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Kimball Carriage Place
175 LINCOLN STREET

 **Helix**

201

603.644.1408

www.helixdesign.net

• Product Design

• Product Forecasting

• Engineering

• Prototyping

Defining the next generation of slimmer, lighter, and sleeker AAC products...



DynaVox Mayer-Johnson is the leading manufacturer of speech generating devices used to assist individuals in overcoming speech, language, and learning challenges. Historically, the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices that served these users emphasized usability but not styling. As highly refined design has become a staple of virtually all consumer electronics today, users of AAC devices have come to expect an equivalent level of refinement. DynaVox asked Helix Design to develop a look and feel that would define the next generation of slimmer, lighter, and sleeker AAC products.

Helix initially visited sites where DynaVox devices are used to document environments and usage scenarios. We analyzed a wide variety of handheld consumer electronic devices and uncovered emerging trends that could most positively impact the look, feel, and function of a next generation AAC device. "Angular/Hi-Tech," "Soft/Ergonomic," "Contrasting Textures," and "Whimsical" trend families were cataloged alongside a review of products from client-selected manufacturers. We summarized our findings in Storyboard form and used these as a foundation for generating computer sketch concepts and preliminary urethane foam mock-ups.

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... and using *Design to combat user stigmatization.*



After client review and feedback, Helix refined the chosen design directions and incorporated more up-to-date hardware component information into the sketch concepts. We then generated photorealistic renderings to clarify potential surface finishes, features, and overall form. Photorealistic renderings are a great way to explore myriad design features prior to intensive engineering implementation.

As a final deliverable to this form and finish exploration, Helix developed a beautifully crafted and detailed appearance model for DynaVox. Available production components were used in the prototype while realistic paints and surface finishes enhanced the sense of realism and aided in translating the chosen design direction into 3D production geometry. DynaVox's new toolkit of industrial design elements are on par with current consumer product design trends and have been incorporated into a number of exciting and newly released DynaVox products.

Helix Design has a passionate team of seasoned industrial designers and mechanical engineers who excel at developing products for a wide variety of markets, industries, and applications. We offer full-service product development services including design research, industrial design, mechanical engineering, and rapid prototyping. Call the Helix Design sales team @ 603.644.1408 when you next find yourself yearning to revitalize your company's products.

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