



# Quick Start Guide

DYNAVOX VMAX+



Copyright © 2010 DynaVox Systems LLC

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means (electronic, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Copyright protection claimed includes all forms and matters of copyrightable material and information allowed by statutory or judicial law or hereafter granted, including without limitation, material generated from the software programs which are displayed on the screen such as screen displays, menus, etc.

Although every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this book, the publisher assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

In North America:

For information, write to:

DynaVox Systems LLC  
2100 Wharton Street, Suite 400  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203 USA

The European Authorized Representative is:

DynaVox Systems Ltd.  
Units 5 & 6 Benford Court  
Lower Cape  
Warwick  
CV34 5DA  
England

DynaVox® is a registered trademark of DynaVox Systems LLC.

DynaVox Vmax+™ is a registered trademarks of DynaVox Systems LLC.

All other brand and product names mentioned are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.

Part # 401132-A

First Edition

Published July 2010

Created in the United States of America

---

## Introduction

---

Welcome to the Vmax+ **Quick Start Guide!**

This booklet provides instructions on the basic operation of your Vmax+ device. It points out key hardware features, explains how to customize the pages and their content, and describes the most frequently-used features and functions of your Vmax+.

The **Quick Start Guide** also includes a Resource List that calls out all of the documentation and training materials (printed or electronic) that shipped with your Vmax+. Please take advantage of this vast library of information, tutorials, and instructions that is at your fingertips.

Table of Contents	Page
Hardware Overview	3
Installing The Battery	6
Charging The Battery	7
Mounting/Transporting Your Vmax+	8
Product Cleaning/Handling	8
Turning the Vmax+ On For The First Time	9
The Customized Page Set	10
The Title Bar	11
Changing the Speaking Voice	12
Making/Editing A Page	13
Editing a Button On The New Page	13
Assigning Behaviors To A Button	14
Resource List/Getting Additional Help	16

## Hardware Overview

---

This section describes the key features on your Vmax+ device.

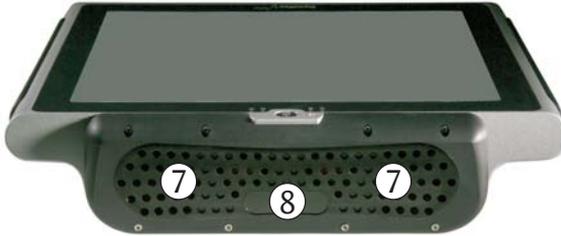
**Top:**



**Top:  
(buttons)**



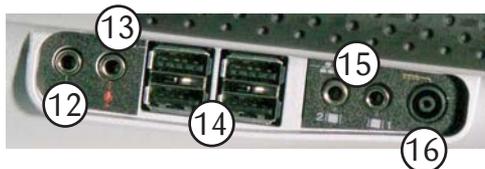
**Front:**



**Back:**



**Left Side:  
(ports)**



<b>Top: (buttons)</b>	1	<b>Power Button:</b> Press to turn the Vmax+ on. (To turn the Vmax+ off, select <b>Main Menu &gt; Setup &gt; Setup Menu &gt; Shut Down.</b> )
	2	<b>Power Indicator:</b> Glows when the device is powered on.
	3	<b>Charging Indicator:</b> Glows amber when the battery is charging. Turns off when the battery is fully charged.
	4	<b>Microphone:</b> Use for recording custom sounds.
	5	<b>Hard Drive Indicator:</b> Blinks when accessing the hard drive.
	6	<b>Light Sensor:</b> When enabled, can automatically brighten/dim the touch screen to compensate for ambient light.
<b>Front:</b>	7	<b>Speakers:</b> Front-firing speakers provide an impressive range of volume.
	8	<b>Infrared Device:</b> (also on back) Sends & receives IR signals. Use your Vmax+ like a universal remote control.
<b>Back:</b>	9	<b>Support Leg:</b> (not shown) Extends to hold the Vmax+ at a convenient angle when using as a tabletop device.
	10	<b>Mount Attachment:</b> Use this to attach the Vmax+ to a wheelchair mounting system.
	11	<b>Battery Door:</b> Conceals the internal battery. Also contains device label with device serial number.
<b>Left Side: (ports)</b>	12	<b>Speaker/Headphone Jack:</b> Connect external speaker to increase volume, or headphones for private audio.
	13	<b>Microphone Jack:</b> Connect external microphone for recording custom sounds.
	14	<b>USB Ports (4):</b> Connect to any USB-enabled accessory. Most useful with USB flash drives ("thumb drives") or CD/DVD drives for file sharing/backup purposes.
	15	<b>Switch Jacks (2):</b> Connect external switch(es) for scanning access.
	16	<b>Charger Port:</b> Plug in the DC adapter/charger to charge the Vmax+ internal battery.

