

ALPS KEYSWITCHES: VARIETY!

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Phones: (505) 863-2390 (H) or (505) 870-9805 (C) July 2022

COMPLICATED vs. SIMPLIFIED

Each switch type is identified as either **COMPLICATED** or **SIMPLIFIED**. The earliest ALPS versions were complicated, meaning that they have more internal components in each switch, as compared to later versions, which are simplified. Also, the complicated keyswitches have a small "slit" on the left and right sides of the rectangular hole through which the slider moves. The "slit" is absent from later "simplified" versions of Alps keyswitches.

ALPS KEYSWITCHES: CHARACTERISTICS

1. BLUE ALPS: Clicky: HIGH Tactility: HIGH Linearity: MODERATE

The ALPS symbol is on bottom, NOT on top. This keyswitch is recognized by the world expert on keyboards, *Chyrosrans22Thomas*, as the best keyswitch of all time. TWO BLUE ALPS will be supplied in this variety combined keyswitch set. Complicated.

2. GREEN ALPS: Clicky: LOW Tactility: LOW Linearity: HIGH

The ALPS symbol is on top, and also on bottom. The Green Alps switch has an empty rectangular space on top, to accept a small LED bulb. Green /Yellow Alps switches were used on early Zenith keyboards. Complicated.

3. YELLOW ALPS: Clicky: LOW Tactility: LOW Linearity: HIGH

The ALPS symbol is on top, and also on bottom. Complicated The yellow Alps switch has an empty rectangular space on top, to accept a small LED bulb. Complicated. The Yellow Alps switch has an empty rectangular space on top, to accept a small LED bulb. Complicated. Green or Yellow Alps switches were used mainly on early Zenith keyboards.

4. **AMBER ALPS:** Clicky: HIGH Tactility: HIGH Linearity: LOW
ALPS symbol is on bottom only, not on top. Complicated.
5. **BLACK ALPS:** Clicky: HIGH Tactility: MODERATE Linearity: LOW
ALPS symbol is on top, and also on bottom. Black Alps was used mainly on Dell keyboard 101W. Simplified.
6. **CANADA BLUE CLONE:** Clicky: HIGH Tactility: HIGH Linearity: MODERATE.
This is a clone of the Blue Alps. Matias brand, made in Canada. The body is clear so that illumination from LED bulbs on the keyboard circuit board can be seen by the user. New unused condition. Simplified.
7. **CANADA RED CLONE:** Clicky: LOW Tactility: LOW Linearity: HIGH
This is a clone of the Green Alps. Matias brand, made in Canada. The body is clear so that illumination from LED bulbs on the keyboard circuit board can be seen by the user. New unused condition. Simplified.
8. **CANADA GRAY "QUIET-CLICK" CLONE:** Clicky: LOW Tactility: HIGH Linearity: LOW.
Matias brand, made in Canada. The body is clear, so that illumination from from LED bulbs on the keyboard circuit board can be seen by the user. New unused condition. Ideal for typists who share the office workroom with others. Simplified.
9. **GRAY ALPS CLONE:** Clicky: HIGH Tactility: HIGH Linearity: MODERATE
This is a clone, made in Taiwan. Complicated.
10. **ORANGE ALPS:** Clicky: MODERATE Tactility: MODERATE Linearity: MODERATE
Alps symbol is on bottom, but is missing from top surface. This orange Alps was supplied on the Japanese version (# 0481) of the Apple IIgs. Complicated.
11. **SALMON ALPS:** Clicky: MODERATE Tactility: HIGH Linearity: MODERATE
The ALPS symbol is on top, and also on bottom. This keyswitch was supplied on the Apple Macintosh AEK-I, AEK-II, or MO116 keyboards. Complicated.
12. **CREAM ALPS, V.1:** Clicky: LOW Tactility: MODERATE Linearity: MODERATE
ALPS symbol is on top, and also on bottom. These switches are DAMPENED, which quiets the clickiness sound. These switches came from Apple's AEK-II keyboard. Complicated.

13. CREAM ALPS, V.2: Clicky: HIGH Tactility: HIGH Linearity: LOW
The ALPS symbol is on top surface, but NOT on bottom. Complicated.
14. CREAM ALPS CLONE, V.3: Clicky: VERY HIGH Tactility: VERY HIGH
Linearity: LOW The ALPS symbol is missing because this is a clone. Simplified
15. WHITE ALPS, V.1.: Clicky: HIGH Tactility: HIGH Linearity: LOW.
The ALPS symbol is on top, and also on bottom. Complicated.
16. WHITE ALPS, v.2: Clicky: HIGH Tactility: HIGH. LINEARITY:
LOW. The ALPS symbol is on top, but not on bottom. Complicated.
17. TAIWAN CLONE: LIGHT GREEN SLIDER. Clicky: HIGH Tactility:
HIGH Linearity: MODERATE. These were made for a Chicony brand
keyboard. Manufacture was done in same factory as #18. The slider is compatible
with all genuine ALPS keycaps. Simplified ALPS.
18. TAIWAN CLONE: WHITE SLIDER. This is a genuine Apple product, made for
use in the # 0330 Taiwan version of Apple IIgs.
19. LIGHT GREEN CLONE: Clicky: LOW Tactility: LOW Linearity: HIGH
No symbol on either top or bottom side. Simplified.
20. WHITE CLONE: This bag of switches was misplaced; It is no longer available.
21. BLUE ALPS: Clicky: HIGH Tactility: HIGH Linearity: MODERATE
The ALPS symbol is on bottom, NOT on top. Complicated. This is a duplicate of
#1. The Blue Alps is the most prized of all ALPS keyswitches; Go to YouTube
and read its grandly positive reviews by Chyrosrans22Thomas, a Dutch/British
reviewer who owns 250 full-sized keyboards!
22. WHITE ALPS. Clicky: LOW Tactility: MODERATE Linearity: MODERATE.
Alps symbol is on top, NOT on bottom. Simplified.
23. BROWN ALPS. Clicky: Tactility: Linearity: (NOT INCLUDED in the
Alps Variety Keyswitch assortment. Complicated.
24. GRAY CLONE OF ALPS. "FD" brand on bottom, NOT on top. Clicky: MODERATE
Tactility: MODERATE Linearity: HIGH Simplified.

