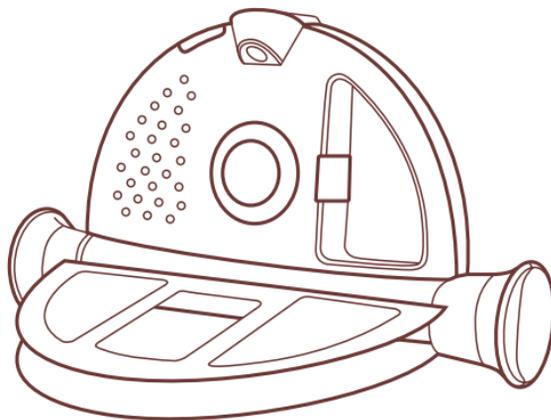




*The Magical Book Reader*

# User's Guide



## IMPORTANT:

before using your new Sparkup, watch the tutorial at [www.sparkupreader.com](http://www.sparkupreader.com) or read the following instructions.

Need Support? ☎ 1-866-322-4675 🌐 [support@sparkupreader.com](mailto:support@sparkupreader.com)

# WELCOME TO SPARKUP<sup>®</sup>

Sparkup is the world's smartest e-reader for printed books!

Using a built-in camera, Sparkup can read any book that has been successfully recorded or preloaded into it.

To ensure that your family gets the most out of Sparkup, take a few minutes to learn how it works.

▶ Watch an easy tutorial at [sparkupreader.com](http://sparkupreader.com) or scan this code:



## Important recording tips

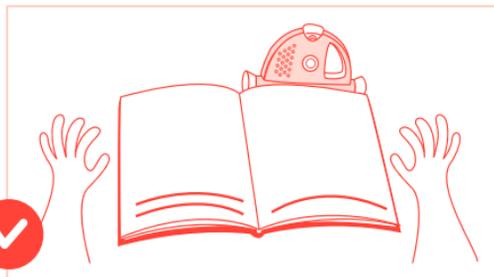
A book recording can become a precious childhood memory – try to give it the time and space and to remember the following tips:

- **Personal touch:** While recording, personalize the book by talking to your child; be enthusiastic in your reading, make noises and have fun!
- **Tone:** Wait for the tone before you start reading a page.
- **Sound:** Find a quiet place to record. For best results, lay the book flat on a table and talk towards the Sparkup.
- **Back-up:** Once a recording is finalized, we strongly recommend that you rename the SPK book file and back it up on your computer.

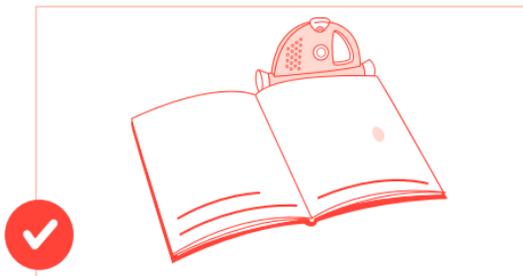
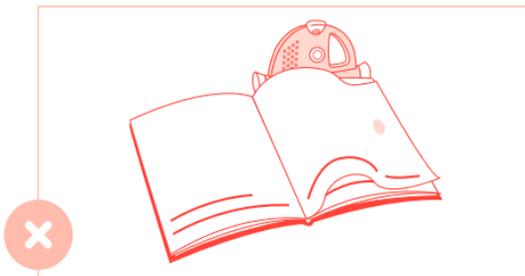
- **Lighting:** Record indoors in a well-lit room. It is better not to record on a lawn outside, or in a room with only a night lamp. The camera needs to see an evenly-lit frame without reflections or shadows.



- **Hands:** Sparkup's camera needs an unobstructed, clear view of the book. After flipping each page, try to keep hands away from Sparkup.



