Total War

Accessibility Score: ★★☆☆☆

Total War might seem like a visually demanding strategy series, but with careful planning, audio mastery, and smart use of automation, blind players can command armies just as effectively. Your greatest assets will be sound cues, mental mapping, delegation, and tactical pacing.

Campaign Map Mastery – Build Your Mental Empire

- Start Small: Choose one faction and stick with it for your early games. Familiarity with their starting position makes learning the map easier.
- Learn the Region Layout: Use narrated descriptions or memory-based mapping to visualize province borders, key cities, and terrain types.
- Name Your Zones: Assign verbal names to key regions (e.g., "Northern Pass," "Coastal City," "Central Plains") so you can recall them easily.
- Use Turn-by-Turn Notes: Keep a simple audio or text log after each turn to remember troop movements, building progress, and enemy locations.
- Delegate with Diplomacy: Lean on AI automation for scouting and minor battles to focus your attention on the major strategic choices.

Battlefield Awareness – Hearing the Fight

- Troop Voice Lines: Units often respond verbally when given orders. Listen for confirmations like "Yes, general" or "Under attack!" to track their state.
- Combat Audio: Distinguish melee clashes, ranged volleys, and cavalry charges by their sound. This helps you know which unit is engaged without seeing it.
- Environmental Audio: Rivers, hills, and settlements have unique soundscapes —use them as landmarks to orient your forces.
- Audio Warnings: Many Total War titles announce flanking attacks, morale drops, or imminent defeat—train yourself to react instantly.
- Use the Pause Button: Strategic pauses let you listen, think, and reassign orders without time pressure.

Commanding Armies Without Vision

- Pre-Battle Setup: Before engaging, arrange troops consistently (e.g., infantry center, cavalry flanks, ranged behind). Muscle memory in placement aids recall.

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- Group Commands: Assign control groups (1–5) for key unit types so you can quickly give orders without searching the map.
- Defensive Formations: Hold key positions and force enemies to come to you, reducing the need to track scattered units.
- AI-Assisted Fighting: Use the "auto-resolve" feature for unimportant or overwhelming battles so you can focus on high-impact fights.

Economy & City Management
- Repeatable Build Orders: Use consistent build patterns (e.g., farm first, barracks second) so you can remember the order without constant checks.
- Advisor Voice Prompts: The in-game advisor can be set to read out important updates about construction, diplomacy, and armies.
- Hotkeys for Menus: Learn the key shortcuts for economy, recruitment, diplomacy, and end turn—navigation speed is critical.

Audio & Tech Setup
- Stereo Headphones: Essential for pinpointing battle sounds and directional cues.
- Screen Readers & OCR Tools: Use these to read menus, stats, and diplomacy screens.
- Slower Battle Speed: Many Total War titles let you slow time during combat—use this to process sound cues and give orders calmly.

Accessibility Mindset – Playing to Strengths
- Plan Before Acting: The turn-based nature of the campaign gives you breathing room—use it.
- Choose Predictable Units: Armies with straightforward tactics (heavy infantry, archers, cavalry) are easier to manage than complex multi-role forces.
- Rely on Ally Reinforcements: Let AI allies handle chaotic fronts while you focus on a smaller, more manageable portion of the fight.
- Leverage Diplomacy for Survival: Peace treaties and trade routes keep you in the game without constant war micromanagement.

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