

PowerClicks documentation

Version 1.2
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• Introduction

- ◇ **PowerClicks** is a useful Control Panel that does the following things:
 - it can make a **key combination** act just like the **mouse button**;
 - it can make another key combination **toggle the mouse button** on and off;
 - it can **assign graphical effects** to mouse clicks.
- ◇ The **mouse button key** is useful if you have to use your PowerBook in a very **silent environment**, where even a trackball click is too loud; since the keyboard is a lot more quiet than the trackball button, you'll be able to use your trackball while other people are **reading** or even **sleeping**. You may also use this option to temporarily **replace a broken mouse button** on any Macintosh.
- ◇ The **button-toggle key** is useful if you want to use your PowerBook trackball with **only one hand**. I find it hard to move the ball while keeping the button down, and I often release the trackball button before the dragging is over. This can be very annoying when you are **selecting a command from a menu** (releasing the button makes your fingers move so the cursor slips away). Using the button-toggle key should make your life a lot easier: strike the key once and move the cursor where it should be, then take your whole hand away from the trackball and strike the key again.
- ◇ There are other situations where the button-toggle key can be useful:
 - **drawing** with the freehand tool in graphical applications;
 - walking through **hierarchical menus**;
 - making precise or large **selections** (icons, text or graphics);
 - **moving icons** and other objects on the desktop;
 - any other **complex mouse drag** you can think of.
- ◇ The **graphical effects** lets you see where both **real and virtual mouse clicks** occur. Many extensions and control panels create virtual mouse clicks to gain control over the environment - take a look at Now Utilities' Super Boomerang for a good example.

• Version history

- ◇ **1.2** - Now freeware, rewritten for the latest Macs and Power Macs, removed the "disable mouse button" option for technical reasons.
- ◇ **1.1.1** - Added pictures and a contents menu to the online documentation.
- ◇ **1.1** - Changed a lot of code to bring PowerClicks up to date.
- ◇ **1.02** - Minor fixes.
- ◇ **1.01** - Added Control Panel and "Disable Mouse Button" option for broken mice.
- ◇ **1.0** - First cut as a non-configurable system extension.

• Thanks to...

- ◇ **Valentina Pavia**, who tried to sleep while I played with my PowerBook (this is why I had to write PowerClicks in the first place).

◇ Fabrizio Oddone and Alberto Ricci, who did the beta-testing and gave lots of useful suggestions.

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