

# PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

## New products give free hand to gamers

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As the summer winds down and gamers begin to spend more time indoors, two products came across the desk that can be used for those blustery days while fragging online --- one for the budget-conscious teen; the other for the over-30 gamer who splits his PC between work and play.

### **WOLF KING WARRIOR**

This 55-key circular gaming pad is nothing short of the ultimate tool for fans of first-person-shooter games. The Wolf King Warrior brings all the keys that pack the most punch directly into fingers' reach. With centered WASD keys and a vertical space bar, your left hand has access to dedicated action and strife keys used in a normal keyboard, but bound together in a more efficient cluster.

The 0-9 and F1-F12 keys line the upper edge of the Warrior in a semi-circle while the other first-person-shooter letter and command keys are nestled nicely under your palm. The only drawback with the Warrior was an inability to type normal dialogue that you might with a standard keyboard --- easily remedied with a VoIP-controlled headset.

The pad is small enough to drop in your LAN bag for those gamers on the go, and, once you get acclimated to the layout, you won't want to leave home without it.

### **CLEARONE CHAT 50**

As USB-controlled portable speaker phones go, Chat 50 might seem a bit pricey, but what you get is a lot of bang for the buck. No tinny, plastic-sounding speakers here, the Chat 50 is slightly bigger than a deck of cards and delivers rich sound and superb voice clarity wrapped up in a durable exoskeleton -- all while keeping you headset free during those VoIP conversations.

For the gamer who plays a professional by day, the pocket-sized device is able to directly connect to laptops, PCs and cell phones, as well as telephones, iPods, MP3 players and desktop video-conferencing systems with separately sold connector cables. It is a perfect match for the latest Internet-based telephony technologies like Skype and Vonage.

When gaming online, the Chat 50 works well with TeamSpeak and Ventrilo and is a cut above laptop speakers. Although not the best solution for noisy LAN parties or those on a tight budget, the Chat 50 is a decent buy for the solo

gamer who still wants to chat with his guild mates but look less like a telemarketer.

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