

# How the Magic Keyboard won my heart - and my wallet

I was ready to return the new Apple Magic Keyboard after using it for a week. To make sure, I switched back to the Smart Folio Keyboard I'd happily used for over a year. Big mistake! Here's what I found.



By [Robin Harris](#) for [Storage Bits](#) | May 18, 2020 -- 13:44 GMT (06:44 PDT) | Topic: [iPad](#) - ZDNet

I'm a fan of the [iPad](#): the curated App Store; the focus of limited multi-tasking; the management-free experience. Combine that with the power and flexibility of iPad Pro hardware: what can't it do?

But I'm not a fan of spending \$350 for a keyboard. Which is why I expected to send my Magic Keyboard back to Apple after taking it for a spin.

- [Magic Keyboard for iPad Pro review: More productivity, but at a price](#)

Now I'm out \$350 - almost \$400 with tax - and I have to admit I was wrong about the Magic Keyboard. Wallet and ego: 2x burn.

## **WHY GOING BACK TO THE SMART FOLIO DIDN'T WORK**

I felt relieved when I slipped my 12.9 inch iPad Pro back into the Folio. So much lighter! Thinner! Simpler! But the joy didn't last once I sat down to work. The two positions the Folio offers, that I'd been OK with, suddenly weren't right.

The keys, which I'd liked for over a year, suffered by comparison with the Magic Keyboard. More importantly, I found I was making more errors than I did on the Magic Keyboard. My fine motor skills are terrible, so I need all the help I can get - help the Magic Keyboard provided. And much to my surprise, the added inch in screen height actually made a difference: I could spend more time working with less back and neck strain.

But it was the trackpad that sealed the deal. I love trackpads, and while I don't use half the gestures available, the ones I do use help keep my hands on the keys and my focus on the screen.

## **THE TAKE**

Apple marketing has grappled unsuccessfully for the last decade with how to communicate the difference between iPads and PCs. For me it's simple: the iPad Pro is a motorcycle for the mind. PCs, including Macs, are trucks. As a dedicated ebike rider - who also owns a car - that metaphor resonates for me. The iPad complements my

Retina iMac, and won't replace it until I no longer have a desk.

The motorcycle is nimble and quick, but won't haul your furniture. The truck will, with a lot more fiddling, and, including fuel and maintenance, at much higher cost. Living in rural America, I know many people who use computers and have no idea how they work. Their PCs are a continuing source of anger, frustration, and mystification. For them the iPad OS ecosystem is a godsend. Put them on automatic update, add a keyboard, restart every couple of months, and they're happy.

Those people don't need an iPad Pro, or a Magic Keyboard. But the total package makes my life easier and more productive. In the year of the virus, I want that more than ever.

But it can be improved by increasing the vertical lift of the iPad to further reduce neck strain. Oh, and reduce the price!

Bottom line: the Magic Keyboard is the heroin of iPad keyboards: it's so good you don't even want to try it once. But I'm glad I did.