

## Alternative mice

### Introduction

For some individuals the standard computer mouse can be difficult or impossible to use. For example the buttons may be difficult to press, or moving the mouse around may not be possible. As with a keyboard it may produce pain for the user after a period of use. Fortunately there are many alternatives to the standard mouse that can be used to suit various user needs. Below are a selection of both low and high tech alternatives that are available.

### Joysticks

#### *Point It*

This Point-It is a USB joystick that gives proportional control of a Windows mouse pointer. Four buttons are used to operate mouse button functions left click, double click, right click and mouse speed. 3.5mm jack sockets allow connection of standard switches for those who find it difficult to operate the switches on the unit itself. The standard version has a switch on top of the knob that operates the left mouse button. The ball knob can be interchanged with knobs including chin, sponge, wrist plate etc. A compact version of the Point-It! joystick is designed to be attached to a Super Mount or similar so that it can be located close to a user.



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**EasiTrax** <http://www.traxsys.com/AssistiveTechnology/tabid/1087/Default.aspx>

Joysticks can be an alternative solution for users who have difficulty using a mouse. This joystick has a soft joystick handle with large buttons for left and right click. It also incorporates functions such as cursor speed control and scroll.



### ***Roller Plus Joystick***

<http://www.traxsys.com/AssistiveTechnology/tabid/1087/Default.aspx>

As well as buttons for left and right click this joystick contains extra buttons which give the features of a speed control key, latching drag switch and buttons that allow only up/down or left/right movements of the cursor. All of the switches on the front panel, with the exception of the speed control, can be duplicated with remote switches by using the connector on the rear of the unit.



## Rollerball

### ***Kensington Orbit Optical Trackball***

<http://us.kensington.com/html/1436.html>

This is an ergonomically shaped trackball. It has no special features or jack sockets for switch inputs. However its advantage is that it is a mainstream product and so is well priced.



### ***Microspeed KidTRAC***

<http://www.inclusive.co.uk/>

This is a large trackball that features a drag lock. Again this is a mainstream product and so is well priced. A miniature version is also available



### ***Traxsys Roller Plus***

<http://www.traxsys.com/AssistiveTechnology/tabid/1087/Default.aspx>

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## **Touch Pad type**

### ***Touchpad Mouse***

<http://www.inclusive.co.uk/>

The touch pad mouse allows the user to glide finger over the touchpad surface and gently tap (or click the buttons) to perform all input functions. Takes up little space when compared to a mouse.



**Cruise** <http://www.ablenetinc.com/>

This mouse alternative requires no hand or wrist movement. Users control the speed and direction of the cursor with a single, soft touch of a control ring. Color-coded buttons for left/right click, drag-lock and double-click. Features 2 switch input jacks for single-switch access to left/right click buttons.



## Ergonomic

**RollerMouse Pro – Central Pointing Device** <http://www.kos.ie>

The Contour Roller Mouse Pro is designed to reduce or eliminate the need for a mouse by offering a roller bar and set of buttons below the keyboard to navigate and click with a cursor.



**Anir Vertical Mouse** <http://www.kos.ie>

This mouse has been designed to reduce the risk of carpal tunnel disorder. The Anir Vertical Mouse supports the base of the palm and places the hand at 70 to 80 degrees from the desk surface. Its design requires less muscular effort to use.



## Other methods of control

**IntegraMouse** [http://www.lifetool.at/show\\_content.php?sid=218](http://www.lifetool.at/show_content.php?sid=218)

The IntegraMouse is designed for users who are unable to operate a mouse with their hands. It is controlled by lip movements and sip and puff that controls the range of mouse clicks (left click, right click, double click, drag&drop). The user places the mouse between the lips and operates the cursor by applying pressure with the lips. Requires as little as 10g of pressure.

**USB Interface cable**

[www.click2go.ie](http://www.click2go.ie)

Allows you to use any TASH multiple switch (such as the Wafer, Penta or Tash mini joystick) as an alternative mouse. Up, Down, Left, Right and Left Mouse Click functions are supported.

**TrackerPro** <http://www.madentec.com>

The TrackerPro is designed for users who are unable to operate a mouse with their hands. TrackerPro tracks a small dot that you can place on your forehead, glasses or the rim of a hat so that when the forehead moves the cursor moves as well. Not effected by direct sunlight.

**Smart Nav**

<http://www.naturalpoint.com/smarnav/>

This is similar to the Trackpro. SmartNav also tracks reflections from a tiny dot, which you can place on your forehead.



### **Enable Viacam**

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/eviacam/files/>

A low cost option for head control is to use a standard webcam using free head tracking software. No reflective dot required.

### **Eyegaze**

<http://ie.dynavotech.com/default.aspx>

<http://www.tobii.com> <http://www.cogain.org/>



With an Eyegaze system a user can directly move the mouse cursor by gazing at the screen. A camera follows the gaze of the eye.