



FIRST LOOK

Sending the mouse for a spin

Amkette wireless keyboard with Trackball 'WF 301'

Specs:

- 800-DPI optical trackball; 360-degree navigation
- 2.4GHz wireless technology

Size: 365mm x 156mm x 22mm

Price: Rs 2,995



LAPTOPS and netbooks are replacing the good old PCs on the desktop. As a result, more and more people are crouching in front of their laptops and working on the cramped keyboards and straining their necks out like turtles to read the content on the screen, simply because the display and the keyboard are very close together. Not a good idea for a workstation, more so if it is for long hours.

The solution is to use an external keyboard and mouse, preferably a wireless one. But that again confines you to work on the table as you need some plane surface to work the mouse. But if you are looking for the convenience of sitting back and still use the trackpad of the laptop along with the keyboard, rejoice!

Storage media company Amkette has launched a wireless keyboard with a trackball 'WF 301' in India

recently. The wireless keyboard with glossy black finish and grainy matt keys looks sleek, compact and elegant.

Ergonomically contoured edges on the top make it easier to hold without any discomfort. The full size keys are nicely spaced and curved on the top for ease of typing. Though the bottom row looks a bit crowded and the keys little smaller, including the space bar, Shift and Enter keys, the four arrow keys have been accommodated there. On the top, it has ten shortcut keys for multimedia and email.

The coup d'etat of the board is the trackball with left/right click buttons. The scroll wheel of the erstwhile mouse have been incorporated on the right side of the keyboard like the touchpad of the laptop including the

palm rest. A set of these 'mouse keys' are also provided on the left side of the keyboard in case you wish to keep it on your lap.

The 800-DPI optical trackball with a 360-degree navigation capability works as good as any mouse and also doubles as a gaming mouse for gamers among us.

Measuring 365mm x 156mm x 22mm in size and with 2.4GHz wireless technology, WF301 can easily be carried around and works within 10 metres with precision.

It requires just two 'AAA' type batteries and switches off automatically after four minutes of lying idle.

The keys are not backlit (logically to conserve battery) and the numerical on the number-pad and 'number-lock' key are marked in blue, making it illegible in normal light. Interfacing the keyboard with the laptop is through an USB dongle and does not require any software. It is compatible with most of the operating systems including Windows7/Vista/XP as well as MAC OS X and Linux.

—Raja Dayal

FE does not endorse these products.
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