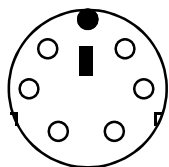
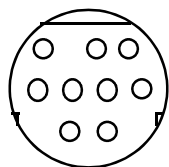


Connecting Keyboards and Mice

Acorn



Old Acorn keyboard



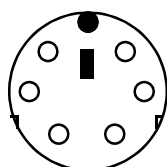
Old Acorn mouse

The older 'A' series Acorn computers (A300 through to A5000) have a particular type of keyboard and mouse connector. The newer A7000 and RiscPC computers have PC **PS/2** keyboard and mouse ports (see below) so you can use input devices designed for PC's. The **PS/2 Mouse+** (see below) lets you plug PS/2 pointing devices into the older Acorn computers. Also,

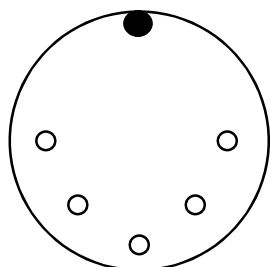
Semerc provide a software program which lets you plug in a PC serial mouse to Acorn computers. As standard, only one keyboard and mouse can be plugged into an Acorn. Use a **PS/2 Co-Pilot** to plug in two keyboards to an A7000/RiscPC, or a **Mouser** for two pointing devices.

Windows PC

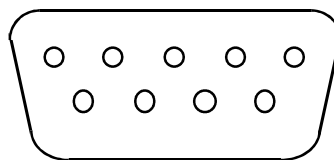
PC keyboards come in three varieties - 'AT', 'PS2' and 'USB'. USB keyboards can only be used on computers with Windows 98 or later versions of Windows 95 - see overleaf for more on USB. AT and PS2 keyboards are similar, with the main difference being the plug on the end. Older PC's may have the larger **AT** '5 pin DIN' keyboard socket while newer machines usually have the smaller **PS/2** '6 pin mini-DIN' socket. You can buy cheap adapters to convert an AT to a PS/2 plug and vice versa. As standard only one AT or PS2 keyboard or mouse can be used with a PC at one time - if you want to connect two keyboards at once you need to buy a Co-Pilot adapter.



PC 'PS/2' keyboard and mouse



PC 'AT' keyboard socket



PC serial mouse(COM)

Pointing devices may either be serial, where the device is plugged into one of the **COM** (communication) ports on the computer, PS/2 or USB. You can buy adapters to convert



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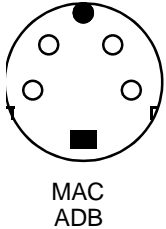
Serial to PS/2 and vice versa (although these are not always successful because some pointing devices are serial only and don't work with a PS/2 adapter). To connect two pointing devices to a Windows 95 PC you need a Mouser or other interface dual mouse adapter. With Windows 98, you can control the mouse with a serial, PS/2 and USB mouse all at the same time.

PC laptops

PC laptops usually have a single dual purpose PS/2 connector which can take either a keyboard or a mouse. If you want to plug in both, you need a 'PC Y splitter cable'.

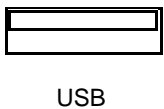
Older 'ADB' Macintosh

Older non-iMac Mac computers have an 'Apple Desktop Bus' socket which is used to connect keyboard and mouse. You do not usually need to switch the computer off to connect keyboards and mice, and you can have up to four different devices plugged in at the same time. Mac keyboards and mice are usually straightforward: you plug them in, switch on, and they work. You can also get adapters to plug in extra ADB devices from Maplin and GlobalDirect. PC keyboard and PS/2 mice can be connected to a Mac by using the OmniView or Kinesis Mac adapter. A PC serial mouse can run on a Mac by installing SerialMouse software.



iMacs, G4's and PC's with USB

The new iMacs and Macintosh G4 machines, and most PC's built since about 1997 have two USB ('Universal Serial Bus') connectors. There are many good things about USB: you can plug in devices without having to switch the computer off; USB keyboards and mice can usually plug into both iMacs and PC's; you can plug in lots of different keyboards and mice, and also floppy and ZIP drives, printers and scanner, digital cameras, and many other devices (note that you will need a USB Hub to give you more sockets if you want to plug in a lot of devices). At time of writing in January 2000, only a few USB keyboards and pointing devices are available, but more are likely to appear. The Griffin iMate converts older Mac ADB devices (keyboards, mice, IntelliKeys etc) so they can be plugged into an iMac.