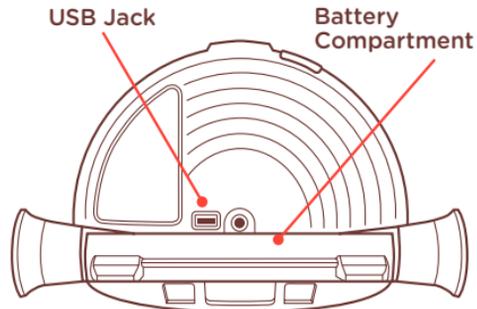
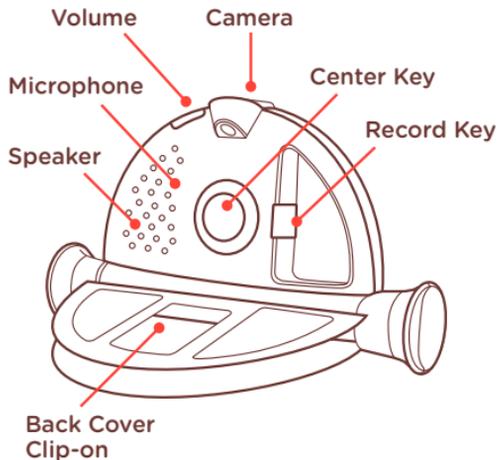
- **Pages:** If the book's pages refuse to lie flat, press them down with your hand, to ensure the camera sees them properly.



- **Stickers:** If there's a page Sparkup is not recognizing well, you can put a sticker in the middle upper part of this page (1" from its edge) and record this page again.



## Overview



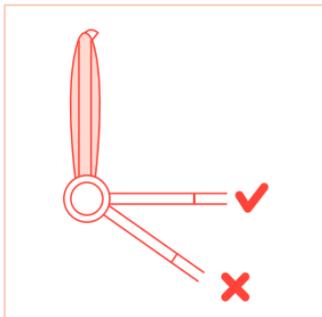
### Package includes:

- 1 X Sparkup Reader with 3 X AA batteries (non-rechargeable)
- 1 X Demo book ("My Magical Book Reader")
- 1 X User's guide
- 1 X USB cable

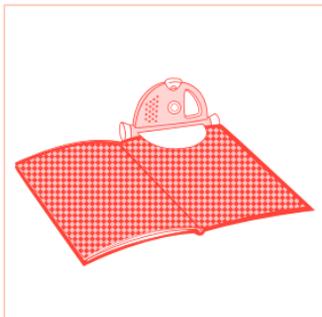


**WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD - Small parts. Not for children under 3 years.**

## Attaching Sparkup to a book



**1. Before each use make sure the clip-on part is folded into an "L" shape and locked.**



**2. Clip Sparkup on the inner back cover in its top center (without fastening any pages).**

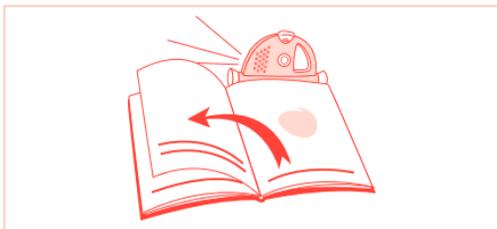


**3. Close the book.**

## Playing a pre-recorded book



1. Connect to the book and turn on, wait until it starts reading the front cover's recording (book is closed).



2. Flip through the pages and listen (you can skip a page or go backwards, Sparkup will follow).



3. To replay a page, press the center key.



4. To finish, simply close the book. Sparkup will turn off. You can also turn it off by holding down the center key for two seconds.

## Recording a new book

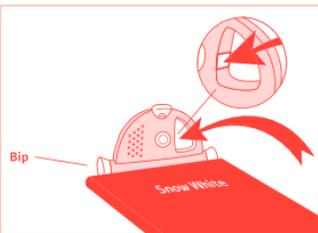
Sparkup can record a book in one of two modes: “page-by-page” or “continuous.” Your brand-new Sparkup records in the page-by-page mode, which requires you to press a button to start and to stop each page. Once you are ready for a more streamlined experience, press the “record” key when you hear “Page-by-page mode,” and Sparkup will switch to the continuous mode (see below).

