What's Your Favorite Keyboard?

New keyboards always make me happy. This new one is mechanical, wireless, illuminated, and tenkeyless. It's a Logitech G915 TKL (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B085RP54BT/). Now, if only it were just slightly curved with slightly larger keys, I'd be in keyboard nirvana.

But I'm happy enough with what I have now that I have it.

What's your favorite keyboard - and how frequently do you replace keyboards?

 A solid keyboard makes most lawyers, even hunt and peckers better typists.   Groucho must be spinning in his grave.

Nevertheless, I who was taught to type in a high school course in 1967, think that students should be taught how to dictate and or use the free services Google offers for text insertion.

With even my middle of the road Internet connection and wifi I obtain text display equal to using a good keyboard.

 I also suggest using a transcriptionist or typist as a second set of eyes never hurts.

Richard P. Schmitt, Maryland

I am eternally searching for a silent keyboard so I can type without being heard during a call. Anyone found one?Deb Matthews, Virginia

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A chiclet style board is very quiet.

Craig McLaughlin, California

I'm fond of my Clydesdale Ergonomic.

No one else who has used it has ever liked it.

Michael J. Sweeney, Connecticut

Personally, I buy new keyboards with new equipment or when one is no longer functional. I also keep spares around so I maintain function while awaiting a replacement if necessary.

Personally, I dislike wireless keyboards and only buy the wired ones. Most of the ones I buy are commonly used for gaming, because they tend to stand up to hard use longer.

Logitech, Microsoft, Saitek, Razer and Corsair are all in use. I commonly use several computers, and switch amongst them. I have less preference on the type of switches used for general use, but like a backlit keyboard. I don't game enough that some of the more advanced gaming keyboard features are useful, but do like the longer rollover that most gaming keyboards allow.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

I like this one best as far as the ones I have, so it is my "favorite." I'm sure there are others that are better. It has cherry blue ""equivalent" switches. I really like the mechanical feel. But it is LOUD. No typing on the phone. It feels old school. And no, I don't like the rainbow colors. I just keep it on blue.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01LXOW3UA/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Bret Cook, California

I have an Apple Magic Keyboard jerry-rigged to work with a PC. It's Bluetooth-enabled, quiet, has a long battery life and doesn't have any delay. It's overall solid for non-heavy typing.

I do miss a mechanical keyboard and might get one if I can find something cheap and quiet.

Jarrett Silver

Kinesis Freestyle (best reasonably priced split board out there) or Freestyle Pro (fancier mechanical version, which I now have.)

LITERALLY cured my wrists in three weeks. Worth every penny. Make sure to get the wrists rests and adjustable-angle things, too.

Erik Hammarlund, Massachusetts

Freestyle 2 ($142 fully loaded w/ wrist rests & angle adjusting):

https://kinesis-ergo.com/shop/freestyle2-for-pc-us

Freestyle Pro (Cherry Red or Cherry Brown; programmable and remappable;

$230 fully loaded and worth every penny.) https://kinesis-ergo.com/shop/freestyle-pro/

Erik Hammarlund

I've used the Microsoft 4000 ergonomic keyboard for over a decade.

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/d/microsoft-ergonomic-keyboard/93841ngdwr1h?activetab=pivot%3aoverviewtab

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It is wired and it makes noise, but that doesn't bother me. I find it very difficult to switch to the "straight" keys on the laptop keyboard those limited times I take the laptop off the dock.

Mark E. Peneguy, Louisiana

Currently using a Fellowes Microban Split Keyboard (https://www.amazon.com/Fellowes-Microban-Split-Design-Keyboard/dp/B0002CE0XO/).

I have also used Microsoft ergonomic keyboards in the past and like them as well. The split keyboard and an upright mouse have done wonders for my wrists.

Kevin Grierson, Virginia

Yeah, I got one of those MS 4000 split keyboards more than a decade ago. My forearm got so bad I had it in a sling and the 4000 fixed that problem...

I've owned three of them (home and office) and wore one of them out. Pretty inexpensive too.

Tim Ackermann, Texas

Happy with my Logitech K350.

