

# Clapper Tech Support

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**CLAPPER TECH SUPPORT**

Darkness.

Two claps are heard in rapid succession. Lights come on at once to reveal a plain room, with a large sign: "The Clapper-Technical Support Hotline" a man is sitting with his feet up on a desk, obviously bored. Finally, the phone rings.

TECH SUPPORT

Hello, Clapper Tech Support - Clap, on, Clap off! This is Tony speaking. What can I do for you?

MAUDE

(distraught)

You've got to help me, Tony! My clapper! It isn't working! I...I... don't know what to do!

TECH SUPPORT

Now, just remain calm, Ma'am. Everything's gonna be all right. I'm here. Now, tell me your name.

MAUDE

Maude.

TECH SUPPORT

And, Maude, you plugged the unit in?

MAUDE

(sniffling)

Yes. It's all plugged in! Oh, what could it be?

TECH SUPPORT

And did you plug something into it?

MAUDE

(wails)

Yes!

TECH SUPPORT

Okay! Okay, what did you did you plug into it? A light? The T.V?

MAUDE

My husband's dialysis machine! (weeps)

TECH SUPPORT

(beat)

Oh my god.

(suddenly all business)

Okay, Maude, we've got to move fast. I want you to clap twice! Okay? Do it now!

MAUDE

(confused)

Do what?

TECH SUPPORT

Clap. Just clap for me, Maude. There's not much time.

MAUDE

I...Ok...

(beat)

Nothing's happening!

TECH SUPPORT

I didn't hear anything. Can you describe what's happening on your end? How are you clapping, Maude?

MAUDE

Well, I take my thumb and middle finger and I sort of rub them together real fast and...

TECH SUPPORT

Okay, ma'am, I think I've found your problem. You see, what you're doing is snapping. You're not clapping at all.

MAUDE

You're sure?

TECH SUPPORT

Quite sure, ma'am. I need you to clap. Not snap. Clap.

MAUDE

(semi-hysterical)

Oh, my, yes..But how? How?

TECH SUPPORT

Just relax, ma'am and I'll talk you through it.

MAUDE

Okay.

TECH SUPPORT

Now, listen closely, Maude, every step is critical.

MAUDE

Yes, I'm listening.

TECH SUPPORT

Okay. Now I want you to extend your right arm in front of you such that your forearm is perpendicular to the rest of your body.

MAUDE

Okay.

TECH SUPPORT

Good. Now, do the same for your left hand.

MAUDE

(panicking)

I can't!

TECH SUPPORT

What's wrong, Maude? Talk to me.

MAUDE

I have the phone in that hand!

TECH SUPPORT

Okay, Maude--stay calm. Here's what I want you to do.

MAUDE

Yes?

TECH SUPPORT

I want you to tuck the phone under your left ear, and hold it pressed against your shoulder with that ear, can you do that for me, Maude?

MAUDE

Why, yes, I think I...

TECH SUPPORT

Okay, now, slowly extend your left arm in front of you...Slowly...

MAUDE

I...I...I did it!

TECH SUPPORT

Wonderful! We're almost home, now, Maude.  
Okay, now, open both hands.

MAUDE

They're open.

TECH SUPPORT

Good. Now cup each hand slightly, and  
rotate one hand about thirty degrees  
along the plane made by your forearm.

MAUDE

Okay--hang on--let me get my protractor.

TECH SUPPORT

No, no! There's no time! Just guesstimate!  
Ok? Now, listen closely. I want you to  
accelerate the two hands together towards  
a point between them, such that they will  
meet at that center point.

[beat]

MAUDE

You mean, hit my hands together?

TECH SUPPORT

Exactly.

MAUDE

That's clapping.

TECH SUPPORT

That's correct.

MAUDE

But won't that hurt?

TECH SUPPORT

Not if you do it exactly as I've  
described.

(softly)

You've got to trust me, Maude--your  
husband's life depends on it.

MAUDE

(hesitantly)

Okay...I guess...

TECH SUPPORT

Now, Maude, when they meet, they will produce a loud noise. Do not be alarmed. This is the normal clapping sound. Now, go Maude!

MAUDE

(Maude claps)

Hey, that didn't hurt at all! But my husband--he's still blue.

TECH SUPPORT

Clap again, Maude! Just how I told you! Quickly!

MAUDE

(Maude claps again)

My husband's dialysis machine! It's working! He's regaining consciousness! Oh, thank you, Tony! Thank you!

TECH SUPPORT

Just doing my job, ma'am.