### Recording in page-by-page mode

In this mode, you stop to hear your recording at the end of each page. Your whole family can participate, ask questions and take turns recording pages. This mode is most suitable for recording together with younger children in an interactive, playful experience.



1. Connect to the book and turn on (book is closed).



2. Press and hold the “record” key, wait for the tone.\*\*



3. Read the book title aloud. Press the center key to pause. Hear your recording.



4. Flip to the next page and press the center key.

Repeat stages 4-5 till the end of the book



5. Wait for the tone and read the page aloud. Press the center key to stop (you will hear your recording)



6. To finish recording simply close the book (or press and hold the center key). Sparkup will tell you, "The book was successfully recorded" and turn off.

If at any moment you want to re-record the page you have just recorded, press and hold the "record" key. Wait for the tone, and read the page again. The previous recording will be replaced.

\*\* Before the tone you will hear: "Page-by-page mode. A new book..." If you hear "Continuous mode..." instead, press the "record" key again, and Sparkup will switch to the page-by-page mode.

## Recording in continuous mode

In the continuous mode, Sparkup follows you as you read the book and captures the authentic reading-aloud experience. Sparkup reacts to each page turn automatically (you hear the tone) - therefore there should be no interruptions while you record. This mode is most suitable for recording together with older children, or for an adult recording alone. Please follow our "recording tips" at pages 2-4.



1. Connect to the book and turn on (book is closed).



2. Press and hold the "record" key, wait for the tone and read the book title aloud.\*

\* Before the tone you will hear: "Continuous mode. A new book..."

If you hear "Page-by-page mode..." instead, press the "record" key again and Sparkup will switch to the continuous mode.



**3. Flip to the next page, wait for the tone and read the page aloud.**

**Repeat stage 3 till the end of the book**



**4. To finish recording simply close the book (or press and hold the center key). Sparkup will tell you, “The book was successfully recorded” and turn off.**

If at any moment you want to stop or to change the page you have just recorded, press the center key, then press and hold the “record” key. Wait for the tone, and read the page again. The previous recording will be replaced.

## Editing a recording

1. Whenever you hear a page and would like to re-record it, just press and hold the “record” key. After the tone, record the page again, and press the center key to stop. The previous recording will be replaced. (Note: you cannot re-record the book’s cover!)
2. You can also record the whole book again (attention: you will not be able to recover your previous recording unless you copy it first to your computer). To do so, turn on the Sparkup and make sure it recognizes the book (plays the title). Press and hold the “record” key and follow the prompts. Once started, recording proceeds in the same way as for a new book.
3. To add a new page to a book, just press and hold the record button and start recording after the tone.

## Sparkup and your computer

Connecting Sparkup to your computer using the included USB cable can give you so much more... The following processes should be done by an adult.

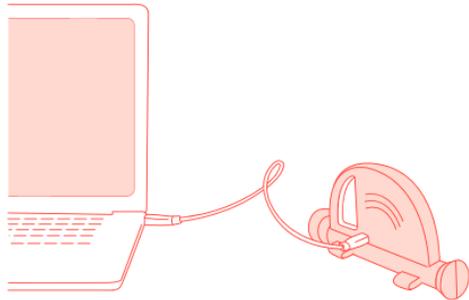
Note: when the USB cable is connected to the computer, you cannot record or listen to the books.

## Connecting to your Sparkup drive

When connected to a computer, Sparkup works like a standard USB flash drive ("USB Stick"):

1. Connect one side of the included USB cable to the back of your Sparkup and the other side to your computer.
2. Turn on Sparkup by pressing the center key.
3. Sparkup will play a sound, and a new "SPARKUP" drive should appear on your computer.
4. Double-click to open it (or locate it in Mac's Finder or Windows' Computer/File Explorer/My Computer).
5. You can now rename, delete, copy or send book files to and from your computer.
6. Press and hold the center key on the Sparkup when you are finished.