Robert "Robby" W. Hughes, Jr., Georgia

We're using "split" differently.

The Freestyle is a TWO-PIECE FULLY-SPLIT keyboard (literally--the keyboard is split in half, and the two halves are connected by a wire). You can vary the distance between them, so it's easy to have your wrists, and even your arms, entirely straight if you want. The two halves can be up to 12" apart, with whatever angle you want. And you can vary the angle, spacing, and tilt at will--and get to some decent tilt values. To get proper tilt on a one-piece split it would need to be 3" thick. With one of the Freestyle "vertical" mechanisms you can actually tilt to almost 90 degrees, if you prefer to type like that

"Split" ONE-PIECE keyboards like the Microsoft ones are a big improvement... but are still going to force your hands to be more centerline than your arms, which isn't ideal. Also, they have fixed angles and, usually, little to no wrist tilt angle. So if your shoulders are wide (mine are) you still have the dreaded "wrist bend", and the lack of tile angle means your hands are usually too flat (which is even more of an issue when they are centerline.)

I used to use the one-piece but am never going back. If you like ergo, or have bad wrists/arms, you should try one of the Freestyles.

Erik Hammarlund

I have used my Microsoft 4000 keyboard for a few years and love it. In addition to the ergonomic aspect, mine has the number keypad which I use all the time, programmable hotkeys, a key that opens up a calculator, and lights that tell me if I have caps lock, number lock or function buttons on. It helps me work much more efficiently.

It is hard to move to a laptop keyboard from this.

Caroline Achey Edwards, Pennsylvania

I go through keyboards regularly. I learned to type on a clunky Smith-Corona manual typewriter (circa 1970) that took effort to punch the keys, and I guess I never got out of the habit of hitting keys hard.

Expensive keyboards...cheap ones...none seem to last too long for me. So, I regularly stock-up on inexpensive keyboards, beat the hell out of them, and when they stop working properly, toss them in the electronics recycle bin, and then pull another one off the shelf. Rinse, repeat.

Scott I. Barer, California

I have a Logitech curved keyboard on my desktop, and I use a wireless/BT Microsoft ergo keyboard with my laptop. As a larger person with broad shoulders, I've never been able to comfortably use a laptop keyboard for very long, so I've almost always used an external keyboard unless I'm "on the road."

I could provide specific model numbers, but I'm really not that particular about it; having provided desktop support for decades, I became quite adaptable to a wide range of keyboards, and so long as the ones I use the most/longest have a curved or split keyboard, I'm good. As a person who resisted the mouse for a long time because it meant taking my hands off the keys, I've learned to use shortcuts and Word's automatic correction/substitution function to get to the things I need. (As a person who routinely types in multiple languages, I've also learned to "build" characters when that's available, as well as to use the Alt-numeric combinations for letters with diacritical marks.)

In Word, rather than programming specific key combinations for things like the pilcrow or section symbol, I've simply created substitutions that I can type in the flow, and Word will automatically replace them. For instance, if I want a section symbol, I just type "secsym" and keep moving, and it takes care of itself. Likewise with "parasym," and as we often use the Delta and Pi when shorthanding, I have programmed "greekp" and "greekd" to fill those in for me. Others include "jdn" for "jurisdiction" and "jdx" for "jurisdictions."

In addition to substituting shortcuts (and corrections for words you frequently bungle when typing too fast, like "teh" for "the," you can actually configure phrases or even whole paragraphs to be inserted with as few as two or three unambiguous mnemonic characters. You can learn to type "Govern yourself accordingly" with two keystrokes!

And, of course, whatever software you're using, you would likely benefit from learning the functionality that's built into your application to do important but routine tasks. For example, If I've created a merge letter in Word out of Amicus, I want to convert all of those merge fields to plain old text before I save and send, because I don't want to open the document later and have dates, ordinals, etc. changing on me. So it's a quick Ctrl-A Ctrl-Shift-F9, and Bam!, no more merge fields in the document. I'm not even sure where that is in the menus...

Amicus also lets me create similar shortcuts in their data entry windows for phone calls and timekeeping, which is handy.

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina