

Introducing the Microsoft SideWinder Freestyle Pro

Congratulations on your purchase from the Microsoft SideWinder family of game controllers!

Microsoft SideWinder Freestyle Pro free motion game controller

Features:

- **Freedom of motion:** The internal motion sensor responds to your every move making navigating in your games as simple as tilting the device.
- **Programmability:** With the SideWinder Game Controller software you can. Optimize sensor performance for your games, and program up to two game actions to the free-motion controller's buttons.



 Related Topics

Connect the SideWinder Freestyle Pro to your computer

You can use either a USB (Universal Serial Bus) port or a game port (usually located on your sound card) to connect the SideWinder Freestyle Pro to your computer.

- I want to connect my joystick to the USB port.
- I want to connect my joystick to the game port.

Set up your game for the SideWinder Freestyle Pro

In some games, you may need to change the settings in order to take full advantage of SideWinder Freestyle Pro.

If your game:

- Allows you to choose which type of game controller you're using, always choose **joystick** rather than **game pad**. While the SideWinder Freestyle Pro looks like a game pad, it will respond more like a joystick in your game.
- Allows more than back-and-forth (x axis) and side-to-side (y axis) movement, (such as controlling a throttle or rudder) in sensor on mode , see your game's manual for help configuring the game to make the throttle on the SideWinder Freestyle Pro control these game movements.
- Works with only the x and y axes, check to see if your game also works with two dual-axis joysticks. If so, you may be able to change your game's configuration settings so that throttle and rudder operate as the second joystick (X2 = rotation, Y2 = throttle).

Note

With the SideWinder Game Controller Profiler, you can map up to two game actions to each of the programmable buttons on the Freestyle Pro.

Click here  to open the Game Controller Profiler.

Test the free-motion controller

You can check to make sure that the sensor, the D-Pad, the buttons, and the triggers are working properly with your computer with **Control Panel: Game Controllers**.

To test the free-motion controller

- 1 Click here  to open **Control Panel: Game Controllers**.
- 2 In the **Controller** list, click the SideWinder Freestyle Pro, and then click **Properties**.
- 3 Click the **Test** tab.

Press the button, or use the control on your SideWinder Freestyle Pro that you want to test. If the same button lights up on the picture of the controller on the screen, your game controller is connected properly.



Related Topics

Overview of the SideWinder Freestyle Pro controls

To see a brief description of a control, click the control or its label in the picture.



Note

- You can use the SideWinder Game Controller Profiler and the Shift button to map up to two game actions to the free-motion controller's buttons and triggers.

Click here  to open the Game Controller Profiler.

 Related Topics

Buttons A, B, C, X, Y, Z, and the triggers

Games use these buttons in different ways, and some games use only a few of them by default. Check your game manual or press a button during a game to see how it works.



Notes

- You can use the SideWinder Game Controller Profiler and the Shift button to map up to two game action to each of these buttons.

Click here  to open the Game Controller Profiler.

The Sensor button

This button toggles the internal motion sensor on and off and affects how you use the free-motion controller to navigate in your game.

By default, the sensor is on. To turn the sensor off, press the Sensor button.



The light tells you whether the internal motion sensor is on or off.

- If the light is **green** (dim), the sensor is on. Navigate in your game by tilting the free-motion controller.
- If the light is **red** (bright), the sensor is off. Use the eight direction points on the D-Pad to navigate in your game.



Related Topics

The D-Pad (Directional Pad)

The Directional Pad's functions differently depending on whether you're using the free-motion controller with the sensor on or off.



- With the **sensor on**, (green light) the eight direction points on the D-Pad work as a point-of-view, or hat switch. Use the D-Pad to look up, down, left and right in your game.
- With the **sensor off**, (red light) use the D-Pad to navigate in your game. The eight direction points move you up, down, left, right, and in some games, the four diagonal directions.

Notes

- In sensor on mode, the D-Pad is a programmable button. You can map game actions to each of the eight direction points with the Game Controller Profiler.
- In sensor off mode, the D-Pad's direction points move you left, right, up, and down by default. You cannot map game actions to the D-Pad when the sensor is off.
- You can turn the sensor on and off during game play; however, if you've mapped game actions to the D-Pad while in sensor on mode, you will not be able to use these programmed actions when you turn the sensor off.

