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THE GURU'BOARD: AN UPCOMING KEYBOARD FOR COMFORTABLE TOUCH TYPING

Always on the home row: a new level of typing for programmers, authors and other professional text creators.

Efficient touch typing requires the hands on the home row. Meaning the index fingers resting on the F and J keys. On a regular keyboard, editing requires the right hand to constantly leave the home row for the cursor keys. Then find the home row again to continue typing. Another leave for using the mouse. It takes time. And is not convenient. Hamburg, Germany located company Absolute Software GmbH announces a new product targeting these issues, scheduled for Q4/2010. The keyboard integrates cursor controls and a pointing stick into the keyboard's alpha part putting them into direct home row reach. A preview including a working color configurator is available on www.guru-board.com.

Mechanical Switches

The Miniguru uses mechanical keyboard switches in three variants: clicky, tactile or linear. The switch type can be selected and previewed in the configurator. Mechanical switches actuate after about half the key travel avoiding a hard stop at the end. The clicky and tactile versions give audible and/or tactile feedback when the contact is being made.

Always on the Home Row

The Miniguru - the first Guru'board model - puts the editing keys where they are in direct reach. On a second layer that is thumb-activated by the keys left and right to the spacebar. Only one thumb is typically used during touch typing, freeing the second one for other tasks like layer control.

Reaching for the mouse would be another leave from the home row. The Miniguru adds a pointing stick integrated into the keyboard's alpha part. The buttons are at the front of the spacebar, pushed with the tip of the thumb.

Programmable Layout

While the factory layout will be fine for most users, it is possible to change it and store these changes permanently in the firmware of the keyboard. The changes will be immediately available, even when the keyboard is plugged into a different computer. No additional driver necessary.

Configurator

Different people have different requirements. The keyboard should adapt to that. Not the other way round. Choose from body, keycap and stick colors, switch type, physical layout, keycap languages and whether there will be a pointing stick. The preview configurator already supports colors, switches and some keycap variants.

Tiny Footprint

The footprint of the Miniguru is not bigger than the alpha part of a regular keyboard.

This has several advantages beside being 'always on the home row'. There is instantly more desk space which allows for moving the keyboard around and adapting its location to different seating positions. The keyboard is easy to take along when travelling. It can be used on top of a notebook keyboard as a substitute for the built-in device. Large rubber feet won't fall into the gaps between the notebook's keys.

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Absolute Software GmbH: Since 1995 Absolute Software provides innovative and application-oriented solutions for the automotive and cellular phone industries, as well as for banks and the publishing sector (<http://www.absolute.de>, site in German).

If you'd like more information about this topic or additional image material, please email Stefan Elsner at steff@guru-board.com.

Additional press material can be found at http://www.guru-board.com/english/press_en.



Working Miniguru Design-Prototype



Miniguru Configurator View