

## **MicroPoint Professional User Guide**

### **About MicroPoint Professional**

Congratulations on your purchase of the revolutionary MicroPoint Professional by Altra. MicroPoint Professional replaces standard two or three-button mice with programmable three-button functionality. It combines the ergonomics of a trackball with the precision of a mouse to give you absolute cursor control. Computer users who experience wrist, arm, or shoulder pain while using a mouse report that their pain disappears after switching to MicroPoint Professional!

Your MicroPoint Professional will work with the standard mouse drivers that ship with Microsoft Windows. However, installing the MicroPoint Professional drivers (included on a floppy disk in your package) extremely enhances your experience while using your MicroPoint Professional. It adds one-for-one cursor mapping, extreme cursor precision, and programmable three-button functionality from installing the included AltraPoint and Altra5a Scroll software. One-for-one mapping means that moving the MicroPoint Professional from one edge of the pad to the other moves the cursor from one edge of your screen to the other. By using optical tracking with the custom drivers, MicroPoint Professional gives you unprecedented precision when moving the cursor. This feature is especially useful when running high-end graphics programs or when working with very small text. Additionally, you may customize your MicroPoint Professional's functionality by making adjustments in the AltraPoint and AltraScroll software

MicroPoint Professional will be referred to as MicroPoint throughout the rest of this manual.

### **System Requirements**

To use MicroPoint, your PC must have either a PS/2 mouse port or a serial port (9 or 25 pin) and be running one of the following operating systems: Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows NT

### **Your MicroPoint Buttons**

The AltraPoint software refers to the buttons on your MicroPoint as top, middle, and bottom. Therefore, it is important to note the correlation of the three MicroPoint buttons to the standard three-button mouse layout. When looking at the MicroPoint, the side with the cord emerging from the base is the top. The three MicroPoint buttons function as follows:

1. The top button corresponds to the top button in AltraPoint software. By default, this button functions as a single-click when pressed.
2. The center button corresponds with the middle button in the AltraPoint software. By default, this button activates the pop-down context menu
3. The bottom button corresponds to the bottom button in the AltraPoint software. By default, this button is inactive and does not have a function.

### **MicroPoint Driver installation**

Please refer to the appropriate section below. Sections are divided by type of port (PS/2 or serial)

## **PS/2 Installation**

This section describes installing your MicroPoint using a PS/2 port on either Windows 95 or 98 or NT. For Windows 2000, first contact Altra for the newest updated driver.

- Shut down your computer. With the power off, disconnect your old pointing device and connect your MicroPoint.
- Restart your computer.
- EASY SETUP: Insert the floppy into the drive A or B. Look for the file named "MpSetup.exe". Double click this icon and follow the instructions, or Click Start>Run>Then run the executable driver file "Mpsetup.exe" from the floppy drive.

## **Serial Installation**

This section describe installing your MicroPoint using a serial port on either Windows 95 or 98 or NT. For Windows 2000, first contact Altra for the newest updated driver.

- Shut down your computer. With the power off, disconnect your old pointing device and connect your MicroPoint.
- Restart your computer.
- EASY SETUP: Insert the floppy into the drive A or B. Look for the file named "MpSetup.exe". Double click this icon and follow the instructions, or Click Start>Run>Then run the executable driver file "Mpsetup.exe" from the floppy drive.

If after installing the unit, you experience a lack of cursor movement, follow the run instructions above. Make sure you do not have a conflict with any other devices installed on your IRQ's or com ports. If your problem persists, contact our technical support at support@altra.to.

## **AltraPoint Software**

Installing the MicroPoint drivers also installs the AltraPoint software. To open AltraPoint, simply click Start>Settings>Control Panel>MicroPoint icon. The MicroPoint Control Panel has three buttons: Window Manager, Button Manager, and Precision Window.

### **Window Manager**

Clicking the Window Manager button opens the Window Manager Menu, which allows you to set your MicroPoint to automatically perform various functions when you place the cursor in one or more corners of the screen and click the left button. The Window Manager Menu displays four pull-down menus, one for each corner. You may define the following functionality:

- None: removes any previously defined functionality
- Start Menu: opens the Window Start Menu
- Explorer: opens Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Max: maximizes the current application
- Min: minimizes the current application

- Quit: exits the current application
- Cut: removes the selected item(s) from the current file and places them on the clipboard
- Copy: copies the selected item(s) to the clipboard without removing them from the current file
- Paste: places the contents of the clipboard into the current file
- Delete: deletes the selected item(s)
- Undo: undoes the previous action
- File Save: saves the current file
- File Open: launches the current application's File Open menu
- File Print: prints the current file
- File New: opens a new file within the current application

When you are finished assigning functionality, click Apply to record your settings, then click OK. Clicking closes the Window Manager Menu and erases any changes. Clicking Defaults restores the factory default settings.