USB works on Windows 98 and later versions of Windows 95. In most cases, you plug the keyboard or mouse into the USB connector, Windows sees it is there, and asks you some questions about whether you want to install the USB drivers for it. In our experience, you answer 'yes' to everything and Windows does the rest without hitches. USB works alongside the standard PS2 keyboard and mouse, so you can have two keyboards and pointing devices working at the same time. RS sell an adapter to convert PS/2 keyboards and mice to USB.

Keyboard and mouse adapters

Mouse adapters	Description	Cost ex VAT	Supplier
PS/2 Mouse+ (Acorn)	For connecting PS/2 mice to older Acorn computers. Has 3 switch sockets to replace mouse buttons	£39	Stuart Tyrell Developments
Y Dual mouse splitters (PC PS/2)	Adapters to connect two PS/2 or two serial mouse to a PC. Automatic switching.	£29	KCS, Inclusive
PS/2 - serial mouse adapters (PC)	Adapters to convert PC serial mice to PS/2 (and vice versa)	£6	Maplin, CPC, Global
Mouser 3 (PC PS/2)	Plug two mice into a PC or A7000/RiscPC; turn off unwanted mouse buttons; has 3 switch sockets to replace buttons	£49	Semerc
Dual mouse splitter (switched PC serial)	Adapter to connect two serial mice. Manual switch.	£14.50	KCS
SerialMouse software (Mac)	Software for running PC serial mice on a Mac, downloadable from http://trace.wisc.edu/world/computer_access/mac/macshare.html	\$10	Trace web site
ToggleMouse software (PC)	Software to give big pointers, programmable buttons, automatic drag etc for PC	\$19.95	Toggle Software
Keyboard adapters (PC)	Adapters to convert PC AT keyboard to PS/2 and vice versa	£5 or £6	KCS, Maplin, CPC, Global, shops
Co-Pilot (PC)	Adapter for connecting two PS/2 or AT keyboards at once	£25	KCS, Semerc
Keyboard adapters			
Keyboard adapters (PC)	Adapters to convert PC AT keyboard to PS/2 and vice versa	£5 or £6	KCS, Maplin, CPC, Global, shops
Co-Pilot (PC)	Adapter for connecting two PS/2 or AT keyboards at once	£25	KCS, Semerc
PC 'Y' splitter cable (PC)	Adapter to connect keyboard and mouse to a laptop with one PS/2 connector only	£11.99	Global, CPC
Mac ADB port splitter (Mac)	Dual ADB adapter	£8.50	Maplin
OmniView Mac adapter (Mac)	Plug PS/2 keyboard and mouse, plus PC monitor into a Mac (not iMac)	£70	CPC, Global
Griffin iMate (Mac)	Adapter to plug older Mac ADB devices into new iMacs and G4's.	£49	Inclusive Technology, Mac shops
PS2 Active Adapter	Connects PS2 keyboard and mouse to a USB iMac or PC	£29	RS
USB Hub (Mac & PC)	For plugging 4 USB devices into an iMac or PC. Several types available	from £25 to £50	Maplin, CPC, Global, shops

Suppliers

CPC Component House, Faraday Drive, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs. PR2 9PP. Tel. 01772 654455.

www.cpc.co.uk

Don Johnston Special Needs Ltd., 18 Clarendon Court, Calver Road, Winwick Quay, Warrington, WA2 8QP. Tel. 01925 241642. www.donjohnston.com/uk/

Global Direct, 2 Cartsdyke Avenue, Greenock, Renfrewshire, PA15 1DT. Tel. 01475 500012.

www.globaldirect.co.uk

Inclusive Technology, Saddleworth Business Centre, Huddersfield Road, Oldham OL3 5DF, Tel. 01457 819790. www.inclusive.co.uk

KCS PO Box 700, Southampton SO17 1LQ. Tel. 01703 584314.

Maplin Electronic Supplies, PO Box 777, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8LU. Tel. 01702 554171. www.maplin.co.uk

RS Components, PO Box 99, Corby, Northants, NN17 9RS. Tel. 01536 201234. <http://rswww.com>

SEMERC Granada Learning, Granada Television, Quay Street, Manchester M60 9EA. Tel. 0161 827 2927. www.semerc.com