



Frequently Asked Questions: Digital Pilot Test Audiometer

Q: How is the Digital Pilot Test different from the audiometer I already own?

A: The Digital Pilot Test presents the hearing test as an interactive game. It was specifically designed for pediatric/preschool children and uses a methodology called **select picture audiometry**. In contrast, pure tone audiometry is difficult to perform with children under 5 years of age. Pure tone audiometers are often threatening and the directions can be difficult for a child to understand. Children will often miss tones or raise their hands and never lower them. With the Pilot the test becomes a game that is easy for children to understand and you record unmistakable responses for accurate results.

Q: How is the Digital Pilot Test different from the original Pilot audiometer?

A: There are several new features in the new Digital Pilot Test that make it better than the original. The new Digital Pilot Test contains MP3 sound files for the highest level of clarity when conducting tests. You can be completely confident that the test levels are accurate throughout each sentence and neither time nor amount of use will change the sound quality. The new Pilot Test comes with both English and Spanish speech recognition tests, and the entire test is displayed graphically on the LCD screen while testing is in progress. And while the new Pilot still includes a pure tone audiometer mode, it is now a manual pure tone audiometer instead of automatic so you can control the speed at which you present the tones. The new Pilot can also be connected to a thermal printer which makes recording tests fast and easy.

Q: What is select picture audiometry?

A: Select picture audiometry is meant to provide an easy way to get an initial gage of the subject's hearing. The results of this test can flag a possible hearing loss that would prompt a more thorough examination. While select picture audiometry can be an alternative to pure tone testing when used in a "screening" setting, pure tone testing and tympanometry would provide a more complete picture of the child's hearing.

The methodology has been accepted for over 20 years as a valid screening procedure in the clinical and school settings. In 1962 the Mayo Clinic developed the first speech reception audiometer to evaluate preschool children.

Q: How do I prepare the child for the screening?

A: First the child will need to learn the correct names for the pictures. This can hopefully be done ahead of time with the parents or teachers. The best way to prepare a child is to pretend that he/she is going to play the Pilot game. Once you are confident the child recognizes the pictures, tell the child that the pilot needs his/her help and will ask a few questions. Tell the child in order to hear the pilot he/she needs to put on the headphones like the pilot wears. Explain the pilot will ask where a picture is and that he/she should point to it. The child should be told the voice will start out loud and get softer so they should listen carefully.

Q: Can the unit perform pure tone audiometry for older children?

A: Yes. After turning on the unit, press the "Tone" button located in the sun graphic. The light in the sun will illuminate and the unit will be in pure tone mode. This is the traditional audiometry test.

Q: Can the Pilot save me time in screening preschool children?

A: Yes. Both ears can be screened in only minutes. You will also spend less time giving directions for the test and in retesting children.

Q: Where do I set up the screening?

A: The perfect setting is in a quiet room furnished with a desk or table. When placing the picture board on the table make sure the child being screened can comfortably point to the pictures.

Q: Are the tests CPT code reimbursable?

A: Yes. Select picture audiometry is reimbursable with CPT code 92583; pure tone audiometry is reimbursable with CPT code 92552. While the reimbursement amounts vary by state and by carrier, the national average per test is \$36.00 for select picture audiometry and \$16.00 for pure tone threshold.



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Q: Is the Digital Pilot Test a tympanometer?

A: No. A Tympanometer will confirm the "wellness" of the tympanic membrane but will not confirm if the child has any associated hearing loss. Also, a child may have a normal tympanogram and still have hearing loss.

Q: What test levels does the Digital Pilot Test have?

A: The select picture audiometry (speech) decibel levels range from 50 dB_HL to 15 dB_HL in steps of 5 dB. The pure tone decibel levels range from -10 dB_HL to 100 dB_HL in 5 dB steps.

Q: What frequency range does the Digital Pilot Test have?

A: Test frequencies for pure tone audiometry include 250, 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 6000 and 8000 Hz.

Q: Do I need to complete all four series of responses with a child to complete a screening?

A: When screening most children, it is only necessary to complete two series of responses on the score card (e.g. series 1 for the left ear, then series 2 for the right ear). Series 3 & 4 would be completed only if there was a need for an additional screening or if there is an operator preference for the sequencing of the picture names.

Q: Does the order of the series matter?

A: No. As long as the series for the left ear is different from the series for the right ear, it is not important which series you choose or in what order.

Q: My school has many Spanish-speaking students; can the Digital Pilot Test perform tests in Spanish?

A: Yes. Both English and Spanish speech recognition tests are present in the unit.

Q: When in Spanish mode, is the picture board the same as in English mode?

A: No. Two different picture boards are provided. The spondee words are different when the language is translated so a Spanish picture board, test card and score pad are included with the unit. However, the test procedure is exactly the same in Spanish as it is in English.

Q: Can the Digital Pilot Test come with a printer?

A: Yes. An optional thermal printer is available. It connects to the Pilot using one cable and is plugged in with an AC adaptor.

Q: Is the Digital Pilot Test portable?

A: Yes. The system weighs about 5 lbs (9 lbs with printer). You can also purchase the soft-sided carrying case which holds the unit and accessories as well as the optional printer.

Q: Is there a warranty?

A: Yes. It applies to the original purchaser of the unit for a period of one year from the date of delivery.