ASK

IBM buckling sleeves

The most popular switch no one has heard of

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Kali (aka, Admiral Shark)
sharktastica.co.uk
/r/modelm

Me!

- Joined the hobby in August 2019
- Officially, website started to tackle lack of centralised and well-referenced hub for IBM keyboard info
- Main attractions include IBM part number database, the wiki, research articles and many reference pages
- Also moderate the IBM Keyboards Discord server & /r/modelm

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IBM

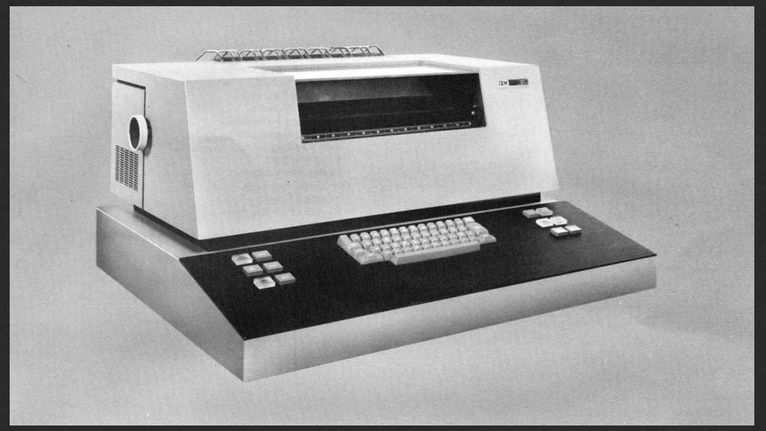
- Best known for the IBM PC and ThinkPad
- Inventions include ATMs, bar codes, dynamic RAM, hard drives, magnetic stripe cards, the relational database and various important semiconductor manufacturing techniques
- Built the Saturn V rocket instrument ring that helped take humanity to the Moon
- Today focus on consultancy, AI, supercomputers, quantum computers, and patent farming

Credits: Rama & Musée Bolo (CC BY-SA 2.0 FR)

A quick recap...

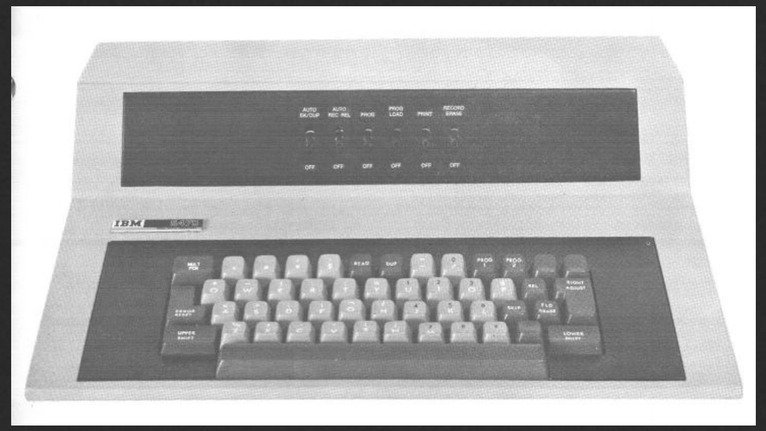
Gen 1: Card Punch (1949)

Credits: B. Franske (GFDL 1.2)



Gen 2: Printer-Keyboard (1963)

Credits: IBM (fair dealing)



Gen 3: Elastic Diaphragm (1969)

Credits: IBM (fair dealing)

Gen 4: Model B (1972)

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Gen 5: Model F (1981)

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Gen 6: Model M (1984)