## Installing The Battery

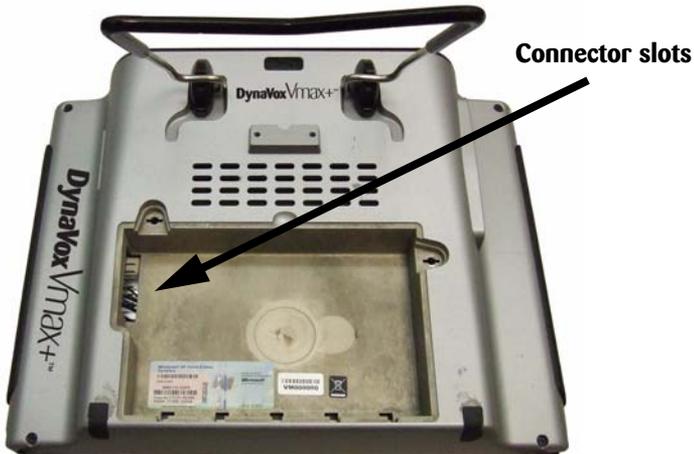
Your Vmax+ came with an 11.1V Li-Ion battery pack. It should provide continuous power (at full screen brightness) for 5.25 - 5.75 hours (these times may vary for actual use).

1. Lay your Vmax+ face down on top of a soft cloth on a flat surface.
2. Extend the support leg to uncover the battery door.



**Note:** While you are looking at the battery door, write down the serial number shown on the device label (see the space provided in the **How to Get Additional Help** section in this **Quick Start Guide**). You will need this serial number in case you need to contact DynaVox Technical Support.

3. Turn the two battery door screws counter-clockwise to loosen them (they cannot be removed completely; they will spring up from the battery door.)
4. Lift the battery door away and set it aside.
5. Find the connector slots in the battery well on the Vmax+, and on the battery itself. Place the battery into the battery well so that the connectors fit together (the battery should lie flat).

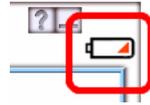


6. Replace the battery door and turn the screws clockwise to tighten.

After you install the battery, you should charge your Vmax+ for at least 4 hours.

## Charging The Battery

When the battery charge is low, a "low battery" icon will appear in the title bar on the Vmax+ touch screen. You should plug in your Vmax+ and recharge the battery immediately.



1. Connect the power cord to the DC adapter/charger.

	<p><b>Note:</b> The <b>Searchable Help</b> (on device and on CD) lists several ways you can extend the battery life on your Vmax+. To learn more, perform a keyword search on "battery life" or "low battery."</p>
---	--

2. Plug the adapter into a wall outlet.
3. Plug the charger cord into the charger port (p. 4, #16) on the left side of your Vmax+.

The charging indicator (p. 4, #3) will be lit while the battery is charging. It takes about 4 hours to charge an empty battery.

When the battery is fully charged, the charging indicator will go out. You can unplug the charger from the Vmax+ and from the wall outlet.

You **cannot** overcharge the battery. It is fine to charge the battery overnight.

You **can** use the Vmax+ while the battery is charging.