Note: You cannot share SPK files you have purchased online; they will work only on your device.



## Downloading a book to Sparkup

1. Connect to your SPARKUP drive.
2. Go to [www.sparkupreader.com](http://www.sparkupreader.com) and follow the on-line instructions.
3. Save the SPK file you have downloaded to the SPARKUP drive.
4. Check that you see the new SPK file inside the SPARKUP drive.
5. Turn off Sparkup by pressing and holding the center key. Sparkup will play a sound and turn off.
6. Disconnect the USB cable, attach Sparkup to the printed book, turn it on, and enjoy the recording!

## Browsing and organizing your library of recordings

All of the books you have recorded will appear in your SPARKUP drive as BOOK0001.SPK, BOOK0002.SPK, etc. You can easily rename them as follows.

1. After connecting to your SPARKUP drive (device is on), press the center key (do not hold it, just press shortly).
2. You will hear a message (e.g., “Book One”), and then the recording of the front cover of this book (in this case, of BOOK0001.SPK). You can now rename BOOK0001.SPK

and give it the book's real name (e.g. GoodnightMoon.SPK) using the "file rename" feature in your computer.

3. Press the center key again to hear the file number and title of the next book.

### Sending a recording via e-mail

1. Connect to your SPARKUP drive and find the file on the drive that contains the book you want to send. Tip: if you have just recorded the book, you can find it by listening to the titles (see "Browsing and organizing" above). Just press the center key several times until you hear the title you are searching for.
2. Attach the book file to your e-mail.
3. The child or family on the other side can download the file onto their Sparkup (see "Downloading a book" above) and hear your voice!

Note: they need to have the same printed book.

- The device is only to be connected to Class II equipment bearing the following symbol:



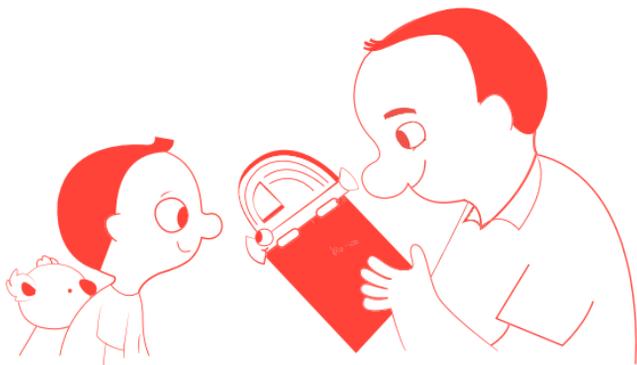
## Sparkup Tips for Reading Aloud to your Child

When you can't be there – Sparkup can. It encourages your children to read on their own, and ignites their passion for books. Still, there's nothing better than the time you set aside each day to read to your child. We hope these tips will help bring you hours of enjoyment and create memories that will last forever.

- If reading aloud isn't something you're comfortable with, practice by reading the book aloud to yourself first. Your children will love it because it is you reading it to them.
- Make reading time sacred – set your cell phone silent, turn off the TV, and remove any other distractions.
- Reading time is for you too, so have fun - practice using different voices and be as theatrical as you want – your child will love it!
- Feel free to expand outside the written text – explain things your child might not understand or involve them in the story by asking questions about what they see in the pictures.
- Read clearly and slowly (almost to where you think you are reading too slowly...); It will sound calm and relaxed to your child, not boring.
- Reading isn't only for bedtime! Any time of day is the right time for a good story.
- Start early! Even your infant will benefit from having you read aloud – you are creating a

vital bonding experience, and planting the seeds for a lifetime of reading enjoyment.

- Keep a stack of your child's favorite books nearby, and let your child choose which ones you'll read.
- Read good books - spend some time looking for really wonderful books.