### **Button Manager**

The Button Manager Menu allows you to define various functions for each of the three buttons on your MicroPoint. You can define one of the following functions: (NOTE: It is recommended that you leave the top button set to "None". Changing top button functionality to any function other than "None" will lose your single click navigation ability.)

- None: For the bottom button, this option disables the button.
- Start Menu: opens the Windows Start Menu.
- Quit: exits the current application
- Cut: removes the selected item(s) from the current file and places them on the Clipboard
- Copy: copies the selected item(s) to the Clipboard without removing them from the current file
- Paste: places the contents of the Clipboard into the current file
- Delete: deletes the selected item(s)
- Undo: undoes the previous action
- File Save: saves the current file
- File Open: launches the current application's File Open menu
- File Print: prints the current file
- File New: opens a new file within the current application
- Double Click: acts like a double click on a standard mouse
- Tab Window: tabs between the last two open windows
- Precision Window: toggles the precision Window on and off. The Button Manager Window also has the following functions:
- Swap buttons: This box swaps the top and middle buttons.
- Double Click: Adjust the slider bar to increase or decrease the double-click speed. You may test your new or existing setting by using the colored Double-Click test box to the

right of the slider bar. When the software detects a double click, the test pad will change color. When finished, click Apply to record your settings, then click OK to close the Button Manager Menu. Clicking Cancel closes the Menu and erases any changes. Clicking Defaults restores the factory default settings.

## **Precision Window**

NOTE: In this section, specific keyboard keys are depicted in square brackets and are capitalized, for example: [ESC].

The Precision Window is a floating square area on your screen that allows you to perform detailed, pixel-by-pixel editing of graphics or small text. During normal operation, moving your MicroPoint from one edge of the pad to the other moves your cursor from edge of the screen to the other. When the Precision Window is enabled, moving your MicroPoint from one edge of the pad to the other moves your cursor from one edge of the Precision Window to the other. The smaller the Precision Window, the greater the degree of cursor precision. When toggled on, the Precision Window appears. You will see a square border on your screen. To set up your Precision Window preferences, click the Precision Window button and click the appropriate radio button to select between the various available window sizes. Further, you may use the pull-down menu to select the keyboard combination for toggling the Precision Window on and off. Your available choices are: [ALT]+[A], [ALT]+[X], [ALT]+[Z], or [ALT]+[.]. Please select a key combination that will not conflict with graphics applications.

When you are finished, click Apply to record your settings, then click OK to close the Precision Window Menu. Cancel closes the Precision Window Menu and erases any changes. Clicking Defaults restores the factory default settings.

## **AltraScroll Software**

AltraScroll is an innovative software-driven scroll utility that allows you to use your MicroPoint for button scrolling from any cursor position without the use of scroll bars. Scrolling using AltraScroll is as simple as clicking and holding the scroll button and slowly moving your MicroPoint in the desired direction. This section provides installation instructions and a brief overview of using the AltraScroll software.

For comprehensive help with customizing AltraScroll to your preferences, right-click the AltraScroll icon and select Help.

### **Installing AltraScroll**

Use the following procedure to install the AltraScroll software on your computer:

- Insert your MicroPoint installation diskette in the appropriate floppy drive (A: or B:).
- Click Start>Run and type <drive> scroll++.exe (where <drive> is the drive containing the MicroPoint installation diskette) and click OK. Follow the on-screen setup instructions. AltraScroll starts automatically when you start your computer.

### **Exiting AltraScroll**

Right-click the AltraScroll icon in the Windows taskbar and click Exit Scroll++.

### **Removing AltraScroll**

To remove AltraScroll from your computer, do the following:

- Select Start>Settings>Control Panel>Add/Remove Programs.
- In the list of installed software, find and highlight Pointx Scroll.
- Click Remove. Windows will prompt you for confirmation.
- You may need to restart your computer to finish uninstalling.