The shift button

You can use the Shift  button in one of two ways:

- 1 Map it to button 10 in your game's Options or Configuration screen (if your game allows custom button assignments.)
- 2 As a "shift" button. With the SideWinder Game Controller software, you can program two game actions to most of the free-motion controller's controls. For example, in a first person shooter game, you could map the *cycle weapons* command to Button A and the *cycle ammo* command to Shift + Button A.



Notes

- To use the action that's programmed to a shifted button, hold down the Shift button while pressing that button. In the example above, pressing Shift + A would cycle ammo, and pressing button A alone would cycle weapons.
- The controls labeled with the Shift symbol, () in the above picture are shiftable.

The Start button

In some games, you can use this button to start (or re-start) the game. Check your game manual or press Start during a game to see if it works in that game. You can also use the SideWinder Game Controller Profiler to map the game's start command to this button.



- Start is a shiftable button: you can map an additional game action to Shift  + Start.

Click here  to open the Game Controller Profiler.

 Related Topics

The throttle

The throttle allows you to control incremental game actions such as:

- Thrust
- Throttle
- Altitude



Note

- The throttle works differently in each game, and not all games have throttle control. Check your game manual or use the throttle wheel during a game to see how it works in that game.

Some of the SideWinder Freestyle Pro buttons don't work in my game

The number of buttons you can use depends on your game. Not all of the SideWinder Freestyle Pro buttons work for all games. See the manual that comes with your game to find out how many buttons the game uses and how each button functions.

To fix the problem, try the following:

- Make sure that the SideWinder Game Controller Software 3.0 is installed.
- Check to see if your SideWinder Freestyle Pro game controller is assigned as Controller 1.

 I want to check and set the controller number.

Check to see if Windows is configured correctly for your game port. For more information about game port issues, see the SideWinder Freestyle Pro Readme file. To open the Readme, go to **SideWinder Central**, click **More Information**, and then click the SideWinder Freestyle Pro Readme in the **SideWinder Reference** window.

Click here  to open **SideWinder Reference**.

- Check to see if Windows is configured correctly for your game port.
- Check to see if Windows 98 is configured correctly for your USB port (for USB-ready SideWinder game controllers only).

 I want to check my USB port configuration.

Note

- You can assign game actions to unused game controller buttons with the Game Controller Profiler.

 [Related Topics](#)

My SideWinder Freestyle Pro isn't working with my game

If your game is not responding to the SideWinder Freestyle Pro, or its response is sluggish, try the following:

- If your game has an Options or Configuration menu where you can select the type of controller you're using, make sure that you've selected **joystick** rather than **game pad**.
- Make sure that the game controller is connected securely to the game port or the USB port on your computer. If your computer has a 15-pin network card, make sure your free-motion controller (or any game controller) is not connected to it.
- Make sure that you have the following hardware and operating system:

To connect to a game port

- Personal computer with Pentium 90 or higher processor
- Microsoft Windows 95 or later Windows operating system
- 16 MB of RAM
- 15 MB of available hard-disk space
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive
- Super VGA, 256-color monitor
- Sound Blaster compatible sound card with game port
- Frames-capable browser such as Internet Explorer 3.0a or later or Netscape Navigator 3.0 or later (to view the online *Introduction to SideWinder Game Controllers*.)

To connect to a USB port

- Personal computer with Pentium 90 or higher processor
- USB port
- Windows 98
- 15 MB of available hard-disk space
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive
- Super VGA, 256-color monitor
- Sound Blaster compatible sound card
- Frames-capable browser such as Internet Explorer 3.0a or later or Netscape Navigator 3.0 or later (to view the online *Introduction to SideWinder Game Controllers*.)

- Check to see if the controls on the SideWinder Freestyle Pro are working correctly.

 I want to test the controls on the free-motion game controller.

