

Review: Aukey mechanical keyboard brings a dance party to your desktop

June 24 2017, by Jim Rossman, The Dallas Morning News



Some people like typing on a good old clickity-clack keyboard.

You remember those? They were, most likely, the kind you used with your first computer or maybe even in a typing class.

The keys are tall and they make a very distinctive sound when you type.

Most keyboards today - either built into laptops or sold with desktops - are thinner and quieter, with not much travel when you press the buttons.

I have to admit, I can type pretty fast on these new keyboards, but there is a certain subset of computer users who long for the good old keyboards of the 1990s. They miss the feel and the sound.

So I've noticed a resurgence of old-school mechanical keyboards - most of them fairly expensive (\$100 or more). Of course, if there is enough interest and time, cheaper products will eventually come to market.

I've been testing the Aukey LED-Backlit Mechanical Keyboard KM-G6 (\$49.99, [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Aukey-KM-G6-LED-Backlit-Mechanical-Keyboard)), and it has all the clicky goodness with an attractive price and some semi-obnoxious disco lighting.

DESIGN

The KM-G6 is a good-looking [keyboard](#). It has the full complement of 104 keys, including arrow keys and a full numeric keypad. Each key has its own LED light.

The keyboard uses Outemu blue switches, which have easy travel and make a very loud and satisfying click with each strike.

Yes, a room full of these keyboards would be likely annoying.

My officemates certainly noticed when I installed the KM-G6. They came over to see what all the noise was about, and most of them wanted to try it for themselves.

There is a lot of nostalgia when it comes to typing on this style of

keyboard.

Each key has a colored LED light. The lights do not change color, but there are different colors on each row.

The top row is blue, the next row is purple, the next row is green and so on. The lights illuminate the key letters and also the area under and around the keys. There is no option for white or neutral lights.

Where you can get creative is with different light modes. It's like a little disco light show built right into your keyboard.

Want the lights to flash row by row? Or from the edges toward the middle? No problem. You can even create a wave of light that spreads outward from every single key you strike.

It's an interesting demonstration to show off the keyboard's lighting but it's incredibly annoying if you're typing a document. Perhaps it's better suited for gaming.

The KM-G6 connects via USB cable, and there are no additional USB ports on the keyboard.

IN USE

The KM-G6 is just the kind of keyboard you'd want if you love to press buttons. Typing on it is satisfying in a very nerdy way.

I thought I was a fast typist on my mostly-flat Logitech keyboard but I find myself really flying on this Aukey KM-G6.

I love it as a keyboard and, while I find the lighting amusing, unless I'm showing off the different [light](#) modes to a co-worker, I just leave them

all on or in a mode that lights up the keys as you press them.

If you're into gaming, or [typing](#) a lot, but you work from home or in an office by yourself, this is the keyboard for you. If you work in a cubicle surrounded by dozens of others, they might not be amused by the noise.

—

Pros: Easy to type on, very satisfying clicky feedback, pretty colors, inexpensive

Cons: The LED lighting is more gimmicky than functional.

Bottom line: If you're shopping for a keyboard that feels clicky, this is a good one.

©2017 The Dallas Morning News

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Citation: Review: Aukey mechanical keyboard brings a dance party to your desktop (2017, June 24) retrieved 3 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2017-06-aukey-mechanical-keyboard-party-desktop.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--