0.4 BrailleNote Touch Plus – Using TouchBraille and Explore by Touch

Introduction

This tutorial explains how to access and use TouchBraille and Explore by Touch.

Learning Objectives

Completion of this tutorial will give you experience with the following:

- How to activate and use TouchBraille
- How to activate Explore by Touch
- The motions used in Explore by Touch

This tutorial assumes that you have:

- A BrailleNote Touch Plus
- Experience with the basic functions of the buttons, or access to Tutorial 0.1, 0.2 and 0.3
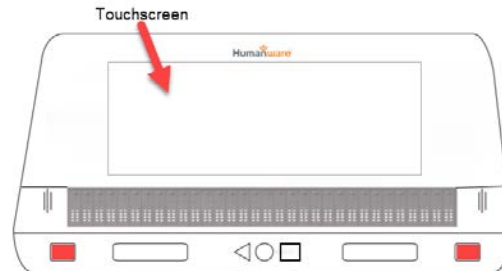
Case Study

Amita is a grade 11 student who is learning to use her BrailleNote Touch Plus. She has been experiencing hand fatigue when using a traditional physical braille keyboard and will benefit from the TouchBraille on the BNT+ because it requires less motion and less force. She also appreciates that she can type silently using TouchBraille. When working with sighted peers or educators, she would like to use TouchBraille so that her learning partner can read what she is writing. Most of the time she navigates on her own, but once in a while her learning partner will navigate on the device using the touch screen called Explore by Touch.

0.4 Using TouchBraille and Explore by Touch

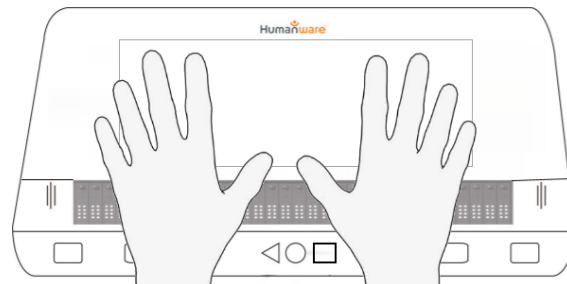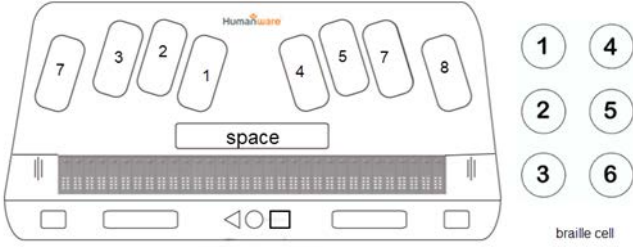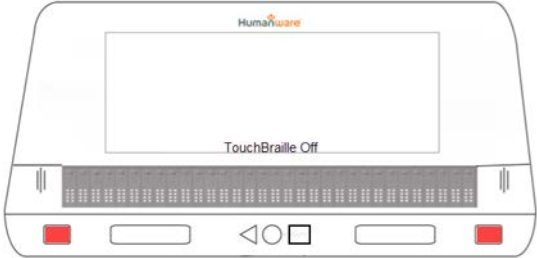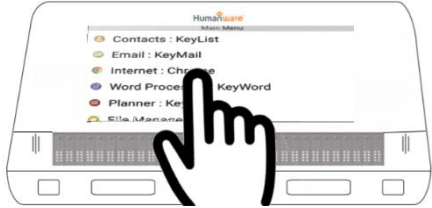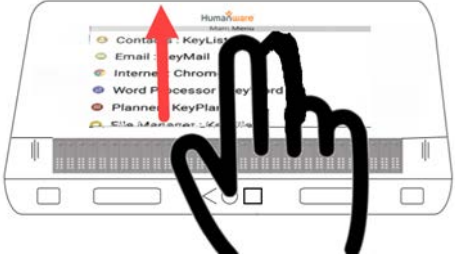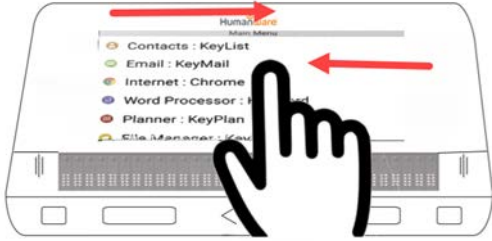|		
1	When entering braille, you have two options: the traditional physical braille keyboard or **TouchBraille**. When using TouchBraille you use the glass touch screen to enter braille. To access it, first lift the physical braille keyboard to reveal the touchscreen. Press the Previous and Next keys at the same time. You will hear and see "**TouchBraille On.**"	
2	To type using TouchBraille, lay all 10 fingers on the keyboard to begin **finger recognition**. You will feel a short vibration to indicate that your fingers were successfully recognized. Lift your fingers slightly, and now you can begin typing on the touchscreen. Note that you can place your fingers anywhere on the screen, not just on the 7-inch LCD visual display.	
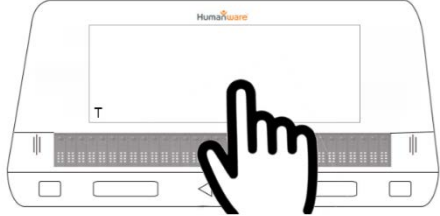
3	Imagine you are using the keys on a traditional physical braille keyboard, with each key corresponding to a braille cell.	
4	Use your left pinkie for Backspace (Dot 7), and your right pinkie for Enter (Dot 8).	
5	The pads of the fingers should be placed on the screen rather than the fingertips. Your wrists can rest on the refreshable braille display or the front edge of the device. This allows you to simply flex your fingers up and down and helps you to keep them in the same place. If you hear that what you are typing is incorrect, or if you feel a long vibration, that will mean that you have lost the finger calibration. Simply place all 10 fingers on the screen again to recalibrate any time this happens.	

6	TouchBraille can be turned off in the same way you turned it on, by pressing the Previous and Next thumb keys. You will hear and see "**TouchBraille Off**." To use **Explore by Touch** you must turn TouchBraille off.	
7	**Explore by Touch** allows you to access the device in the same way you would most other touchscreen tablets. You can use Explore by Touch only when using menus, lists and other applications, not when writing text in a document or text field. When Explore by Touch is enabled you will see a **"T"** in the bottom left corner.	
8	Touch an item with one finger to **select** it. You will both hear the name of the item and see it on the braille display. Double tap to **activate** an item. The thumb keys and cursor routing keys also work to navigate and select in Explore by Touch.	

9	To **scroll** through menu items use an inverse slide gesture. To scroll down through a list of items, slide two fingers up. The slide feels more like a drag and pull than a swipe.	
10	To scroll back up through the list of items, slide two fingers down.	
11	**Sliding** one finger left or right moves forward and backward through each item, the same way you navigate using the Previous and Next thumb keys.	