



Chatter

News from the Northwest

July 2007

The first Macaw was sold in 1989. Many of the current concepts were developed in those early years and they have continued to evolve. The Macaw is now in its fifth generation yet the basic operation remains the same. Durability, attractive appearance, ease of use, and

flexibility are among its finest features. I can't think of a more functional device.

So often when I demonstrate the newest Macaw, I'm amazed at how many things carry over from the previous versions. There are so many things it can do but not everyone takes the time to learn them all.

This month we offer a glimpse into the Macaw.

Macaw 5 Changing Levels

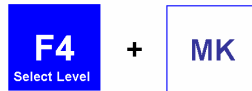
You can record 32 pages of vocabulary on the Macaw 5 (just as you could on the Macaw 3 or 4). Each page is called a level. There is only one way to record messages on each level. You put the machine into **RECORD** to add vocabulary, select a level by pressing **F4** (set level) and the message key where you will store the vocabulary, set the layout for the number of cells on that page by pressing **F5** (select mode) and the corresponding message key **MK1-MK6**, then press and hold the message key while speaking the message into the built-in microphone, and release the key when you are done speaking. If you are linking keys together, you press function key **F8** (link), then the sequence of message keys, then press and hold function key **F9** to record the message. You place the device in **PLAY** to hear the messages.

This is all easy enough. But you can choose from the four ways to change levels to meet your user's needs.

Assisted

Put the Macaw into **RECORD**, press **F4** (set level), then the Message Key where you stored that vocabulary. Then put the Macaw back into **PLAY**. Be careful because you can easily erase messages or change settings while the Macaw is in **RECORD**.

◀ RECORD
PLAY ▶



Dual Key

Another way is to activate **Message Key 32** (Select Level). Put the Macaw into **RECORD**, press **F5** (select mode), then **MK32** to turn it on or off. Four beeps is on, two beeps is off. It will remain on until you turn it off. With the device in **PLAY**, press **MK32** followed by the message key for the level you want.



This works well for safely changing levels while remaining in play mode. Some Macaw users can do this themselves. A sequence of two keys must be pressed to reach the desired vocabulary. You may also have to change the overlay to represent the messages.

Single Key

Another way to change pages is use of single key level selection. Turn on this method while in **RECORD** by pressing **F4** (set level), then **F1** (set volume). Now a single key press on a message key will activate the vocabulary on that level. At this point the only thing that key can do is change to that level. You can't have a recorded message on that cell.



This works well when you only need a few levels, the user needs to change their own vocabulary sets, or when you use a single overlay for multiple levels. Remember that you can always use key-linking to get additional messages beyond just the direct messages.

Macaw sample: Single overlay for four levels using Single Key Level Selection

Control Key

We want to tell everyone about this! There's a super secret control key hidden in the function key row!



Turn on the **CONTROL** key. It is hidden behind the Z in ZYGO. With the Macaw in **RECORD**, press **F5** (select mode), then the **Z** in the word **ZYGO** on the left side of the function keys. Notice it beeps four times when it is turned on, and twice when it is turned off. Put the Macaw back into **PLAY**. It will remain activated until you change the setting to off. Now, while you are in **PLAY** mode, press the **Z** (control), then **F4** (set level), then the message key where the vocabulary is stored.



Product Highlights

Graphic Display Products

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Talara-32
\$790



Macaw 5
\$1,780



Optimist 3HD-A
\$6,330



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