



INTERVIEWS AND DEMOS AVAILABLE

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Two Major Monarch Features Create Refreshable Braille Display; Freestyle Tactile Graphics Creation

Demo Terminal Mode and Wing It on the Monarch at NFB Convention on Wednesday, July 9 - Saturday, July 12.

Louisville, KY (July 8, 2025) – American Printing House for the Blind is pleased to share two significant new features for the Monarch - the addition of the Braille Terminal mode and the Wing It app.

[The Monarch](#) is a multiline braille device that renders tactile graphics integrated with braille on the first-of-its-kind 10-line by 32-cell refreshable braille display. With access to downloadable digital textbooks and [APH's Tactile Graphics Image Library \(TGIL\)](#), the Monarch drastically reduces time to fingertips for users who are blind and low vision.

Braille Terminal Mode allows individuals to use the Monarch as a refreshable braille display when connected to a screen reader. Now, when connected to an external device running a screen reader, with a USB cable, (Bluetooth connectivity coming soon,) the screen reader can send multiline braille to the Monarch's tactile display.

Developed in partnership with HumanWare, Terminal Mode on the Monarch is compatible with the latest version of NVDA, compatibility with the JAWS screen reader will come in the fall. Those interested in beta testing this feature in JAWS can contact Vispero to inquire about joining the JAWS beta testers group.

APH and HumanWare continue collaborating with all screen reader providers to ensure Monarch is supported to provide users this first of its kind multiline braille and tactile output.

Wing It, the new groundbreaking application for the Monarch and iOS devices, empowers users to create tactile graphics on the fly. The Wing It iOS app pairs via Bluetooth to the Monarch tactile display and enables blind or sighted users to draw directly on the screen of their iOS device, and in real time, a tactile version of that drawing is generated on the Monarch. In addition to being able to free hand draw, the iOS app contains a style menu with a selection of prefabricated shapes, similar to Microsoft Paint. After users lift their

finger to stop drawing, the image is automatically sent to the Monarch, along with the fill pattern, in raised dots. The iOS user can even add braille labels to their drawing regardless of whether or not they know braille. Just type a label using the iOS keyboard and it translates to braille for the Monarch user.

The Wing It experience contains two components, the Monarch Wing It app comes installed with the 1.3 update, and the iOS app is available in the Apple App store. [Read more about Wing It.](#)

The recent additions are crucial to keep Monarch users engaged and learning, and they play a critical role by exposing students to more images than they ever had before. Named after the butterfly, there are currently more than 1,000 Monarchs in the wild and in 11 countries.

“In a few weeks, the Monarch will have been available for an entire year. In these short 12 months, we have had heaps of feedback from students, educators, parents, and professionals, and we have incorporated that feedback into developing software that’s not only wanted, but seriously needed,” said Greg Stilson, Head of Global Innovation. “We are very proud of the impact the Monarch has made in the lives of its users and know it will continue to positively benefit all who use it.”

While refreshable braille devices are not new, the Monarch is truly one of a kind. Students now have braille textbooks and tactile graphics available together on one device. One groundbreaking development that will change how students can access books is eBraille. eBraille allows electronic files to be delivered wirelessly to the Monarch, reducing the time normally needed to emboss and produce a textbook. APH has partnered with the [DAISY Consortium](#) for the development of eBraille.

Multiple applications are available on the Monarch, including HumanWare’s KeySoft Accessibility suite, which includes a Word processor supporting Math ML and .docx files; a graphing calculator, which is the result of a partnership with Desmos, enabling students to graph tactile functions on demand; and the Tactile Viewer, a tactile graphic viewing app which connects via Wi-Fi to APH’s free [Tactile Graphics Image Library](#), allowing a student instant access to more than 2,000 tactile graphics.

Monarch Tech Info

- 10x32 cell lines with 3840 equidistant pins and touch capacity.
- Weighing 4.5 lbs. and about the dimensions of a 15-inch gaming laptop.
- WIFI; Bluetooth connectivity; USB C charging port; USB A port; Stereo speakers for text to speech and audio feedback; Internal Mic for voice input; Headphone jack;

protective folio case; HDMI port for video out to display the device's content on an external monitor; All day battery.

About APH and the Monarch

APH's mission is to empower people who are blind or have low vision by providing accessible and innovative products, materials, and services for lifelong success. APH and HumanWare are equal partners in the development and manufacturing of the Monarch.