	<p><b>Reference:</b> The <b>Searchable Help</b> (on device and on CD) lists several ways you can extend the battery life on your Vmax+. To learn more, perform a keyword search on "battery life" or "low battery."</p>
--	---

	<p><b>Caution:</b> Due to internal chemical reactions, battery performance may deteriorate over time. In addition, failure to keep the conditions of use (charge, discharge, ambient temperature, etc.) within specified ranges may shorten the battery life expectancy, or damage your Vmax+. If the battery cannot maintain a charge for long periods of time, even when it is charged correctly, it may need to be replaced.</p>
---	---

---

## Mounting/Transporting Your Vmax+

---

If you use your Vmax+ device while in a wheelchair, you should have it properly mounted for both communication and transportation purposes. Wheelchair mounting systems are available through DynaVox.

Protective and accessible carrying cases are also available for your device and its accessories. Consult the DynaVox website ([www.dynavoxtech.com](http://www.dynavoxtech.com)) or your DynaVox sales consultant for more information.

---

## Product Cleaning/Handling

---

To clean your Vmax+, first turn off the unit and then wipe it gently with a damp cloth or soft paper towel. You may dampen the towel with a mild window cleaner to remove fingerprints, food particles and dust.

Do not use tape or stickers on either the touch screen or the metal case, as they are difficult to remove and may damage the device surface. Tape, stickers and other sticky materials can damage the touch screen and interfere with the operation of the device.

Be sure to avoid getting your Vmax+ wet. Never submerge it in water (e.g., dishwasher). If your unit accidentally gets wet, be sure to shut it down and allow it dry thoroughly. If after 24 hours you find that the device seems to function normally, there is probably no damage. If the device fails to function or behaves abnormally, contact DynaVox Technical Support at 1-800-344-1778 for instructions. You may need to ship the device to DynaVox for repairs.

Be careful not to drop the unit. Such treatment is not recommended and can shorten the life of your device.

Do not use a sharp object to make selections on the touch panel, as this can cause damage. If you need to use a pointer to make selections, be sure that it has a cushioned tip.

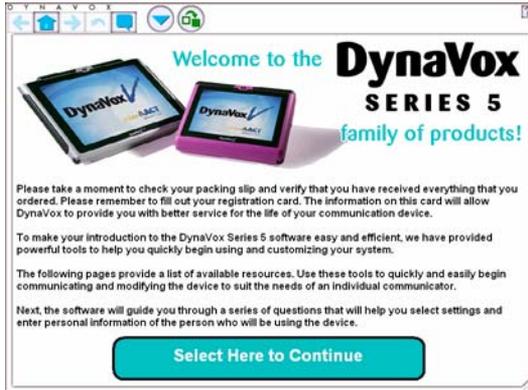


**Caution:** Never, under any circumstances, disassemble your Vmax+ device. Doing so for any reason will void the warranty, and you will be responsible for the cost of any required repairs.

---

## Turning the Vmax+ On For The First Time

1. Press the Power button (p. 4, #1) to turn the Vmax+ on. After the software boots up, you will see the Introductory (Welcome) screen.



**Note:** If you see a different screen, navigate to the first introductory page. See *User's Guide: Appendix C* for step-by-step instructions.

2. Press **Select Here to Continue** to move on.
3. Learn about the additional resources available both on the device and in the box (on CD, in print, etc.). Keep selecting **Next** to continue.

After a few screens, the User Setup Wizard will appear. It will help you to quickly and easily create a *.user* file - a set of communication pages and other files - and choose a page set.

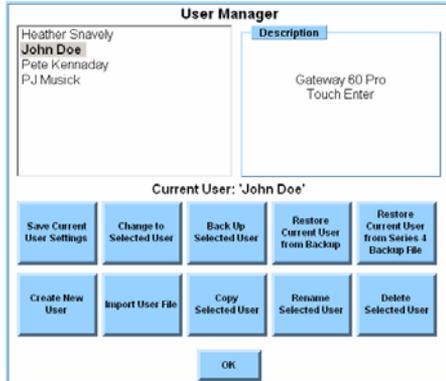
4. To begin the User Setup Wizard, select **Next**.
5. Follow the on-screen prompting from the User Setup Wizard. Some of the questions you will be asked include:
  - what to name the *.user* file
  - personal information about the user (address, hobbies, names of family members, pets, teachers, clinicians, etc.)
  - selecting a speaking voice for the Vmax+

Answer each question to the best of your ability.

