

The Keyboard

A **computer keyboard** is a [typewriter-style device](#) which uses an arrangement of buttons or [keys](#) to act as [mechanical levers](#) or [electronic switches](#). Replacing early [punched cards](#) and [paper tape](#) technology, interaction via [teleprinter-style keyboards](#) have been the main [input method](#) for [computers](#) since the 1970s, supplemented by the [computer mouse](#) since the 1980s.

Keyboard keys (buttons) typically have a set of characters [engraved](#) or [printed](#) on them, and each press of a key typically corresponds to a single written [symbol](#). However, producing some symbols may require pressing and holding several keys simultaneously or in sequence. While most keyboard keys produce [letters](#), [numbers](#) or symbols ([characters](#)), other keys or simultaneous key presses can prompt the computer to execute system commands, such as such as the [Control-Alt-Delete](#) combination used with [Microsoft Windows](#). In a modern computer, the interpretation of key presses is generally left to the software: the information sent to the computer, the [scan code](#), tells it only which key (or keys) on which row and column, was pressed or released.

In normal usage, the keyboard is used as a [text entry interface](#) for typing text, numbers, and symbols into [application software](#) such as a [word processor](#), [web browser](#) or [social media app](#).

Desktop or full-size

Desktop computer keyboards include alphabetic characters and numerals, [typographical symbols and punctuation marks](#), one or more [currency symbols](#) and other special characters, [diacritics](#) and a variety of [function keys](#). The repertoire of [glyphs](#) engraved on the keys of a keyboard accords with national conventions and language needs. Computer keyboards are similar to electric-typewriter keyboards but contain additional keys, such as the [command key](#) or [Windows keys](#).



Laptop-size

Keyboards on laptops usually have a shorter travel distance and a reduced set of keys.

Keyboards on [laptops](#) and [notebook computers](#) usually have a shorter travel distance for the keystroke, shorter over travel distance, and a reduced set of keys. They may not have a numeric keypad, and the function keys may be placed in locations that differ from their placement on a standard, full-sized keyboard. The switch mechanism for a laptop keyboard is more likely to be a scissor switch than a rubber dome; this is opposite the trend for full-size keyboards.

Flexible keyboards

Flexible keyboards are a junction between normal type and laptop type keyboards: normal from the full arrangement of keys, and laptop from the short key distance. Additionally, the flexibility allows the user to fold/roll the keyboard for better storage and transfer. However, for typing the keyboard must be resting on a hard surface. The vast majority^[12] of flexible keyboards in the market are made from silicone; this material makes them water- and dust-proof. This is useful in hospitals,^[13] where keyboards are subjected to frequent washing, and other dirty or must-be-clean environments.

Handheld



Handheld [ergonomic keyboards](#) are designed to be held like a game controller, and can be used as such, instead of laid out flat on top of a table surface.

Typically handheld keyboards hold all the alphanumeric keys and symbols that a standard keyboard would have, yet only be accessed by pressing two sets of keys at once; one acting as a function key similar to a 'Shift' key that would allow for capital letters on a standard keyboard. Handheld keyboards allow the user the ability to move around a room or to lean back on a chair while also being able to type in front or away from the computer. Some variations of handheld ergonomic keyboards also include a trackball mouse that allow mouse movement and typing included in one handheld device

Thumb-sized

Smaller external keyboards have been introduced for devices without a built-in keyboard, such as [PDAs](#), and smartphones. Small keyboards are also useful where there is a limited workspace.

A [thumb keyboard](#) (thumb board) is used in some personal digital assistants such as the [Palm Treo](#) and [BlackBerry](#) and some [Ultra-Mobile PCs](#) such as the [OQO](#).

Numeric keyboards contain only numbers, mathematical symbols for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, a decimal point, and several function keys. They are often used to facilitate data entry with smaller keyboards that do not have a numeric keypad, commonly those of laptop computers.^[20] These keys are collectively known as a numeric pad, numeric keys, or a numeric keypad, and it can consist of the following types of keys: [Arithmetic operators](#), [numbers](#), [arrow keys](#), [Navigation keys](#), [Num Lock](#) and [Enter key](#).

