

Enter text without keys

Tap: the wearable keyboard and mouse

Willem L. Middelkoop

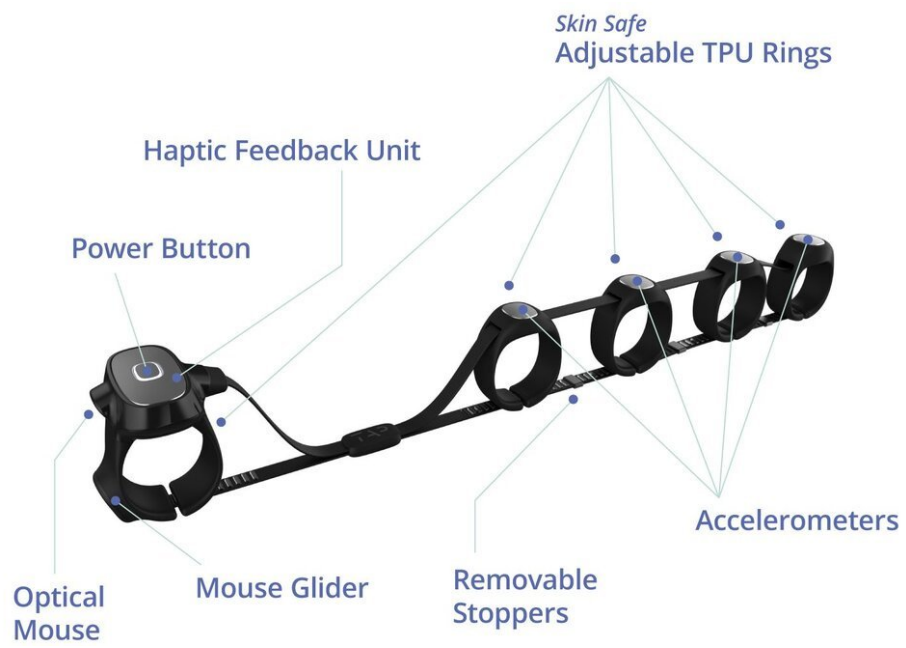
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This month a special piece of wearable tech arrived for me to try: the Tap Strap. Worn on your fingers, the Tap Strap recognises tapping and moving. It enables you to control and type your computer without a mouse or keyboard!



The Tap Strap



How the Tap Strap works



Store and charge the Tap Strap in its case

The Tap Strap connects to any computer, tablet or phone by Bluetooth like any keyboard or mouse. There is no need for special drivers or software - other than learning how to use the Tap Strap. You wear the strap by putting your fingers through rings that have sensors on them. These sensors work in concert to recognise taps and movement. It weighs very little and your skin can easily breathe through the elastic fabric.



Wearing the Tap Strap



Lightweight and breathable material

I had no trouble getting the Tap Strap to work with my iPad Pro. Using [special Tap Strap apps](#) you can learn to use Tap Strap or play games with it. The device itself provides no feedback or instruction how to use it, therefore I experienced a rather steep learning curve requiring me to memorise different ‘rhythms’ and ‘chords’.



Learning to Tap takes time and practice

Just like learning to play the piano or guitar you can become proficient. I have read stories of people that gained speedy typing performance using Tap, able to type 20-30 words per minute. Tap Strap puts the potential on your fingers, quite literally.



Ultimately, Tap Strap can replace your keyboard and mouse

As a touch typist, I would not replace my keyboard with anything else: it would render years of experience and training useless. Rather, I think of Tap Strap's potential in being something else than a keyboard or mouse. Using it in augmented and virtual reality seems a natural fit, as it can digitise your fingers' moves, as subtle as a gentle tap.



Using Tap Strap beyond the keyboard

Conclusion

Conventional keyboards have been around for decades, modern miniaturisation of technology enables them to be augmented or even replaced by wearable technology.

Tap Strap illustrates this shift in technology in an elegant and beautiful way. Wearing this kind of technology enables you to type and control far beyond the natural habitat of keyboards and mice. That's the *key* thing to take away from this post, pun intended.