

MAC LESSON #44

USE A TWO BUTTON-MOUSE

One of the gripes I've had about using a Mac computer over the years has been the Mac mouse. Having grown up on a PC, using Mac's single-button mouse and having to rely on keyboard keystrokes to bring up contextual menus on a Mac would drive me bats. But all of that has changed now.

Called the Mighty Mouse, Apple Computer's newest mouse does indeed have two buttons, but the trick here is that the buttons are tucked under the seamless top shell of the Mighty Mouse so that you don't really see them.

Then there's what Apple calls the Scroll Ball, a small button on the mouse. Since you can navigate through files, email messages and Web pages by scrolling left, right, up or down, you can do it all with your fingertip. The Scroll Ball uses miniature sensors that let you to manipulate what appears on your screen merely by moving your finger. Scroll up and down to read a long web page or document. Scroll back and forth to follow a timeline in iMovie or keep track of a large multi-page spreadsheet in Excel.

And don't forget the audio feedback as you click. Mighty Mouse responds to your scroll and click movements with subtle sound effects.

All things considered, the new Mighty Mouse at \$50 retail is a really good buy. I would never give mine up.

