

1994 – Memorex trackball

The Memorex trackball shown in figure 1 was manufactured by Memtek Products inc., California. At the same time, the actual production, in a typical way for the mid-90s, was carried out in Taiwan.



Figure 1: Memorex trackball

The body of the trackball is asymmetrical, made in a minimalist style of glossy white plastic with a brown insert.



Figure 2: Memorex trackball, top and bottom views

As you can see in figure 3, this manipulator is relatively small.

The trackball packaging and user manual use the “Stationary Mouse” subtitle, apparently borrowed from the Logitech TrackMan Stationary Mouse trackball released a year earlier, and emphasize its ease of use in a limited workspace.

The trackball is right-handed and the shape is largely inspired by the Logitech another product - LOGiTECH, which is also designed for a horizontal position of the hand and the rotation of the



Figure 3: Memorex trackball on a graduated pad with a grid step of 1 cm

ball with the thumb (figure 4). According to Logitech, this shape is better suited to the anatomical structure of the hand (in advertising, the shape of classic symmetrical trackballs was opposed to a similar shape as a “device for aliens” [1]).

Trackball internals are shown on figure 5. It is an opto-mechanical device typical for the beginning of the 90s, in both the encoder implementation and the whole internal layout which leaves a significant amount of empty space inside the case.

References

- [1] Not every kind of pointing device fits your kind of hand (LOGiTECH TrackMan tadvertising). // PC Magazine. V. 8, No. 19. November, 1989, pp. 360-361. <https://archive.org/details/PC-Mag-1989-11-14/page/n361>



Figure 4: Memorex trackball with a human hand model



Figure 5: Memorex trackball disassembled