Multifunctional



Multifunction keyboard with LCD function keys

Multifunctional keyboards provide additional function beyond the standard keyboard. Many are programmable, configurable computer keyboards and some control multiple PCs, workstations and other information sources, usually in multi-screen work environments. Users have additional key functions as well as the standard functions and can typically use a single keyboard and mouse to access multiple sources.



Multifunction keyboard with touch

Multifunctional keyboards may feature customized keypads, fully programmable function or soft keys for macros/pre-sets, biometric or [smart card](#) readers, [trackballs](#), etc. New generation multifunctional keyboards feature a [touchscreen](#) display to stream video, control audio visual media and alarms, execute application inputs, configure individual desktop environments, etc. Multifunctional keyboards may also permit users to share access to PCs and other information sources. Multiple interfaces (serial, USB, audio, Ethernet, etc.) are used to integrate external devices. Some multifunctional keyboards are also used to directly and intuitively control video walls.

Common environments for multifunctional keyboards are complex, high-performance workplaces for [financial traders](#) and [control room](#) operators (emergency services, security, air traffic management; industry, utilities management, etc.).

ESC was part of the standard keyboard. Historically it also served as a type of shift key, such that one or more following characters were interpreted differently, hence the term [escape sequence](#), which refers to a series of characters, usually preceded by the [escape character](#).

Enter key

The Enter key is located: One in the alphanumeric keys and the other one is in the numeric keys. When one worked something on their computer and wanted to do something with their work, pressing the enter key would do the command they ordered. Another function is to create a space

for next paragraph. When one typed and finished typing a paragraph and they wanted to have a second paragraph, they could press enter and it would do spacing.

Shift key

Shift key: when one presses shift and a letter, it will capitalize the letter pressed with the shift key. Another use is to type more symbols than appear to be available, for instance the apostrophe key is accompanied with a quotation mark on the top. If one wants to type the quotation mark but pressed that key alone, the symbol that would appear would be the apostrophe. The quotation mark will only appear if both the required key and the Shift key are pressed.

Menu key

The [Menu key](#) or Application key is a key found on Windows-oriented computer keyboards. It is used to launch a context menu with the keyboard rather than with the usual right mouse button. The key's symbol is usually a small icon depicting a cursor hovering above a menu. On some Samsung keyboards the cursor in the icon is not present, showing the menu only. This key was created at the same time as the Windows key. This key is normally used when the right mouse button is not present on the mouse. Some Windows public terminals do not have a Menu key on their keyboard to prevent users from right-clicking (however, in many Windows applications, a similar functionality can be invoked with the Shift+F10 [keyboard shortcut](#)).

Number pad

Many, but not all, computer keyboards have a [numeric keypad](#) to the right of the alphabetic keyboard, often separated from the other groups of keys such as the function keys and system command keys, which contains numbers, basic mathematical symbols (e.g., addition, subtraction, etc.), and a few function keys. In addition to the row of number keys above the top alphabetic row, most desktop keyboards have a [number pad](#) or accounting pad, on the right hand side of the keyboard. While [num lock](#) is set, the numbers on these keys duplicate the number row; if not, they have alternative functions as engraved. In addition to numbers, this pad has command symbols concerned with calculations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division symbols. The enter key in this keys indicate the equal sign.



These days, there are different types of keyboards readily available in the market which is suitable for different kind of users.

Although most keyboards possess the same arrow keys, letters and other symbols there are few additional changes and tweaks to those keyboards.

For Ex: some keyboards have multimedia keys, power buttons, palm rests, gaming type and so on.

In that massive list of keyboard here I am sorting out few keyboards which are helpful for you to do your work much faster than you usually do in different aspects. So, let's get started.

1. Multimedia Keyboard



Multimedia keyboards are very popular these days because they often used to [streamline your music listening](#) experience on your computer devices.

These are often used by the people who love to watch movies or listen to songs on their pc on regular bases. This keyboard provides different keys which match the traditional CD player, and the controls of this keyboard are almost similar.

These keyboards mainly designed with music in mind and these type of keyboards even helps you to increase on decrease volume by specific keys.

You can find lots of manufacturers who sell lots of multimedia keyboards, but for multimedia keyboards, you should be having at least five buttons which can control your entire computers volume & audio functions.

Typically there are lots of benefits of these kinds of keyboards. If you are striving to use these multimedia keyboards means you should know about the benefits of multimedia keyboards.