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

IBM Wheelwriter 5 Keyboard Assembly

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

The IBM buckling sleeve

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Model M lineages

IBM Enhanced Keyboard

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

IBM PS/2 L40SX

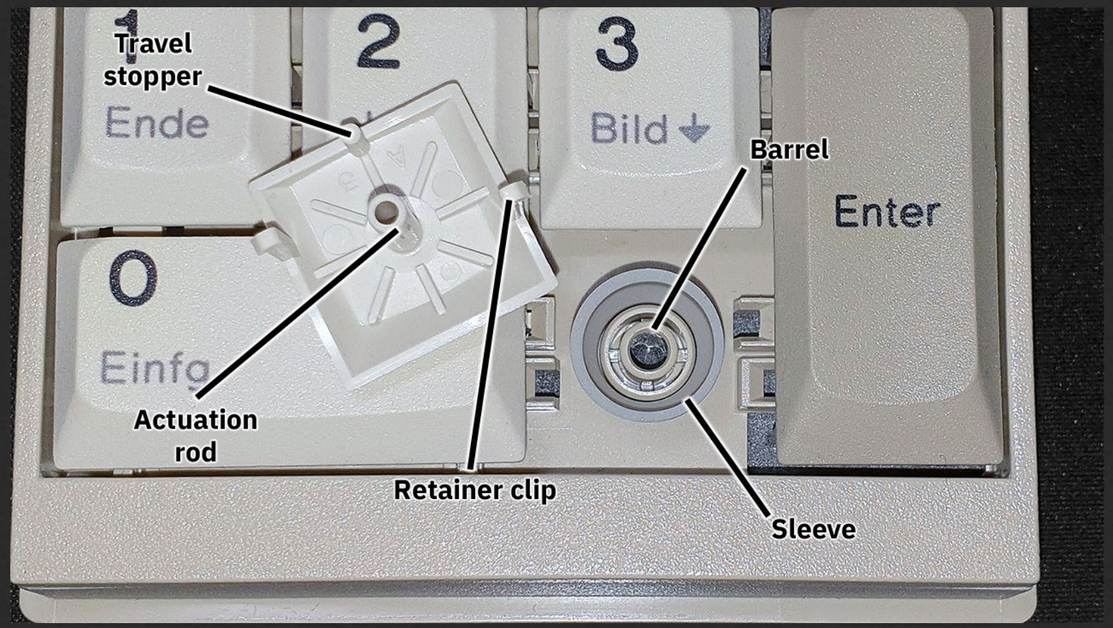
Credits: Uberman765 (donated photo)

IBM PS/2 L40SX Numeric Keypad (M3)

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

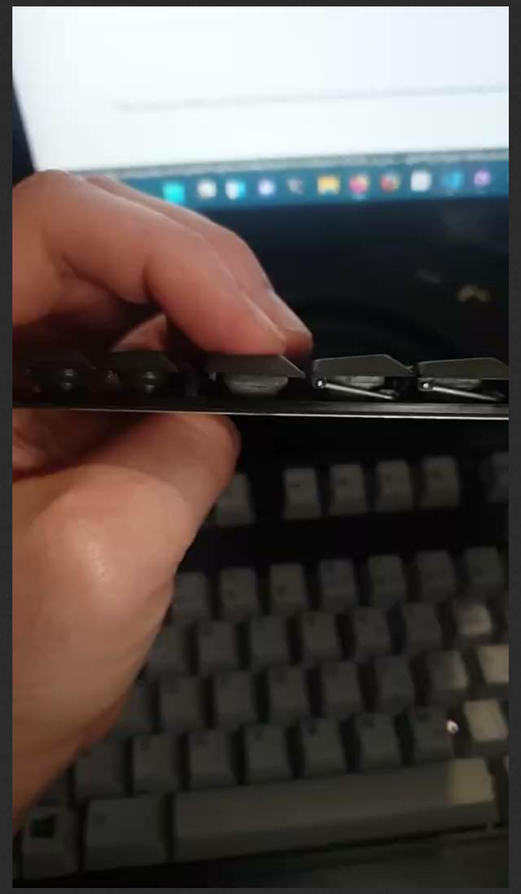
IBM Space Saver Keyboard (M4-1)

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)



M3/M4 buckling sleeve components

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)