If the controls work correctly in **Control Panel: Game Controllers**, your game may not be compatible with the SideWinder Freestyle Pro game controller. Check the SideWinder Freestyle Pro Readme file for a list of games that were known to be incompatible with your game controller at the time this software was released. To open the Readme, go to **SideWinder Reference**, and click **More Information**, and then click the SideWinder Freestyle Pro Readme.

Click here  to open **SideWinder Reference**.

Also, check your game's manual or the game publisher's Web site to see if they provide information about how to configure the game for different brands of game controllers.

- Check to see if your SideWinder Freestyle Pro is assigned as controller number 1.

 I want to check and set the Controller number.

- Check to see if Windows is configured correctly for your game port.

 I want to check my game port configuration.

- Check to see if Windows 98 is configured correctly for your USB port.

 I want to check my USB port configuration.

 Related Topics

My profile isn't working in my game

Make sure that:

- You've activated the profile in the Profiler Activator. A profile is active if it has a check mark to the left of its name in the list of profiles.
Click here  to open the Game Controller Profiler.
- There is not an **X** on the Game Controller Profiler taskbar icon. If there is an **X**, right-click the icon and choose **Resume** on the shortcut menu to enable any active profiles.

For more information about your SideWinder profiles, see the Game Controller Profiler Help file, which is available from SideWinder Central.

Click here  to open **SideWinder Reference**.

 Related Topics

THIS FILE CONTAINS DEFINITIONS SHARED BY ALL TYPES OF GAME CONTROLLERS AND IS COMPILED INTO THE INDIVIDUAL HELP FILES.

analog mode

In analog mode, SideWinder 3D Pro works much like a conventional analog joystick with the addition of the SideWinder 3D Pro joystick's optical tracking system, which maximizes reliability and eliminates drift.

SideWinder 3D Pro automatically functions in analog mode when:

- Your game is running under Microsoft MS-DOS or Microsoft Windows version 3.1 (including an MS-DOS window in Windows 3.1).
- or-
- You haven't installed the SideWinder Game Controller Software.
- or-
- Microsoft SideWinder 3D Pro isn't selected in the Windows 95 Game Controller Properties window.

base buttons

Games use these buttons in different ways, and some games use only a few of them by default. Check your game manual or press a button during a game to see how it works.

Button A

Button A corresponds to button 1 (usually, the joystick trigger) on a standard joystick. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button A.

Button B

Button B corresponds to button 2 on a standard joystick. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button B.

Button C

Button C works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, button C corresponds to joystick button 3. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button C.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, button C does nothing.

Button X

Button X works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, button X corresponds to joystick button 4.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, button X corresponds to joystick button 3.

Check your game manual to see how your game uses button X.

Button Y

Button Y works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, button Y corresponds to joystick button 5.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, button Y corresponds to joystick button 4.

Check your game manual to see how your game uses button Y.

Button Z

Button Z works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, button Z corresponds to joystick button 6. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button Z.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, button Z does nothing.

Button A

Button A on the wheel corresponds to button 1 in a game. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button A.

Button B

Button B on the wheel corresponds to button 2 in a game. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button B.

Button C

Button C on the wheel corresponds to button 3 in a game. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button C.

Button X

Button X on the wheel corresponds to button 4 in a game. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button X.

Button Y

Button Y works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, button Y corresponds to joystick button 5.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, button Y does nothing.

Check your game manual to see how your game uses button Y.

Button Z

Button Z works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, button Z corresponds to joystick button 6. Check your game manual to see how your game uses button Z.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, button Z does nothing.

calibrate

The process of manually setting your joystick's center position and range of motion, throttle range of motion, rudder range of motion, and directions for the point-of-view (POV) hat switch.

Microsoft SideWinder digital game controllers are calibrated automatically. To calibrate a standard joystick, use Game Controller Properties in the Windows Control Panel.

Control Panel: Game Controllers

Control Panel: Game Controllers allows you to check the operational status of your game controller(s) as well as add new controllers to, and remove game controllers from, your computer. You can follow the instructions provided on the properties page to perform these operations.

Click the **Properties** button to display the property sheets (Test, Information, and so on) for the selected controller.