Benefits of Multimedia Keyboards

- **Volume Control:** The first and topmost benefit for multimedia keyboards is its volume control. With this particular keyboard, you can control your entire sounds system of the keyboard. It is not only related to music regardless of a program it should be able to control the volume of your whole computer.
- **Track Skipping:** Track skipping is another benefit of a multimedia keyboard as you can skip your track to the other. You will have full control of play/ pause buttons, and at the same time, you will have access to the " Previous Track" and "Next Track" option as well in this keyboard. This will help you to control your songs system simply using the keyboard. There is no need to touch the mouse or other aspects.
- **Background Control:** Usually, multimedia keyboards have options even when you can't see the media player settings. In general background control option only works in windows media player by default. However, you can still configure any media player to run in the background similar to the windows media player.
- **Helpful Buttons:** Usually, multimedia keyboards have tons of buttons which often helps you to do your work with ease. For suppose if you are a regular user of the internet means you can make use of the browser launching button (You can find this with a home sign). You can even see a print screen button (to print your screen) an email button to open your default Microsoft email. Along with these you can button like calculator, shut down for PC as well in this useful keyboard.

2. Wireless Keyboard



As we are living the modern world, people are continuously upgrading themselves previously they used to use headphones, but now they are using wireless Air pods similarly they used to use wired keyboards but most of the people these days started using wireless keyboards.

Usually, wireless keyboards are nothing but the keyboard which doesn't have the wire connected to the computer. It is one of the best types of keyboards because the people can freely move and they don't have to sit in the same place forever. This keyboard type uses radio frequency such as Bluetooth or Infrared technologies.

By using this keyboard, you can quickly move to different places in the Wi-Fi range and type on your pc. Different keyboards have different ranges this depends on the keyboard you buy.

People are becoming smarter these days as they are using these keyboards for PC, mobile, tablet, laptop, and more devices which support wireless tech to do their work lot easier.

The only condition for the wireless keyboard is it should be in the range of infrared beams. So, decide yourself whether you have to use this type of keyboard or not with its benefits.

Benefits Of The Wireless Keyboard

- Helps you to move freely and access your pc from different Range.
- These are more flexible and very comfortable to use.
- Wireless keyboard reduces stress-free work and helps you increase your productivity.
- These keyboards are safe and can be quickly taken anywhere.
- These are best keyboards for those who often face back pains or joint pains.
- Very easy to set up and install the wireless keyboard.

3. Mechanical Keyboard



I still remember playing GTA vice city & Road rash games in my PC with the mechanical keyboard. It gives a better reaction now and then when you play games on the mechanical keyboard.

Once it was a great keyboard which was used by most of the people but now as there is a huge demand for other consoles mechanical keyboards demand has brought down.

This mechanical keyboard is ideally built with a spring activated at every switch. Whenever you press a key in the mechanical keyboard, it will push down your button. Then it occurs a completion, and it registers a keystroke, and your PC will perform the action.

If you a new user of this mechanical keyboard means you will definitely like this keyboard as these keyboards only need to be pressed halfway through. Along with that, you will get different sound while typing on this keyboard as well.

Benefits of Mechanical Keyboards

- **Fastest Keyboard:** The mechanical keyboards often claim they can type faster than any other console with the most accurate results. It is one of the quicker keyboards where you can type halfway and register a keystroke. So without much efforts, you can record your keystroke on the mechanical keyboard.
- **Versatility:** This is perhaps the most attractive and part of mechanical keyboards. There are many types of switches in a mechanical keyboard each can affect significantly on the keyboard. You can find different color range options in this cherry MX mechanical switches. If you often need to work on typing projects means you can make use of the cherry MX blue because this offers great typist options.
- **Durability:** Mechanical keyboards are best regarding durability. They often have a great life cycle while compared to the other keyboards. It has more than 50 million keystrokes. Which means it lasts longer than any board, even after 20 million strokes you won't find any inconvenience with this unique keyboard.
- **Cheaper:** In the keyboard market, mechanical keyboards are less expensive than any other keyboards. So, it is affordable to each and every one.

4. Virtual Keyboard



When it comes to virtual keyboard? It isn't a standard, and regular physical keyboard which allows you to type or it isn't hardware. It can be called as software which is helpful to input data. In this modern world, almost everyone uses this virtual keyboard in their [smartphones](#), tablets, and touch laptops as well. Now the way you type in the smartphones on the touch screen is just with the virtual keyboard.

