

CustomMike™

Handheld Convenience, Digital Dictation

For years, business people, professionals, and others have used a handheld slideswitch microphone when dictating into a tape cassette recorder. Generally, the slideswitch has several positions, including fast forward, rewind, play, and stop. Because the slideswitch mechanism is usually controlled by the thumb, it is also known as a thumbswitch control. There may be a separate button for record. The slideswitch controls have become popular over the years because of their ease of use.

Tape cassette recorders and players are gradually being replaced by digital recorders and playback devices. Many current headset and desktop microphones plug into a PC and require that the operator control the recording software with a mouse. One popular microphone is available with button control of the software and a built-in, handheld mouse. Generally, current microphone controls are linked to an on-screen computer interface. Often the user must be looking at the screen to manipulate the controls, a feature that may distract from dictation.

CustomMike™ is a software driver for use with multiple audio input and output devices. It may be used with microphones using thumbswitch mechanism, but record and store files in a digital format on a standalone or network PC. This permits the dictating author to easily send dictated audio across a local or wide area network, attach the audio as an email attachment, compress or encrypt the audio, or do virtually anything else that can be done with digital files.

The Custom Speech USA, Inc. software works with a slideswitch, noise canceling microphone (model no. 6170) produced by Philips Speech Processing, a division of Philips Royal Electronics. The microphone has a separate button for record and a thumbswitch for play, fast forward, fast rewind, and stop. Two configurable buttons, and noise canceling for speech recognition, are included. The microphone requires a standard sound card and a PC game port (joystick). Use with a USB port with a game port/USB adapter is strongly recommended. It also can be configured for use with Philips SpeechMike.

CustomMike™ includes recording software available for use with any configured microphone or audio input device. This record software includes play, stop, record, continuous fast forward and fast rewind, insert, and overwrite. Record with standard .wav format, .mp3, or .VOX.

CustomMike™ can be integrated with Command!™ workflow manager to create simple or complex dictation-transcription systems. Command!™ Call Center provides a telephone dictation server for the small office or large transcription company. Other speech processing applications provide for efficient audio conversion and integrate speech recognition.

CustomMike™ Help files include instructions for calibration of the microphone with the driver. The CustomMike™ driver is optimized for use with Windows NT/2000/XP. Use with Windows 95/98/ME is available but not supported.

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We teach computers how to listen®

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