

Key Differentiating Features

ProSlate™ vs iPad

Durability

A standalone iPad can be damaged by dropping, moisture/foreign object ingress into open ports, screen shatters/scratches, etc.

- The ProSlate incorporates a ruggedized case made of high impact plastic and silicone rubber. Case covers all ports to resist dust and water entering. This design is able to withstand a drop from 6ft onto a hard surface (i.e., concrete). Clear screen protector protects against screen scratches/damage and contains glass fragments if screen breakage does occur.



Carrying and handling of the device



The iPad alone often cannot be accessed by persons who have fine motor difficulties and/or difficulties grasping, holding or handling a slim tablet.

- The ProSlate's FlexABLE™ Handle and Stand allows clients with physical impairments to easily grasp and handle the device. Persons with disabilities can feed their arm through the FlexABLE's stand and grasp the foam ergonomic handle. The FlexABLE's wire is then formed around the users arm to secure the device to the arm. In addition, a shoulder strap can be requested to attached to the back of the device to allow it to be independently transported.

Screen Visibility

Screen glare originates from outside light and creates visibility issues with a standalone iPad.

- The ProSlate's stand allows users to easily and quickly adjust the tilt angle of the device to deflect the screen glare from ambient lighting. With its flexible wire, the device tilt angle can be easily adjusted by people who do not have good hand control or dexterity. A user need only push on the face of the device and the ProSlate will adjust its tilt angle accordingly.

For more information:
forbesaac.com/proslate-series

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Mounting

Unlike a standalone iPad, the ProSlate is available with a mounting plate; a variety of mounts are available for positioning (e.g., wheelchair, tabletop, and rolling floor mounts).

Voice Output Volume



The internal speakers of the iPad are not loud enough to be heard in a noisy environment (e.g. outdoors, in a public setting, in a classroom).

- The ProSlate includes a SoundPOD™ Wearable Speaker Module, which amplifies voice output to allow for successful communication even in very noisy environments. Allows voice output to come from the person rather than the device; directs listener's attention to the individual, resulting in more natural and successful communication. SoundPOD magnetically attaches to the back of the device for docking and has its own battery so doesn't reduce runtime of the device itself.

App Locking

A standalone iPad features a home button that, when pressed, will quickly close the AAC app. This can be inadvertently pressed and jump the user out of their AAC app. Many users need to be locked into their communication app at all times. Allowing these users to jump out of the app and access other areas of the iPad can reduce communicative effectiveness. Some software attempts have been made by Apple (i.e., Guided Access feature) to lock a user into an app. While the software locking is successful in not allowing the app to be closed, it introduces another issue: when the home button is pressed, an onscreen dialog box appears. This behavior is especially troublesome with users with Autism, who can be distracted by the event and ultimately are driven to perseverate on the home button, pressing it over and over again.

- The ProSlate uses a Home Button Guard, which prevents user's fingers from accessing the home button. Design requires the use of included stylus to activate the home button. The ProSlate can be ordered without this guard if not needed.

Keyguards



Quality keyguards are not readily available for the iPad. Keyguards are required by many users, especially those with fine motor difficulties, to reduce miss-hits and improve efficiency of communication.

- ProSlate keyguards are available for all AAC apps and cell densities. Sleek design uses magnets to attach; keyguards are thick enough to keep buttons from being inadvertently pressed and resist breakage. Soft edges won't hurt a user's hand if they hit the edge. Easy to clean (soap and water).

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Warranty and Support

When using a standalone iPad as a communication device, there is a lack of support for SLPs and families regarding programming, language modifications, etc.

- The dedicated ProSlate includes **Lifetime Tech Support** on the hardware of the device **and communication apps**. Most app developers do not provide live support for their apps; Forbes AAC tech support team supports any communication app on a ProSlate device.
- The ProSlate's 5-Year Worry-Free Warranty is the **best warranty available** in an SGD. This warranty eliminates the need to obtain funding when SGDs are damaged; users who depend on their devices won't have to wait to get them fixed. This warranty ensures that users will continue to be able to express their medical wants and needs throughout the entire 5-year period, even if damage to the device occurs and funding for repair is unavailable.

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