Pressing a sleeve

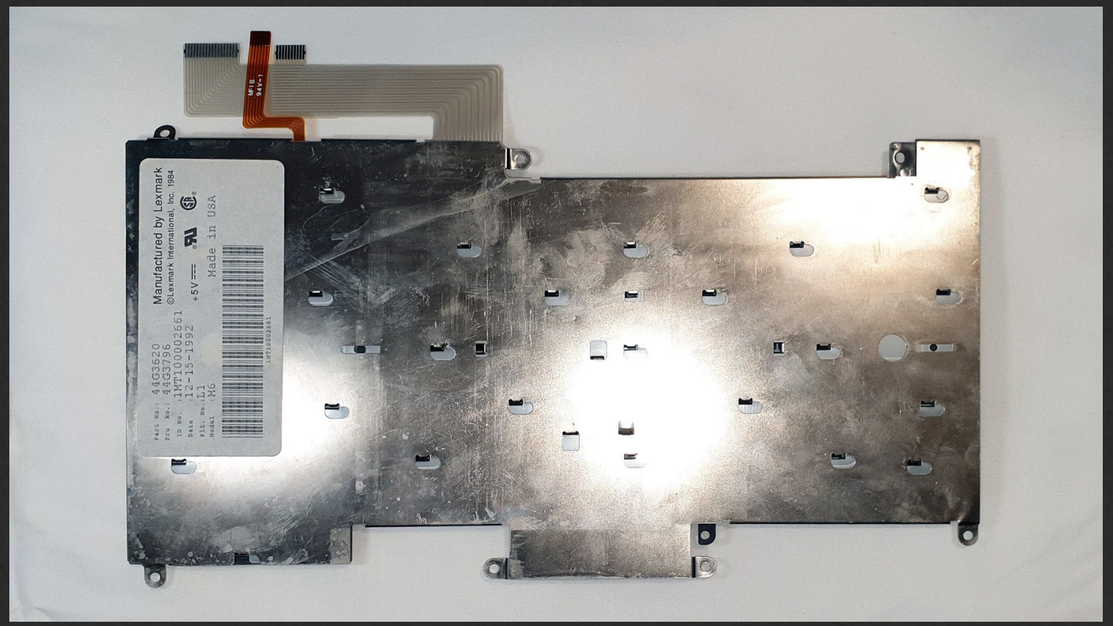
Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Various buckling sleeve variants

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

IBM ThinkPad 365ED

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)



IBM ThinkPad 700/720 Keyboard Assembly (M6)

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

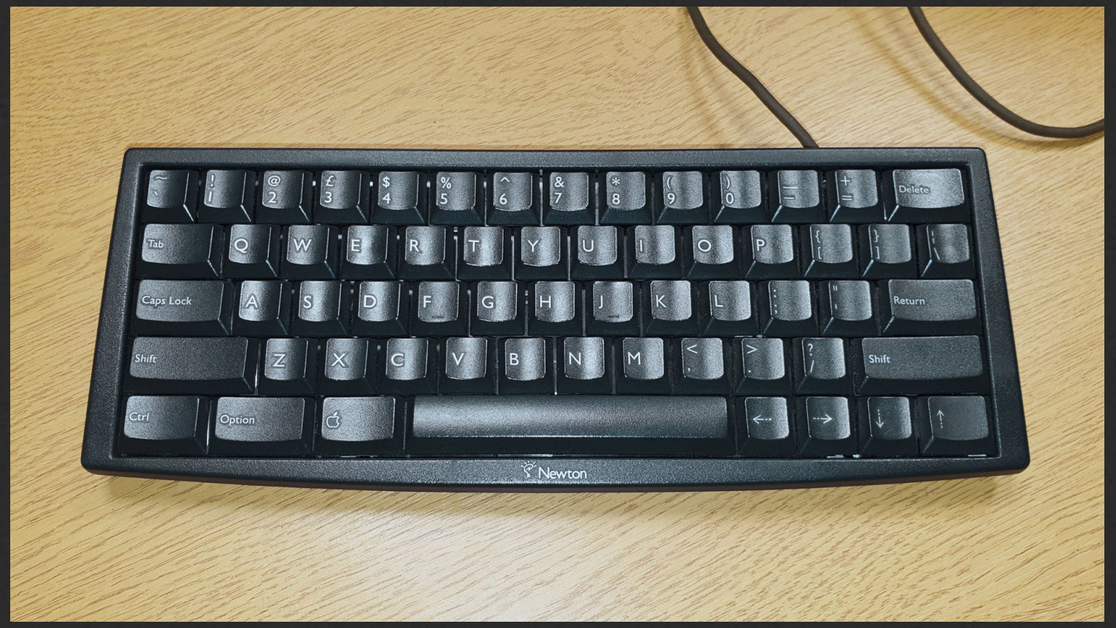
Nostalgia Nerd - The $11k PS2 laptop

Credits: video thumbnail (used under fair dealing)

EEVblog - IBM L40SX Retro Laptop Teardown

Credits: video thumbnail (used under fair dealing)

Even Apple



Apple Newton MessagePad Keyboard (model X0044, based on IBM M6-1)

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

IBM RANPOS Keyboard (M9)

Credits: IBM (used under fair dealing)

IBM Modifiable Layout Keyboard (M11)

Credits: IBM (used under fair dealing)

In your supermarkets (cont.)