If you are net banking users means you can find the option of virtual keyboard option while logging to the account as well.

Similarly, if you are windows use means you can use ON Screen Keyboard as well to open that you can simply use Windows key + R — then type “ask” on that field and enter. Or you can ask Cortana.

These virtual keyboards are specially designed to [protect your passwords from the malicious virus, spyware, and trojan programs](#). This is a special keyboard which puts the risk of password theft away from us.

Benefits Of Using Virtual Keyboard

- These virtual keyboards are portable, and they required no maintenance like physical keyboards.
- They help you in reducing the risk of keystrokes logging.
- Infinity options to customize the virtual keyboard such as keyboard design, layout and more.
- Multiple languages are supported and have different key layouts as well.
- No Extra luggage required just a touchscreen and software is enough.

5. Ergonomic Keyboard



Ergonomic keyboards are specially designed with ergonomic considerations to minimize the muscle strain for most of the keyboard users. Usually, these keyboards are for two-handed typists to free their finger efforts and these are constructed in the v shape. This helps both right and left-hand type a best and natural angle.

If you are having a constant issue with your muscle means you should be considering these types of keyboards.

Although it can help you remove muscle strain, it takes some time to get back to the speed you usually type on other consoles. As the keyboard layout is unusual, you should fit into it.

These type of keyboards are a bit expensive than regular keyboards. There is nothing much to say in ergonomic keyboards rather than below benefits.

Benefits Of Ergonomic Keyboards

- Ergonomic keyboards always maintain proper hand position which helps you minimize the need of extending users to reach the mouse.
- It helps to keep hands in a neutral position and also helps to prevent and restrain hands.

6. QWERTY Keyboard



Most of you might be familiar with these keyboards as these are popular from the typewriters age. Most of the users use QWERTY keypad on some mobile phones as well.

The QWERTY is a special keyboard which is designed for Latin -script alphabets. These are arranged in a specific order but not in regular ABCDEF order.

People used to use this QWERTY keyboards to just because they used to find it hard with ABCD keyboards. As they use the stings underneath each key, it would be helpful for everyone to make use of serial keys in strings.

Most of the users still use this QWERTY keyboard ever after all the latest models of keyboards.

Benefits of QWERTY Keyboard

- As this is a world standard keyboard, you will have a wide variety of keyboards on this form of a keyboard.
- This keyboard is helpful in making a learning curve for muscle memory.
- As this is the basic version, you will get good speed and accuracy with these type of keyboards.

7. Gaming Keyboard



Gaming keyboards are special keyboards which are designed by keeping games experience in mind. Among the various types of keyboards, it is [best for hardcore gamers](#). In fact, most of the games already use these gaming keyboards to battle with others in the gaming world.

These keyboards have some programmable keys which feature so it one of the best keyboards for games. These keyboards highlight some special keys, and in some cases, they often design or add spice for these keys with different colors and lights as well.

The best aspect of this keyboard is its impressive looks. This is a bit expensive they regular and ergonomic keyboards.

Benefits of Gaming Keyboards

- You can play correctly with precision and speed accuracy of the gaming keyboard.
- Gaming keyboards have some special programmable keys which helps in different types of games to control the game without using a mouse this is one of the best benefits.
- These keyboards have some smart keys and colorful inbuilt LCD light to impress users.
- Gaming boards will have several finishing touches always to make you stay in the game.

8. USB Keyboards



The USB keyboards are basic keyboards which we use on a regular basis. Today we almost have everything on USB bases such as USB speakers, USB mouse, USB keyboards and more. These USB keyboards are nothing but a wire connection keyboard which has a USB plug at one side which helps to plug into the computer. It uses a USB interface to connect with the host computer.

In general, if you don't have suitable drivers installed on your computer, you may face issues with USB keyboards. But, if everything is fine means you can use this perfectly. Most of the people always carry one of the USB keyboards in their bags while they go to different places to work.

Benefits Of USB Keyboards

- These USB keyboards have lower latency than other wireless keyboards.

