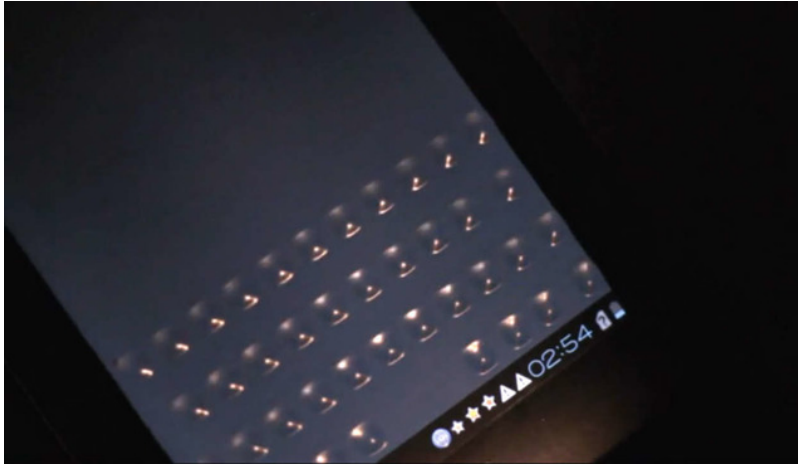


Watch This Touchscreen Transform Into a Physical Keyboard



For [tablet](#) [1]- and [smartphone](#) [2]-owners who love their [touchscreens](#) [3] but occasionally yearn for the tactile feel of a physical keyboard, Fremont, Calif.-based company Tactus has unveiled new technology that unites both features on one gadget.

It developed a tactile user interface for touchscreen devices: transparent physical buttons that emerge from a tablet or smartphone's surface on demand. To see the technology in action, watch the video [here](#) [4].

"With the buttons enabled, users can push and type or rest their fingers as they would with any physical button or keyboard," [Tactus explains on its website](#) [5]. "When the buttons are disabled, they recede into the screen, becoming invisible and leaving a smooth, seamless flat touchscreen with maximum viewing area."

This "Tactile Layer" technology integrates with a touchscreen device by replacing its cover glass.

While current smartphones include the option of haptic feedback, which causes on-screen keys to vibrate upon touch, Tactus says it's not the same as physical buttons.

Would you use this technology on your smartphone or tablet?

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Links:

[1] <http://mashable.com/category/tablets/>

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[3] <http://mashable.com/category/touchscreen/>

[4] <http://mashable.com/2013/01/15/tactus-touchscreen-physical-keyboard/>

[5] <http://www.tactustechnology.com/technology.html>