

CAMP NEWS

Capital Apple Mac Performa User Group • Augusta, Maine

May Meeting Program

Our next meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. on May 14 in Room 11, Buker Community Center, Augusta. For our educational program, Sue Westlake will demonstrate Apple's revamped Pages, the word processing and page layout program that created the newsletter you're reading right now.

Dues Are Due

All CAMP memberships expire annually on May 1, which means that the day of reckoning is now at hand. Your \$20 tax-deductible annual dues payment primarily funds our meeting space at Buker Community Center, hosting of our web site, and registration fees payable to the IRS and the Maine Secretary of State. So please give your \$20 check to Treasurer Mike Knight at the May 14 meeting, or mail a check to Mike at 483 Marston Rd., Gardiner, ME 04345. If you do not wish to maintain your membership, please do us the courtesy of letting us know. ☀

Anker T300 A Viable Replacement for Apple Wireless Keyboard

by Jeffrey Frankel

If you need to replace a standard-issue Apple wireless keyboard but gag at the \$70 retail price, the \$20 Anker T300 wireless bluetooth keyboard is an attractive alternative.



Although it closely resembles the Apple product in appearance and size, the T300 is plastic, not aluminum. Although the word “knockoff” does come to mind, the term doesn’t do justice to the heft, build quality and key action of the imitator. Anker’s got the looks, the ergonomics and the mechanics down pat.

I primarily bought the keyboard for use with my Samsung 2013 UN50F6400AF bluetooth-enabled smart TV. The keyboard works fine with the TV's web browser and search function. Unfortunately, the keyboard does not work with

the search bars within Samsung's Netflix and Amazon Prime Video apps. From what I understand, this is a limitation of the apps and not the keyboard.

I also paired the keyboard with a 2009 iMac and a 2010 Mac Mini. The keyboard worked fine with both machines.

Unlike the Apple keyboard, the T300 is designed primarily for use with phones and tablets, as opposed to desktop computers. For example, a Home key replaces the Escape key at the upper lefthand corner of the keyboard. Not to worry: the Function + Home key combination works just like a standard Escape key. Also, a few of the top-row function keys work a little differently from what Mac users may be used to. However, the function keys most important to me - i.e., the F7 - F12 media and volume keys - worked as expected. Hitting F3 brings up Dashboard. The F1 and F2 brightness keys also worked with the iMac.

Bluetooth connectivity was excellent. I had no trouble pairing the T300 with the TV, iMac or Mini. And if I turn it off and let it stay inactive for a period of time, the T300 immediately re-establishes the bluetooth connection once I turn it back on.

I also give Anker very high marks for customer service. When I thought the unit I received was defective, Anker sent me a replacement at no charge. When I discovered that I was mistaken, I voluntarily paid Anker for the replacement.

At only \$20, this keyboard is a real steal. As the Duchess of Windsor might have said, "A woman can't be too rich, too thin, or have too many keyboards." ✨