## Books which work best with Sparkup

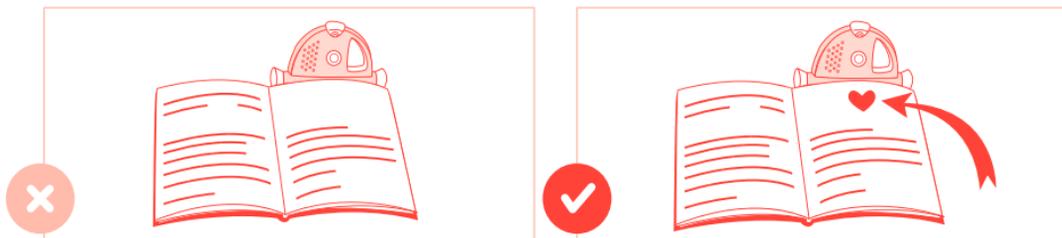
Sparkup does not ask you to buy special books -- even a 100-year old book from your grandma's collection would work! However, some books are easier for it to recognize and some are more difficult. We are continuously working to improve our software. Currently, the following books work best:

- Classic children's picture books with rich and distinctive pictures and up to 60-70 pages.
- Hardcover books, as they easily support Sparkup. When using a paperback, it is best to rest the book on a surface in front of you (table, bed, pillow).

### **Books to avoid**

- Books with interactive elements, opening windows, mirrors, flip-flaps, etc. (e.g. "The Very Hungry Caterpillar").
- Books with many text-only pages (e.g. "Harry Potter").
- Large picture storybooks containing collections of different stories (e.g. "Disney Princess Collection").
- Books with very similar, identical pages or many white pages.

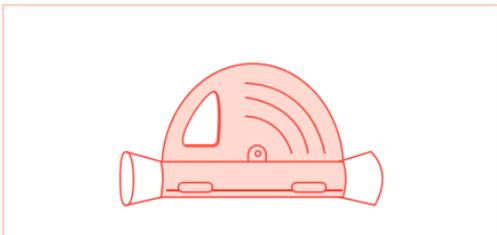
Tip: If there's a page Sparkup is not recognizing well, you can put a sticker in the middle upper part of this page (1" from its edge) so the camera will better notice it and record this page again.



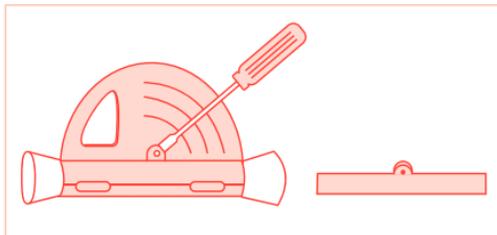
### Technical Specifications

- **Memory:** 256Mb (240Mb available for books)
- **Storage capacity:** up to 4 hours of audio
- **Supported file format:** SPK files only
- **Batteries:** 3 X AA
- **Usage time:** up to 30 hours of playback