Click the **Advanced** tab to assign controller numbers to your game controllers.

controller

A term used by most games to describe the device that controls the game.

For example, you could select a joystick, a game pad, a keyboard, or a mouse as the controller for a particular game. Check your game's manual for information on how to select a controller.

D-Pad (Directional pad)

The button on your SideWinder game pad or SideWinder Freestyle Pro (in sensor off mode) lets you move in up to eight different directions within your game: up, down, left, right, and in the four diagonal directions. When you use the SideWinder Freestyle Pro in sensor on mode, this button works as a Point of View (hat) switch.

Check your game manual to see if your game works with all eight directions.

digital mode

Digital mode uses new technology to provide optimal speed, precision, and performance. In addition, the optical tracking system maximizes reliability and eliminates drift.

SideWinder digital game controllers automatically function in digital mode when:

- Your game is running with Windows 95 or later (including an MS-DOS window in Windows 95).
- The SideWinder Game Controller Software is installed.
- Your SideWinder game controller is selected as Controller 1 in **Control Panel: Game Controllers..**

Digital Overdrive

Digital Overdrive allows you to use the game pad, rather than any controllers that are attached to it. When your SideWinder game pad is in Digital Overdrive mode, the green light on the game pad is lit, and any other game controllers plugged in to the game pad are not connected through to your computer.

Force button

This button toggles force feedback on and off. When lit, forces are active. To turn forces on and off, press the **Force** button. When forces are off, the wheel works like a standard steering wheel controller in your game.

game action

A game action is something that a character or vehicle does in a game in response to a key or button you press on your keyboard, mouse, or other game controller. For example, jump, crouch, fire, change views, kick, and punch, are all game actions. When you use the SideWinder Game Controller Profiler, a game action can also be a combination or series of events that your character or vehicle does in the game when you press a button on your game controller. For example, you could create a game action that consists of the moves "Kick, kick, punch, crouch" for a hand-to-hand combat game, or a game action that consists of the moves "Look left, look right, look forward" for a driving game.

You assign game actions to buttons on your game controller by entering the game's command for that action in the Profile Editor Record page.

game port

A connector, usually on your sound card, into which you plug your game controller.

Also the connector located under the cord and behind the removable panel on the SideWinder game pad. This game port allows you to connect:

- Up to three more SideWinder game pads. (You connect them in a chain.)
- One other game controller to the first SideWinder game pad.

handle buttons

The four buttons on the handle correspond buttons 1-4 on a conventional joystick. Games use these buttons in different ways, and some games use only a few of them by default. Check your game manual or press a button during a game to see how it works.

hat switch

The hat switch gives you directional control with a touch of your thumb. While the hat switch works differently in different games, typically, it controls game actions such as:

- Point of view
- Ship direction
- Plane altitude
- Side-to-side or up and down movement in 3D games

The internal motion sensor

The SideWinder Freestyle Pro free-motion controller packs two game-playing experiences into one device:

Turn the motion **sensor on** (green light) and immerse yourself in the action. Just tilt the controller in the direction you want to go and you're there. The motion sensor moves you forward, back, side-to-side, and diagonally in your game.

Turn the **sensor off** for a traditional game pad gaming experience. Use the eight direction points on the D-pad to navigate in your game.

The sensor is on by default, but it's easy to switch it on and off by pressing the Sensor button.

joystick switch

The joystick switch affects how the SideWinder 3D Pro controls operate. The switch is located at the back of the joystick below the cord.

If your game is set up to use:

- A SideWinder 3D Pro joystick, then the switch can be in either position.
- A CH Flightstick Pro series joystick, then move the switch to position 1 (single-dot).
- A ThrustMaster joystick, then move the switch to position 2 (double-dot).

keystroke-to-button assignment

If you typically perform a move in your game using one or two keys on the keyboard, you can assign that keystroke to a button on your SideWinder game controller, thereby creating a "keystroke-to-button assignment."

left trigger

The left trigger works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, the left trigger corresponds to joystick button 7. Check your game manual to see how your game uses the left trigger.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, the left trigger does nothing.

left trigger

The left trigger works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, the left trigger corresponds to joystick button 7. Check your game manual to see how your game uses the left trigger.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, the left trigger does nothing.

light

The green light on the SideWinder game pad indicates the current game pad mode:

- If the light is on, the game pad is in Digital Overdrive mode and ready to play.
- If the light is off, your game pad is in Pass-through mode. This means you can use a controller attached to your SideWinder game pad, but not the game pad itself.

