

Why to TechDis How to

Unlocking Potential

Keyguards

Keyguards are plates with holes for each key that fit over a keyboard to make selection of characters easier.

There are many methods of attaching them to keyboards, but the most satisfactory type fits over and around the keyboard supplied with it. This keeps the holes in register with the keys and makes the keyguard difficult to dislodge.

Keyguards allow the user to rest their hand onto the surface of the guard to damp any unintentional movement.

They reduce the risk of the user hitting two or more keys at once.

They increase the confidence of users who are worried about hitting the wrong key or for whom making corrections presents disproportionate difficulty.



The keyguard can be easily and quickly removed when no longer needed or when a user who does not need it uses the machine.

If keyboards with keyguards need to be moved around between machines it saves time to fit them with a usb adapter, making them 'plug and play'. This means the conventional keyboard does not have to be removed and both keyboards can be operated.

A keyboard with keyguard can allow a user to steady jerky movements but sometimes the whole keyboard will move on the desk, when this happens put a piece of 'Dycem' or rubberised netting available as an anti slip surface from camping shops underneath the keyboard.

Many 'one finger' keyboard users like to use a keyguard, for them the Accessibility options built into Windows extend the benefits of the keyguard. 'MouseKeys', 'FilterKeys' and 'StickyKeys' are valuable.

A 'one finger' typist using a Keyguard, notice how he rests his hand on the guard while selecting the character.