THE LEGENDARY BLUE ALPS

BEST MECHANICAL KEYSWITCH WORLDWIDE

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View the following YouTube videos to see whether you agree with experts who present their careful judgments about the best keyboards and their keyswitches. The world's top keyboard expert is Chyrosran22Thomas [CHYROS], a Dutchman now residing in Britain, with his 250 full-size Keyboards. For each video, go to YOUTUBE SEARCH and enter the video's exact title. Duration of each video, in minutes, is stated.

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| "Six Blue Alps Keyboards: Typing" (60 min) | "Tear Down: ALPS SKCL/SKCM Switches" (5min) [CHYROS] |
| "Blue Alps Review" (5 min) | "Alps SKCM Blue vs. Matias Click" (4min) |
| "Blue Alps Sound Comparison: Six Keyboards" (3min) | "Blue Alps Switch" (1min) |
| "Focus FK-747: A Review: Alps SKCM Blue" (11min) | "Lube Every Type of Mechanical Keyboard Switch" (32min) |
| "Focus FK-555: Alps SKCM Blue" (13min) | "Ultimate Keyswitch Comparison: Which is best for You?" (22min) |
| "Leading Edge DC-2014 Review" (7min) | "Datacomp DFK-515AT Review: Alps SKCM Blue" (7min) |
| "Chicony KB-5160C: Blue Alps" (2min) | "Acer KB-101A Review: Redux Alps SKCM Blue" (13min) |
| "Building a 60% Blue Alps Keyboard" (3min) | "Alps SKCM Blue vs. Matias Click" (5min) |
| "Monterey K101 Keyboard: Blue Alps" (18 min) | "Top 10 Most Silent Mechanical Keyboard Switches of All Time" (11min) [CHYROS] |
| "Alps Switches: Black vs. White vs. Blue" (23min) | "Top 5 Clicky Mechanical Keyboard Switches of All Time" (8min) [CHYROS] |
| "SKCM Blue Alps Typing ASMR" (15min) | "Iigs Keyboard Review" (12min) [CHYROS] |
| "Northgate Omnikey 102: Alps SKCM Blue" (13min) | "Top 5 Linear Mechanical Keyboard Switches of All Time" (8min) [CHYROS] |
| "NEC PC-8801 Keyboard: Alps SKCM Blue" (11min) | "Top 7 Best-Sounding Keyboard Switches of All Time" (13min) [CHYROS] |
| "Fjell with SKCM Blue Alps Build" (3 hrs, 8 min) | "Top 5 Tactile Mechanical Keyboard Switches of All Time" (9min) [CHYROS] |
| "Blue Alps Switch: Mod Linear" (3min) | "#48: Apple IIc Keyboard Repair" (10min) |
| "Alps SKCL/SKCM Switches" (5min) | "Apple IIc Keyboard Review" (12min) [CHYROS] |
| "Iic Review: Alps SKCM Amber" (10min) [CHYROS] | "Blue Alps Original? YouTube" (3min) |
| "Highly Satisfying Monterey K101 Keyboard: Blue Alps Switches" (18min) | "Alps 64 Build: SKCM Blue Alps" (3min) |
| "How to Make Tactile/Clicky Alps Switches Linear" (10min) | |
| "How to Clean Alps Switches" (10min) [CHYROS] | |
| "Typing Demo: Matias Click vs. Alps SKCM Blue" (92min) | |
| "Alps Switches: Cleaning, Maintenance, Restoring Clickiness" (12min) [CHYROS] | |
| "Alps Restoration Guide 5: Repairing Switches" (7min) | |
| "Fjell with SKCM Blue Alps Typing Sounds" (3min) | |

THESE KEYBOARD BRANDS USED ALPS KEYSWITCHES

APPLE

ACER ***
ADRESSO
APC
AMTAC KEYCAT
ATC
CANON
CHICONY ***
COSTAR
COPAM ***
COLORMASTER
DATACOMP ***
DATADESK
DELL
DUCK ORION
DTK COMPUTER
EPSON
ETC POWER GLIDE
FAME
FILCO
FOCUS ***
FORWARD ELECTRONICS
IBM ***
KINESIS
KME
LEADING EDGE ***
LITE-ON

MAGNAVOX

MICRO WAREHOUSE
MONTEREY
MAGITRONIC
MULTITECH ***
MATIAS CANADA
NORTHGATE ***
NEC
NTC
OMNIKEY ***
OEMMAX ***
ORTEK
PACKARD-BELL ***
PANASONIC
PHILIPS
RABBIT ***
SGI
SHARP
SIIG SUNTOUCH
SHARP
TOSHIBA
TAI-HAO
TESTING OMNIKEY
TULIP
WANG ***
XEROX

XEROX

YAMAHA
ZENITH
ZEOS
MACWAY

*** *Blue Alps!*
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