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Apple Keyboard Home Keys: Position of Bumps (1/96)

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TOPIC -----

Why do the keyboards for Macintosh computers in the United Kingdom (UK) put the home key "bumps" on the D and K keys? Touch typists in the UK are taught to use the F and J keys as the home keys.

A blind user gets a bit confused when he tries to find the home keys, he can tell that they aren't on the F and J keys because his hands are too far apart.

DISCUSSION -----

The keyboards in the U.S. also have these "bumps" on the D and K keys. We have checked with engineering for information on why the D and K keys are used while other companies use the F and J keys. There is no standard, such as ISO or ANSI, that specifies which keys should have these "bumps," or that they should have the "bumps" at all.

At some time in Apple's history it was decided to put the "bumps" on the D and K keys and it has stayed that way ever since. We checked a number of different Apple keyboards and they all had the "bumps" on the D and K, even our Apple IIe. Apple is not going to change the location of the "bumps" on future revisions of the keyboard as the location of the "bumps" on the Apple keyboard has become Apple's standard.

We do not receive many questions about this, but I understand how it could be a source of frustration for a user that is blind and accustomed to the "bumps" being on the F and J keys on other types of keyboards. A possible solution for this user would be to swap positions of the keys. The keycaps on the keys can be carefully pried up and off of the keyswitch and then swapped over to the other keyswitches.

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