- The Confirmation Page of the User Setup Wizard lets you look over (and change) all of the settings that you previously entered in the User Setup Wizard. Make any final changes, and then select **Save and Exit**.

The software will close the User Setup Wizard and open the *User Manager* menu. All available *.user* files (including the one that you just created) will be listed alphabetically in the viewport on the right.

- Select the *.user* that you just created in the viewport and then select the **Change to Selected User** button.



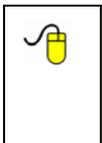
- If prompted to confirm the change, select the **Yes** button.
- If prompted to keep languages and/or symbol sets available, select the **Yes** button.

- Select the **Exit DynaVox** button when prompted.

When the software finished the restart process, the Home Page of your custom *.user* file will be active.

## The Customized Page Set

The DynaVox Series 5 software used data and feedback from the User Setup Wizard to choose and customize one of the InterAACt page sets for you. Refer to **Section 4** of the *User's Guide* for information on additional page sets.



**Reference:** You are not limited to the page set that was selected by the User Setup Wizard. Refer to the **Searchable Help** (on device or on CD) for information about other page sets (including how to navigate to a new page set).

## The Title Bar

The white bar that stretches across the top of the touch screen is the title bar. It contains tools for using the DynaVox Series 5 software:



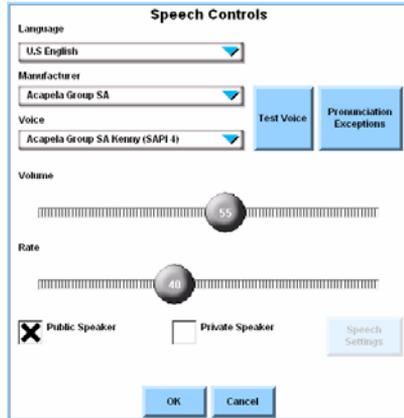
The title bar tools are as follows:

	<b>Page Back/Page Forward:</b> Move backwards and forwards through your page history.
	<b>Home Page:</b> Return to your designated Home Page (starting point).
	<b>Undo:</b> Undo the most recent action performed in the Message Window (supports multiple levels of undo).
	<b>My Phrases:</b> Provides access to frequently-used phrases in the <i>My Phrases</i> menu.
	<b>Main Menu:</b> Opens a series of drop-down menus that give you access to all features, menus, and commands.
	<b>Modify:</b> Enables you to quickly and easily customize any selected object on a page or popup.
	<b>Describe:</b> Simple help feature that provides a brief description of the next selected screen element.
	<b>Minimize:</b> (open Vmax+ only) Hide the Series 5 software window on the Windows Desktop.
	<b>Maximize:</b> (open Vmax+ only) Toggle the Series 5 software window between actual size and full screen.
	<b>Close:</b> (open Vmax+ only) Close the DynaVox software. (You have a chance to save your changes.)

	<b>Reference:</b> To find more information about each item in the title bar, open the <b>Searchable Help</b> (on device or on CD) and perform a keyword search on "using the title bar tools."
---	--

## Changing the Speaking Voice

1. Select **Main Menu > Setup > Speech Controls**. The *Speech Controls* menu will open.
2. Select the **Language** drop-down menu, and choose the appropriate language.
3. Select the **Manufacturer** drop-down menu, and choose one of the speech engine manufacturer options.
4. Select the **Voice** drop-down menu and select the voice that you want to use.



**Note:** If you don't see the desired voice listed, you may have to change the *Language* or *Manufacturer* settings.

5. Use the **Volume** slider to adjust the speaking volume. Slide to the left to make the voice speak more quietly, or slide to the right to make the voice speak louder.
6. Use the **Rate** slider to adjust the rate of speech. Slide to the left to slow the speech down, or slide to the right to speed the speech up.
7. Select **Test Voice** to check the voice settings.
8. If more adjustments are necessary, repeat steps 4 - 7.
9. When the speaking voice is set to your liking, select **OK**.

