves to the right, if not, it moves one line down.
[SPCL + SPCR]	Toggle status cells on and off.
[7 8]	Switch between structured mode, section output and speech output.
[3 8]	Change cursor representation (dots 7 and 8, all 8 dots, blinking and non-blinking).
[2 8]	Toggle between 6/8 dot Braille.
[1 8] or [N1+N6]	Help Tech configuration dialog (starting from Handy Tech JAWS Driver version 3.x)
[4 8]	Toggle between focused text on Braille display/same text as on screen.
[5 8]	Activate the JAWS cursor.
[2 3]	Beginning of line
[5 6]	End of line
[1 2 3]	Top of file
[4 5 6]	End of file
[3 6 7]	Speech interruption on/off
[3 6 7 8]	Output task bar
[N2]	Tab
[N5]	Shift + Tab
[N2 + N5]	Enter
[SPC + 1 2 7]	Toggle Braille input on/off
[SPC + 1 7]	Toggle ATC on/off
[SPC + 1 2 3]	Toggle ATC reading protocol on/off
[SPCL + 1 2 3 7]	If there is any text to the left of the Braille display section, it moves to the left, if not, it moves one line up.

Control Key/Braille Dot	Function
[SPCR + 4 5 6 8]	If there is any text to the right of the Braille display section, it moves to the right, if not, it moves one line down.
[SPCL + SPCR + 1 2 3 7]	Move the Braille display section one line up.
[SPCL + SPCR + 4 5 6 8]	Move the Braille display section one line down.