

I am legally blind and find cell phones extremely hard to operate. The devices are small, as are the screens, and the buttons are flat and don't vary in shape, as do devices created for the blind and visually impaired.

I use Verizon service, and their "Cope" phone isn't bigger than the LG phone I have, but it does cost more. I have tried several phones that allegedly have a function that will allow the user to operate the phone by voice commands. These commands do not work in any sort of public space because the background noise seems to throw off the machine's recognition of the number. I found that the machine rarely repeated the number back to me correctly. As a result, I rarely use my cell phone and carry it primarily for emergencies.

Ironically, the technology revolution should have leveled the playing field for the blind and visually impaired by giving us access to the digital world, but more needs to be done to accommodate our needs.