

# A New Toy

For years I've been looking for a wireless mouse that really works. Well, here is one that finally does the job.

Until very recently, wireless devices relied upon infrared light rays to communicate. Infrared mice were very short range and needed a straight, unobstructed view of the receiver to work. The result was actually more restrictive than a cord ever was.

My new Logitech® Cordless Optical Mouse uses low power radio waves to communicate its location and movement. A small receiver pod plugs into an available USB port. The receiver can be located up to six feet away from the mouse. Because the long frequency radio waves used by the mouse pass around and reflect off of objects on the desk, the mouse can be moved wherever convenient. This extra freedom allows you to change positions and mousing surfaces whenever you like, minimizing fatigue. This freedom may also help with repetitive stress injuries.

**No balls.** My new rodent uses optical, laser tracking and dispenses with the traditional, dirt-gathering rolling ball. This means almost no cleaning and a mouse that will scamper about on almost any smooth surface. As with all optical mice, my new rodentine buddy shies away from surfaces that have bold, contrasty patterns.

**Batteries included.** The mouse needs power to send those radio waves and light that laser. Fortunately, the Logitech® Cordless Optical Mouse comes with the required two AA batteries. I bought some spares for the inevitable time that the batteries die. How long they will last is yet to be verified. Logitech claims six months.

**Software, too.** My new mouse comes with optional software. You can choose not to install the software and still have a great mouse. Without the software, Mac OS 9 us-



ers will find that all of the buttons act identically and perform standard mouse clicks perfectly. Mac OS X users will have full button functionality without the Logitech software and will find that the left mouse button clicks, the right mouse button brings up contextual menus (see this month's tip on page 2) and the scroll wheel scrolls pages up and down (provided the application you are using allows it; most do). With the software, both Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X users are able to customize the buttons and their functions.

**It's not all good.** I have noted a few negatives. While the shape of the mouse is equally good for right or left handed users, there is no quick and easy way to switch the button orientation when passing the mouse from righty to lefty. Left handers will need to use the software to reconfigure the buttons.

The batteries add significant weight to the mouse making it weigh about three times

more than the current Apple mouse (I rather like this, but many users may find the extra weight troubling).

Mac OS X driver software is not included and must be downloaded free from Logitech's web site. The Mac OS X software also does not include the bonus, but funky, *WebWheel™* application that comes with the Mac OS 8.6–9 version.

Lastly, you can lose it! I'm just waiting for the day that I absentmindedly walk away from my desk with the mouse in my hand, set it down somewhere and spend two or three hours trying to find it.

#### Technical Specifications:

| Mouse              | Receiver |
|--------------------|----------|
| Height: 1.44 in.   | 1.02 in. |
| Length: 5 in.      | 2.95 in. |
| Width: 2.375 in.   | 2.76 in. |
| Weight: 4.7 oz.    | 3.2 oz.  |
| Cable length: None | 4 ft.    |
| 5-year warranty    |          |

#### System requirements:

- Mac® OS 8.6 or later
- USB port
- CD-ROM drive

Internet Service Provider (ISP) account required for full *WebWheel™* functionality

Logitech® Cordless Optical Mouse

Manufacturer's Part number 930616-0403  
\$39.99 CompUSA, MacZone

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## May Tip—

A hidden trick!

Your Mac likes to offer you choices that are appropriate to what you are doing. For example, the menu bar across the top of the screen changes to reflect the application you are currently using and only offers you choices that make sense at the moment. These choices are sensitive to the context in which they are used. We like to call these choices *contextual*.

Unknown to most users is that your Mac is ready with contextual help in many hidden places.

*Let's try this exercise:*

You want to duplicate a file. So, you find the file (wherever you have it stored), click on the file once, to select it, and mouse up to the File menu and choose the Duplicate command.

*That's a lot of mousing!*

*Now, try it this way:*

Find the file, use your

free hand to hold down the Control key on your keyboard and click on the file. *Lookie there!* A menu popped out of your file that gives you a Duplicate command. But, it does more than just that for in this menu is every command that could possibly apply to your file. Commands like Move to Trash, Open and Make Alias. This quick and easy menu is called a *Contextual Menu*.

Folks with multiple-button mice usually program the right button to bring up Contextual Menus when clicked. This handy trick eliminates the need to hold down the Control key.

