

A brand new key from Palm Radio

I had been using this key for almost three weeks when I wrote an [eHam review](#) and gave it a score of five out of five. I began that review by saying that “...it is a delight to use. Its design also means it’s delightful to simply look at!” I have now enjoyed using the key for a little over two months and I can’t think of a more appropriate way to begin this review.



Having almost no previous experience with a single-paddle, side-to-side key, I had been a little apprehensive. How would it perform and how would I adapt?

The Single arrives in a plastic Palm transport case. In the case is the key itself along with the necessary connecting cable. The three-pin connector to the key—subject of some gripes in the past—has been re-engineered and now looks much more durable.

Previous Palm keys used at G5VZ have all featured a metal casing. This one comes in a plastic enclosure. It is black and the paddle itself is red. The whole assembly has a total weight under 40g and measures 25x25mm by 79mm long.

While the Palm Single with ABS plastic casing has a lighter weight than those other keys with a metal enclosure, the Single has the usual rare earth magnets in the now-familiar QuickMount base. The magnets give the key a great stability and, when used on a ferrous surface, weight is not an issue at all—this is a key that isn’t going anywhere while it’s in use. Setting up the key is similarly firm and solid—once you have set the adjustment screws they stay there. An Allen key that fits the adjusters is clipped into the key base, always ready for use.



The key outside its case

The Single can be configured as a one-paddle key, used with an electronic keyer, or as a traditional Cootie in Sideswiper mode. A feature of the Palm Single is that its paddle is auto-centring; this works exceptionally well in day-to-day use.

I’ve been using it with my KX3 mostly but have also worked portable with an FT-817 and it seems happy with the keyer electronics in both.

As you would expect, the Single mates perfectly with the Palm CodeCube, making a wonderful self-contained wireless unit when also using the IR Rx (infrared wireless receiver) option on the radio. I find sitting back with the wireless key is just marvellous for a relaxed rag chew. That relaxed experience is enhanced by the easy action of the key—it's a feel that you might not associate with such a small key.



Palm Single with Code Cube fitted

Having begun this piece by admitting that I was feeling apprehensive before using the Palm Single, I must now tell you I am a committed single paddle operator; I use it all the time! I think Dieter and Hannes have created another great piece of CW equipment and they should again be congratulated for making it available to us.

My thanks to FISTS members for providing keys for review:

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