M button

You can use the **M** button in one of two ways:

- 1 Map it to button 10 in your game's Options or Configuration screen (if your game allows custom button assignments.)
- 2 As a "shift" button. With the SideWinder Game Controller software, you can program two game actions to most of the game pad's controls. For example, in a first person shooter game, you could map the *cycle weapons* command to Button A, and the *cycle ammo* command to Shift + Button A.

To use the action that's programmed to a shifted button, hold down the **M** button while pressing that button. In the example above, pressing Shift + A would cycle ammo, and pressing button A alone would cycle weapons.

Mode button

Press the Mode button to switch between the following two modes:

- Digital Overdrive

If the green light on the game pad is on, your SideWinder game pad is in Digital Overdrive mode and is ready to use.

- Pass-through

If the green light on the game pad is off, your SideWinder game pad is in Pass-through mode. This means you can use a controller attached to your game pad, but not the game pad itself.

Pass-through mode

The mode on your SideWinder game pad that allows you to use controllers attached to your game pad, instead of the game pad itself.

When your SideWinder game pad is in Pass-through mode, the light on the game pad is off.

profile

A profile is a file that contains a set of game actions and settings that you define for your game controller to customize its performance in a game. That way, you don't have to configure your game every time you play it. Just activate a game's profile, and the Profiler uses your settings when you start the game.

Profiles can include:

- **Keystrokes** If your game uses fewer than eight game controller buttons, and you use keystrokes for moves in your game such as CTRL+T to fire torpedoes, you can assign keystrokes to the unused buttons on your game controller.
- **Macros** You can also assign a sequence of SideWinder game controller button presses to another button on your game controller.
- **Settings** Depending on which SideWinder game controller you're using, you may be able to change how the controller responds in a game by adjusting settings such as Dead Zone and Range of Motion.

right trigger

The right trigger works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, the right trigger corresponds to joystick button 8. Check your game manual to see how your game uses the right trigger.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, the right trigger does nothing.

right trigger

The right trigger works like this:

- If your game is designed for Windows 95, the right trigger corresponds to joystick button 8. Check your game manual to see how your game uses the right trigger.
- If you play your game in an MS-DOS window under Windows 95, the right trigger does nothing.

Sensor button

This button toggles the internal motion sensor on and off. The light tells you whether the internal motion sensor is on or off.

- When the light is **green** (dim), the sensor is on.
- When the light is **red** (bright), the sensor is off.

By default, the sensor is on. To turn the sensor off, press the Sensor button.

shifted state

When used with the SideWinder Game Controller Software and when playing games that work with this feature, most SideWinder game controllers can have two game actions assigned to each button. By pressing the shift button on the game controller, the other buttons operate in their "shifted state" to provide access to the second set of game actions. Use the Profile Editor to assign game actions to the buttons on your game controller.

Start button

In some games, you can use this button to start (or re-start) the game. Check your game manual (or press Start during a game) to see if it works in that game. You can also use the SideWinder Game Controller Profiler to map the game's start command (or another game action) to this button.

Shift button

You can use the shift button in one of two ways:

- 1 Map it to button 10 in your game's Options or Configuration screen (if your game allows custom button assignments.)
- 2 As a "shift" button. With the SideWinder Game Controller software, you can program two game actions to most of your game controllers buttons. For example, in a first person shooter game, you could map the *cycle weapons* command to Button A and the *cycle ammo* command to Shift + Button A.

To use the action that's programmed to a shifted button, hold down the Shift button while pressing that button. In the example above, pressing Shift + A would cycle ammo, and pressing button A alone would cycle weapons.

throttle

The throttle controls incremental game actions. While the throttle works differently in different games, typically it's used to:

- Adjust thrust
- Adjust throttle
- Change altitude

