

The Jordy: New Technology offers Independence

Thirty years ago, in the TV series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, the chief engineer of the spaceship Enterprise was blind. With the aid of a special visor, he could see, but not like everyone else.



It was great science fiction. Fans of the TV show accepted that the blind could see. The visor seemed to take away the disability.

Did we mention the character was named Geordi?

In 1999, with a wink to the show, the first Jordy was introduced as a wearable device for the low vision community. After about ten years of production, the original Jordy was phased out.

In 2017, a new version of the Jordy was released by **Enhanced Vision** of Huntington Beach, CA, and there have been very good reviews, especially for those with vision loss as a result of AMD.

Like the hand-held or stationery CCTV video magnifiers that many individuals have on hand to assist with reading books or menus, watching TV or movies or even enjoying athletic events, the Jordy is a wearable version of this technology.

The Jordy is lightweight (at 8 oz., it weighs less than a can of soda) and has high definition cameras built into the

headset. It can magnify objects up to 50x, is powered by a rechargeable 4- or 8-hour battery



which can get most individuals through the better part of a day, and offers image stabilization so that as you move, the view is not jumbled.

The wearer uses a small easy-to-use control that is attached to the headpiece and can be tucked into a pocket. The control gives options like optical or digital zoom, change color, contrast, or brightness.

An optional docking station can be purchased for the Jordy, so that when the device is not being worn, it can be converted into a CCTV of sorts, with a monitor, and autofocus camera with magnification.

It may not be the right technology for everyone. Unlike a magnifier, the Jordy



requires some training: wearers need to coordinate the controls, and seniors can get fatigued wearing even a lightweight headpiece. But for many people, the Jordy can offer independence and a way to enjoy activities that had been put aside when vision failed. The Jordy retails around \$3,000-\$4,000.

There are sales representatives from Enhanced

Vision, the maker of Jordy, throughout the country. If you are interested in seeing if Jordy is the right technology for you, contact them at 1-888-811-3161 or visit

www.enhancedvision.com.