9. Membrane Keyboard



The membrane keyboard is quite similar to the other consoles in keys, but these keyboards have pressure pads which outlines and symbols printed on the flexible surface flatly. In this type of keyboard error-free blind typing is always a daunting task and it is helpful for protection. These keyboards work by the electrical contact between the underlying circuits and keyboard keys. The keys in this keyboard are merely covered by the soft plastic and have very less movement. This protects the keyboard from damage and dirt as well. These keyboard typing is a lot lesser than any keyboard.

Benefits of Membrane Keyboard

- These type of keyboards last longer.
- Can be easily customizable.
- It has a seal ability option, so it protects from water seeping in empty spaces of the keyboard.
- These are the different types of keyboards you should be knowing.

10. Roll up Computer Keyboard



Have you ever heard about the roll-up keyboard for the computer? If you are a travel lover who are looking for the compact keyboard that can be rolled and take it through your backpack, then you should get this handy keyboard type.

Even though there are different types of keyboards available in the market, this rollup computer keyboard is much compactable and boasts unique design as well.

Usually, this keyboard variety is made up of Silicon material with high intensity and elasticity and hence it is very handy to fold it and take when you travel.

Advantages of the Roll-up computer keyboard

- Flexible, portable and easy to store
- Contains dust-proof and waterproof qualities

- Offers you a silent typing experience because the keys are quiet and stable
- Compatible with all latest computer gadgets
- Highly affordable

Wrapping Up the Types of Keyboards

No doubt that the keyboard is the essential and best part of the computer. Without having a good keyboard type, it is unlikely to get a pleasurable experience when you work in the PC.

I hope this post has helped you to know about the different types of keyboards and you may choose the best one according to your work requirements.

Before buying the keyboard, be clear with the necessities like music, hardcore work, gaming, or writing and fix the budget as well. When you clear with the usage and budget, you can easily buy the appropriate type of computer keyboard.

Now I'd like to hear what keyboard you are more interested in taking.

- Which type of keyboard did you like most?
- Do you use any other types of keyboards?

How to keep Your Keyboard Clean and Safe

1. Wire safety

Wire is the most sensitive part of keyboard which got damaged most often. Avoid bending it. Don't place anything heavy on it to avoid stress, which can cause cuts or breakage. Kinked cables can also result in spelling mistakes. Ensure to fix the adapters properly.

2. Avoid Liquids

Spilling of liquids is very harmful. It can damage your keyboard's internal circuit or can cause malfunctioning of keyboard.

3. Avoid eating while sitting on keyboard

Don't eat while sitting near the keyboard. When you do so, small pieces of you food can fall and enter inside the circuit, which can result in stopping one or more keys from functioning. Also insects can be invited by you unknowingly, which sometimes decide to reside in your keyboard, if you provide them food so often. Also when you type with sticky or oily hand, it ends up in finger slipping. Also it is harmful from the point of view of deletion of characters printed on keys, because lubricants and moisture are biggest enemies of printed character on keys of your keyboard.

4. Soft key press

Try to press the keys as soft as you can. It helps in long life of keys and characters printed upon them. Basically, this type of typing is famous as touch typing. It helps you a lot to increase your speed also.

5. Cover after Use

Cover it to avoid dust particles. It can harm the circuit under the keys, which results in non-functioning of one or more keys. I recommend using dust proof covers like poly-covers, cardboard-covers etc., avoiding cloth covers, because clothes have pores (micro holes) inside them, which are sometimes unable to stop micro-dust.

6. Clean it properly

Use a lint free cloth to avoid scratches on your keyboard. Also you can use a vacuum cleaner, air blower or 90% isopropyl alcohol, which is easy available on all medical stores . But never use ethyl based alcohol; it can harm your keyboard as well as other body parts of computer. I use ear buds with dipped edges in petrol to remove stub-born dust from inner corners and from space between the keys, for my laptop's keypad as well as for my desktop's keyboard. It is safe, cheapest and easily available material. These days, USB based small and special vacuum cleaners for keyboards are available, if you can manage them, then it is more than good.

7. Care for batteries

If you are using a wireless keyboard, then take care of your batteries. Try to use rechargeable batteries. Must ensure to clean the space for batteries when you are replacing them.

Finally, avoid liquids, dust, eatables, and oily hands. Cover it properly after use. Service them on regular intervals. You can use any of above mentioned method to clean it as well as other few options are available. So, let the keyboard live long.