## **Customizing AltraScroll**

The AltraScroll icon appears on the Windows taskbar as an arrow following the direction of your MicroPoint. To customize the software, right-click the taskbar icon and click Preferences. By default, AltraScroll uses the right button to toggle the scroll feature. You may test the scroll function by placing the pointer in the white portion of the test area and clicking and holding the right button on your MicroPoint while you slowly move the handle around. Please refer to “Your MicroPoint Buttons” for a description of the button assignments on your MicroPoint.

### **Scroll Button Selection**

Check the appropriate box to select either the middle or right button as the scroll button.

### **Scroll Timeout**

The scroll timeout is the length of time that AltraScroll waits before beginning to scroll. If you release the scroll button before the timeout expires, AltraScroll will interpret that you wish to use the button for its normal function. Further, you may temporarily disable the scrolling feature by pressing [SHIFT], allowing you to click and drag items with the right button.

### **Direction**

The sensitivity parameter sets the sensitivity of scrolling direction versus MicroPoint movement. High sensitivity means that only slight motions are required to change the scrolling direction. Checking the Vertical Bias box modifies all internal AltraScroll parameters to prioritize vertical scrolling.

### **Speed Range**

You may adjust the minimum and maximum scrolling speeds. AltraScroll always begins scrolling at the minimum speed and accelerates until it reaches the maximum speed (if enabled).

### **Speed Control**

Once you have begun scrolling, the scrolling speed will increase if you move your MicroPoint in the same direction in which you are scrolling, and will decrease if you move your MicroPoint in the opposite direction. The sensitivity parameter controls the rate of speed variation versus MicroPoint movement. You may also set the scrolling speed to increase as a pre-determined rate.

### **Inertial Scrolling**

Enabling inertial scrolling causes the scrolling speed to decrease gradually until it stops when the scroll button is released. The mass parameter sets the amount of time that scrolling continues once the scroll button is released.

## **Care and Maintenance**

MicroPoint requires virtually no maintenance because, unlike a mouse or trackball, it does not require disassembly or other cleaning. Simply wipe it down periodically with a dry cloth.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is the MicroPoint driver necessary to operate the device?

No, but it makes MicroPoint a much more powerful tool. The driver offers one-to-one positioning between the device and your display, as well as three-button programmability. MicroPoint will work with many other mouse drivers already installed on your system without installing the custom drivers, including (among others) some three-button Logitech drivers and most Microsoft drivers. Your MicroPoint will not work to its full potential with generic or alternate drivers.

### Where can I find updated driver files for my MicroPoint?

Please visit [www.altra.to](http://www.altra.to) and click Support.

### What about Windows 2000?

To get information about a MicroPoint driver for Windows 2000 contact us at [support@altra.to](mailto:support@altra.to).

### Will MicroPoint™ work with a laptop system?

Yes. In some cases, however, MicroPoint may temporarily disable a keyboard-mounted pointing device. Unplug MicroPoint and reboot to bring back the keyboard pointer. On a PS/2 system, disable the on board pointer in BIOS before attaching and installing the driver.

### Will MicroPoint work on a bus mouse port?

No. Use a standard serial or standard PS/2 mouse port for the device.

### What if I need an adapter to hook up MicroPoint?

Your MicroPoint includes a serial to PS/2 adapter. Only the adapter provided by Altra will work with the MicroPoint. You may also need to get a standard 9 to 25-pin serial adapter depending on your computer's serial port(s).

### I upgraded to MicroPoint from an earlier model. After installation, the cursor now won't reach the bottom two inches of my screen. Is this normal?

The driver disk that came with your new MicroPoint contains a different set of coordinates needed for screen tracking. Uninstall the previous mouse driver before installing the new MicroPoint driver on your system to correct this problem.

### Will MicroPoint function with a 'Y-mouse' adapter?

Yes. Be sure to load MicroPoint on the secondary port of the Y-mouse adapter for best results. You will then be able to use both a mouse and your MicroPoint at the same time. For more information on the Y-mouse adapter, please call (800) 628-3185.

### I have repetitive stress injury, arthritis, wrist, elbow or neck problems. What is the safest way to use MicroPoint to avoid further injury?

Dramatic results have been reported within a week or two of properly using Altra's pointing products. For best results, lay your hand in front of (not directly on) your MicroPoint, and move the button handle with your fingertips. This limits the range of motion required of your wrist and hand joints. A wrist pad or support is recommended as well.

### What sort of maintenance does my MicroPoint require?

MicroPoint requires little or no maintenance on your part.

From time to time, simply wipe the unit with a soft, dry cloth to keep it dust-free. Do keep the device out of prolonged direct sunlight, away from heavy smoke, or a heating vent of any kind.