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Macintosh: Alternatives to Using a Mouse

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TOPIC -----

I have little feeling in my hands, so I cannot sense where the button is. This means I cannot use the new-style ADB mouse, because of the angle of the mouse and because the mouse button is recessed.

On the old-style mouse, the angle of the mouse was such that my arms could bend properly, and I could tell when my hand was on the raised mouse button. What can I do to use the newer Macintoshes?

DISCUSSION -----

Because of mechanical and electrical design differences between the old-style mouse and the ADB mouse, you cannot modify an old-style mouse for use with ADB. However, there are a number of different vendors producing alternative input devices for use with the ADB interface. Listed below is information about several of these third-party products. You may also want to check the trade journals for other types of ADB input devices.

A+ Mouse and A+ Mouse ADB from Mouse Systems Corp.

A+ Mouse is an entirely electronic and consists of no moving parts. It uses its own mirror-like pad to reflect a tiny beam of light to track movement. It has exceptional digital cursor control for greater speed, accuracy, and reliability.

QuickStick and QuickStick ADB from Kraft Systems, Inc.

QuickStick combines the cursor response of a mouse with the speed and convenience of a joystick. As such, it is a dual-purpose device allowing cursor control with joystick design and functions.

Trackball ADB from Kraft Systems, Inc.

The Trackball ADB connects to any Apple Desktop Bus port and works with all "mouseable" software. Sensitivity is adjustable to match a user's individual preference. The Trackball includes drag and double-click buttons. An optional foot pedal provides total one-handed control.

Turbo Mouse Plus and Turbo Mouse ADB from Kensington Microware, Ltd.

Turbo Mouse is an input device that puts the mouse ball on the top rather than on the bottom like a standard mouse. The heart of the Turbo Mouse is a patented technology called "optical leveraging". This opti-mechanical technology eliminates virtually all moving parts with the exception of the bearings required to support the trackball. This increases the precision of the Turbo Mouse and Turbo Mouse ADB to 200 counts per inch, as well as increases their reliability.

The Turbo Mouse has an automatic acceleration feature that senses the speed at which a user is working and moves the cursor further as the mouse ball is moved faster.

Two buttons are included, which allow for either right- or left-handed use. One button serves as a regular click button; the other is a click lock. A user controls which is which by setting a DIP switch hidden in the back of the unit.

Turbo Mouse ADB also offers a unique "chording" feature that is activated by pressing both buttons simultaneously. By adjusting the DIP switch on the back of the Turbo Mouse ADB, a user can have it do one of seven functions: New, Open, Close, Save, Print, Quit, or Undo.

Turbo Mouse Plus is compatible with a Macintosh and Macintosh Plus. Turbo Mouse ADB is compatible with a Macintosh SE and Macintosh II.

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