[BUXTON / MICROSOFT COLLECTION](http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/bibuxton/buxtoncollection/default.aspx)

[home](http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/bibuxton/buxtoncollection/default.aspx) | [explore](http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/bibuxton/buxtoncollection/browse.aspx) | associated narratives | [about | acknowledgments](http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/bibuxton/buxtoncollection/acknowledgements.aspx) | [contact](http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/bibuxton/buxtoncollection/contact.aspx)

**Xerox PARC 3-Button Optical Mouse**

A close up of a black keyboard

Description automatically generated

Short Description: The optical mouse was independently developed in 1981 by Steven Kirsch of Mouse Systems and Richard A. Lyon of Xerox PARC. This is a 3-button version of Richard Lyon’s mouse developed at Xerox PARC.

Bill Buxton’s Notes

The optical mouse avoided the problem of dust and dirt accumulating in the mechanisms of mechanical mice. Kirsch's mouse was commercialized by his company, Mouse Systems in 1982. A mouse based on Lyon's technology was incorporated into Xerox's 6085 "Viewpoint" workstation, which replaced the 8010 Star workstation in 1985. Unlike today’s optical mice, both of these early designs required a special mouse pad with a pattern on it that the optics used to track movement. The Mouse System's pad was made of glass, while Lyon's was made of paper (and hence one could make a replacement using a laser printer).

The Xerox PARC three-button mouse was frequently used in combination with a 5-button chording keyset. They were mainly used together when operating the BRAVO text editor. However, they could also be used as an alternative keyboard, where the 5 keys of the chording keyset and the middle and right button of the mouse made up a 7-button keyboard (albeit split across two physical devices). Following the example of Engelbart, one could then enter text using a variation of 7-bit ASCII encoding. See the write-up on the Xerox PARC 5-Button keyset for more details.

Device Details

Company: Xerox PARC | Year: 1981 | Original Price (USD): XXX

Design: XXX

Degrees of Freedom: 2

Dimensions (L x W x H): XXX x XXX x XXX (mm)

Key Words

Primary: mouse

Secondary: Optical Mouse

Links

* XXX
* pdf file
* powerpoint
* Vimeo video link
* XXX

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Image** | **File Name** | **Caption** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | To come |
|  |  | To come |
|  |  | To come |
|  |  | To come |
|  |  | To come |
|  |  | To come |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | See the link below to access the pdf containing the full document. |

**WORK NOTES:**