

Altra Ships Pointing Device Alternative

BY YVONNE LEE

Altra Corp. is now shipping a new version of its mouse-alternative pointing device intended to offer improved precision and require less space than a mouse.

Called Felix, the device is controlled by the finely tuned muscles of the fingers and gives more control than a mouse or trackball, according to Altra.

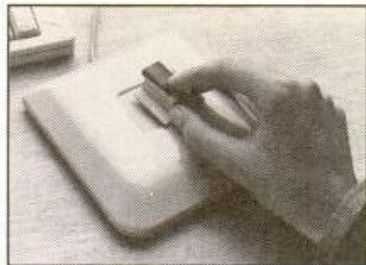
Felix measures 5¼ inches by 5½ inches, but users operate it by moving an index finger over the 1-inch-square control surface. The control surface, or floating button, rests on a pedes-

tal 1 inch above the base.

The device contains an on-board microprocessor that translates the floating button's movements into Macintosh screen coordinates, as well as interpreting the speed and direction of the floating button.

Felix is currently available for the Macintosh SE and the Mac II line, with Mac Plus, PC-compatible, and Sun workstation versions to come soon, the company said.

It comes with a driver that supports multiple screen management, automatic window control, and placement of a



Altra's new version of Felix offers fingertip control to seekers of a mouse alternative.

variably sized floating window anywhere on the user's screen.

Felix for the Macintosh SE and Mac II has a suggested retail price of \$169. Pricing on the PC-compatible and Sun workstation versions has not been determined, the company said.

Altra Corp., 1200 Skyline Drive, Laramie, WY 82070; (800) 726-6153.