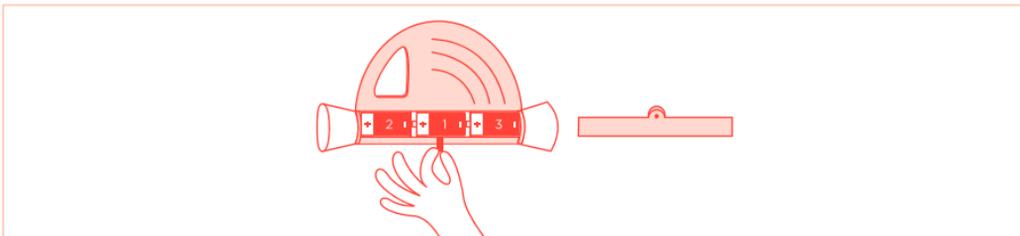
## Replacing batteries



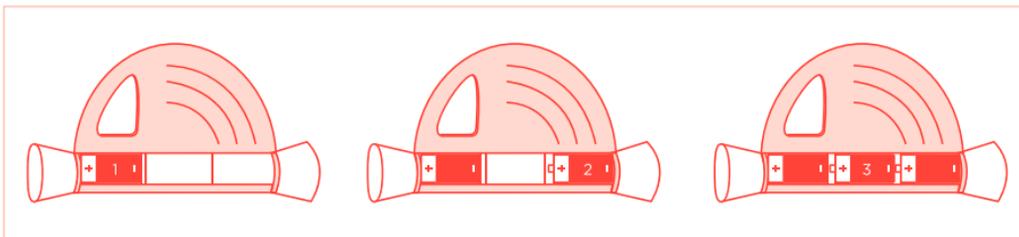
1. Verify that the clip-on part is folded into an "L" shape.



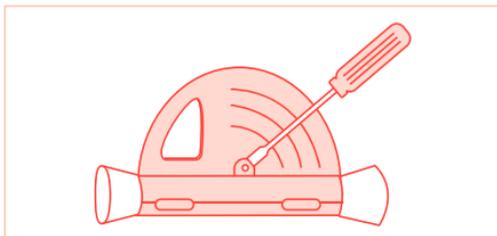
2. Loosen the battery compartment screw using a cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver, and remove the door.



3. Remove the old batteries: Start by pulling the red ribbon and removing the middle battery, and then remove the left and right batteries.



4. Insert new batteries: Start by inserting the left battery; then insert the right battery and finally the middle battery. To assure correct polarity, please follow the markings inside the battery compartment.



5. Return the battery compartment door and tighten the safety screw back into place.

Need help? Go to [sparkupreaer.com/guide](https://sparkupreaer.com/guide) or scan this code:



## Battery Cautions

- Batteries should be replaced by adults only.
- For best results, use alkaline batteries.
- Batteries are to be inserted with the correct polarity.
- The supply terminals are not to be short-circuited.
- Failure to insert batteries in the correct polarity, as indicated in the battery compartment, may shorten the life of the batteries or cause batteries to leak.
- Install only new batteries of the same type in your product.
- Use only batteries of the same or equivalent type as recommended.
- Non-rechargeable batteries are not to be recharged.
- Rechargeable batteries are to be removed from the device before being charged.
- Rechargeable batteries are only to be charged under adult supervision.
- Do not mix old and new batteries.
- Do not mix alkaline, standard (carbon-zinc) or rechargeable (nickel-cadmium or nickel metal hydride) batteries.
- Exhausted batteries are to be removed from the device.
- Do not burn batteries. Batteries should be recycled or disposed of as per state and local guidelines.

## Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
Sparkup does not turn on.	Take out the batteries, re-insert them, turn on Sparkup. If Sparkup still does not turn on, try to insert fresh batteries.
Sparkup does not recognize a book, although it was recorded.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Make sure Sparkup is attached at the middle of the back cover. Move Sparkup to the left or to the right along the back cover and wait.</li><li>2. Make sure Sparkup clip-on sits tightly on the back cover, is not attached loosely and is not tilted.</li><li>3. Make sure Sparkup is folded all the way to about 90 degrees.</li><li>4. Check if light is too harsh, too dim, or if there are strong shadows. Move to a well lit room and try again.</li><li>5. Make sure Sparkup is turned on (the light blinks).</li><li>6. Make sure Sparkup is not attached to the PC with USB cable.</li></ol>
Sparkup is slow to recognize pages.	Check that there are no shadows on the page. If the book is small, try to put it on the table. Make sure you do not move hands too much in front of the Sparkup camera.
Sparkup often stops in the middle, then continues playing.	
Sparkup confuses some pages.	Put different stickers on these pages, and record them again. The best place to put stickers is about 1 inch from the top of the page in its middle, just below the Sparkup camera.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

**WARNING:** Changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

**NOTE:** This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help

### Stay in Touch



1-866-322-4675



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