



About the Perkins Braille

The Perkins Braille, viewed by many as the premiere mechanical braillewriter in the world, was first produced in 1951. The quality and reliability of the Perkins Braille has kept it in demand and in production ever since.

David Abraham, a native of Liverpool, England was asked to create a braille while working at the Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts. Working during his spare time, David Abraham spent countless hours in his basement workshop testing design ideas. In 1941, after several years of solitary labor, he finally presented the prototype to Perkins. Ingeniously and scrupulously designed, it is essentially identical with the Classic Perkins Braille still in production today.

What's So Special About the Perkins Braille?

Mr. Abraham and Dr. Waterhouse had created a list of specifications that would make the Perkins Braille the best machine available. Mr. Abraham managed to incorporate all of these features, plus a few more, into his design. The Perkins Braille is easy to use. The touch is so light that very young people and those with little strength can use it without strain. The machine is tough and hard to break, and much quieter than other brailles available at the time. Paper can be quickly and easily inserted, and the spacing mechanisms are swift and simple to operate. When the operator reaches the bottom of the page, the mechanism prevents the paper from falling out. It is so accurate in its spacing that previously embossed paper can be reinserted and a single dot can be added to a specific cell, without damaging any of the existing work. The braille has no projecting carriages or parts because the embossing head is inside the case and moves across the paper. These features made the Perkins Braille reliable and easy to use, and it remains unsurpassed to this day.

From its beginnings in David Abraham's basement workshop in Watertown, the Perkins Braille has attained a worldwide reputation for its quality and reliability. More than 50 years after the machine was first produced, the Perkins Braille continues to play a part in bringing education, literacy and independence to people throughout the world.

It continues to be used by every student learning Braille today.

www.perkins.org