## Making/Editing A Page

---

There are several ways to create a new page. This **Quick Start Guide** shows you how to copy an existing page, make it a new page, and make changes to the buttons on the new page.

1. Open the page that you want to copy.
2. Select **Main Menu > Page Editing > Page Editor**.
3. Select **Main Menu > File > Save As**. The system keyboard will open.
4. Enter the name of the new page and select **OK**.

	<b>Reference:</b> You can use the Page Editor to change the new page. For more information and in-depth explanations of the Page Editor tools, refer to <b>Chapter 10</b> in the <b>Searchable Help</b> (on device or on CD).
---	---

5. To edit the buttons outside of the Page Editor, select **File > Exit Page Editor**.

	<b>Reference:</b> <b>Chapter 6</b> of the <b>Searchable Help</b> (on device or on CD) describes the other methods available for creating pages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Using the Quick Page templates</li><li>• Using the Page Wizard</li><li>• Creating a blank page from scratch</li></ul>
---	---

## Editing A Button On The New Page

The fastest and most common way to edit a button on a page is to use the Modify button in the title bar. This will open the *Modify Button* menu, which provides a wide array of settings for the button.

1. Select the green Modify button in the title bar. It will turn red.
  2. Select the button that you want to modify. The *Modify Button* menu will open.
-

3. Use the controls in the *Modify Button* menu to change the appearance and performance of the button:

- Button type (shape & function)
- Label & audio cue text
- Color scheme
- Symbol shown on the button
- Font color, size, and style
- Button behaviors

## Assigning Behaviors To A Button

Select the **Behaviors** button in the *Modify Button* menu. The *Behavior Editor* menu will open.

1. Find a behavior to assign to the button (one of two ways):
  - Choose a category from the **Behaviors** drop-down menu. The behaviors in that category are shown in the viewport.
  - Select **Search** and enter a word in the behavior name. The software returns a list of behaviors that match your criteria.
2. Select the behavior name and then select **Add**. The behavior appears in the *Steps* viewport.



**Note:** You may be prompted to supply additional information for the behavior (i.e., a page name, a text message to speak, etc.). If so, enter that information and select **OK**.

3. Select a behavior in the *Steps* viewport, and then use the buttons on the right to change the order of behaviors, to edit the additional information for a behavior, or to remove a behavior from the list.
4. When finished, select the **OK** button to close all open menus (*Behavior Editor* menu, *Modify Button* menu).



**Reference:** For more information about assigning behaviors to buttons or general page modifications, see these resources:

- **Section 5** of the *Users Guide*
- **Chapter 8, Chapter 10,** and **Appendix A** of the *Searchable Help* (on device or on CD)

## Resource List/Getting Additional Help

This **Quick Start Guide** is only a brief, introductory reference for your Vmax+ device. There are other instructional resources available for the Vmax+ and for the DynaVox Series 5 Page Editing software. Some resources are printed, while others are provided on the CDs that were shipped with the device.

### Additional Documentation

#### Printed

- **User's Guide**
- **Release Notes**
- 2 Training Modules

#### Electronic (PDFs on CD)

- **Comprehensive Guide**
- Training Module Library
- Searchable Help

### Online Support ([www.dynavoxtech.com](http://www.dynavoxtech.com))

- Knowledge Base
- Application ideas and page sharing
- Virtual Classroom

### Technical Support

#### United States & Canada

1-866-DYNAVOX (396-2869)  
 M - F, 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (EST)  
[www.dynavoxtech.com](http://www.dynavoxtech.com)  
 Your DynaVox Sales Consultant:  
 1-888-697-7332

#### United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1384 446789  
[enquiries@dynavox.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dynavox.co.uk)

*If you are not a resident of North America or the United Kingdom, please call the dealer from whom you purchased your device.*



**Note:** Before you contact DynaVox Technical Support, you **must** write down the serial number of your device. It can be found on the device label on the battery door (p. 4, #11).

**My Vmax+ serial number is:**

\_\_\_\_\_