Walmart’s IBM Model M7

Credits: Reddit (used under fair dealing)

ASDA’s IBM Model M8s

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Still in your supermarkets

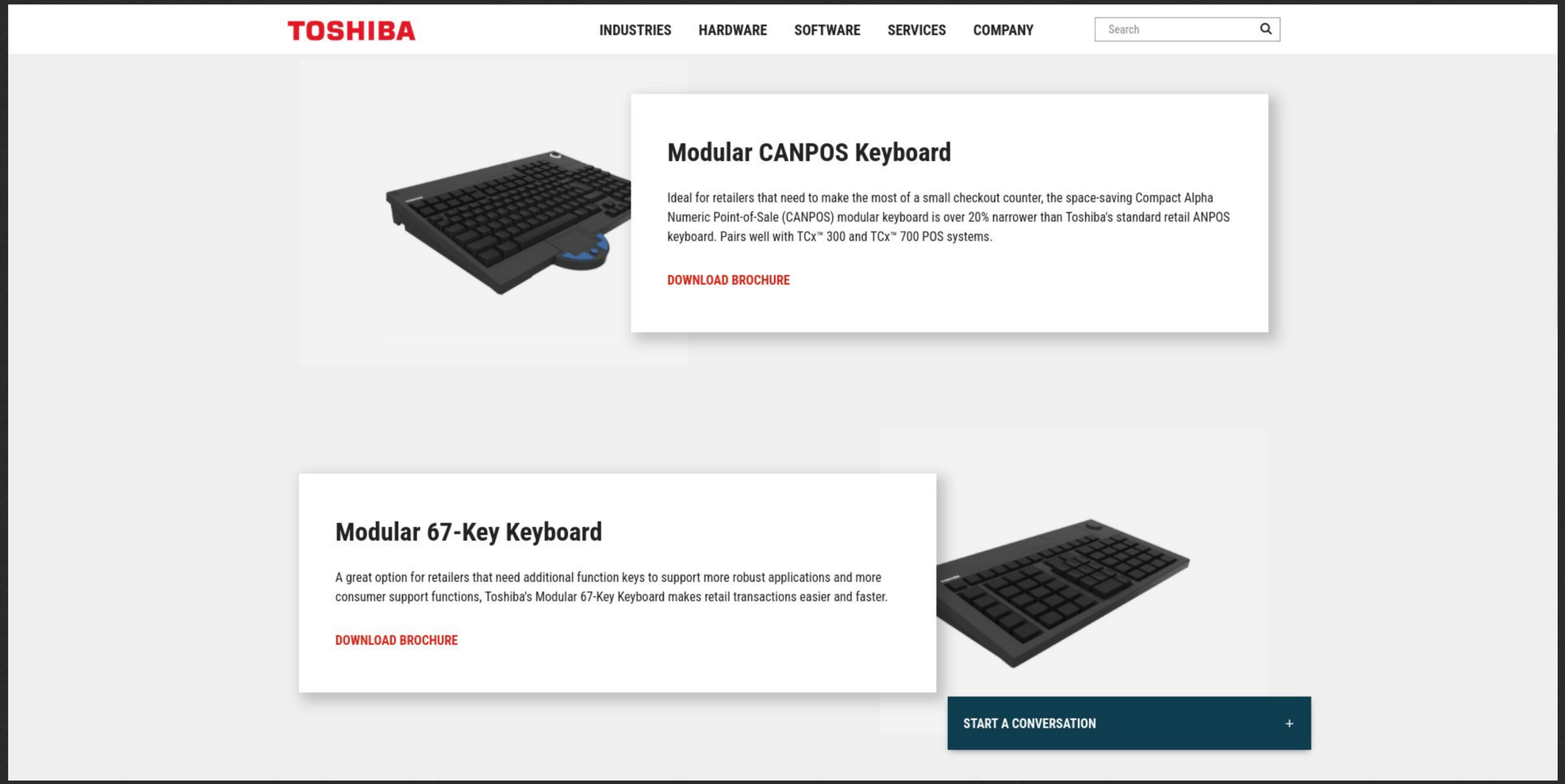
IBM MPOS 67-Key LCD Keyboards (“M8-e”)

Credits: IBM (used under fair dealing)

IBM MANPOS Keyboard (“M9-e”)

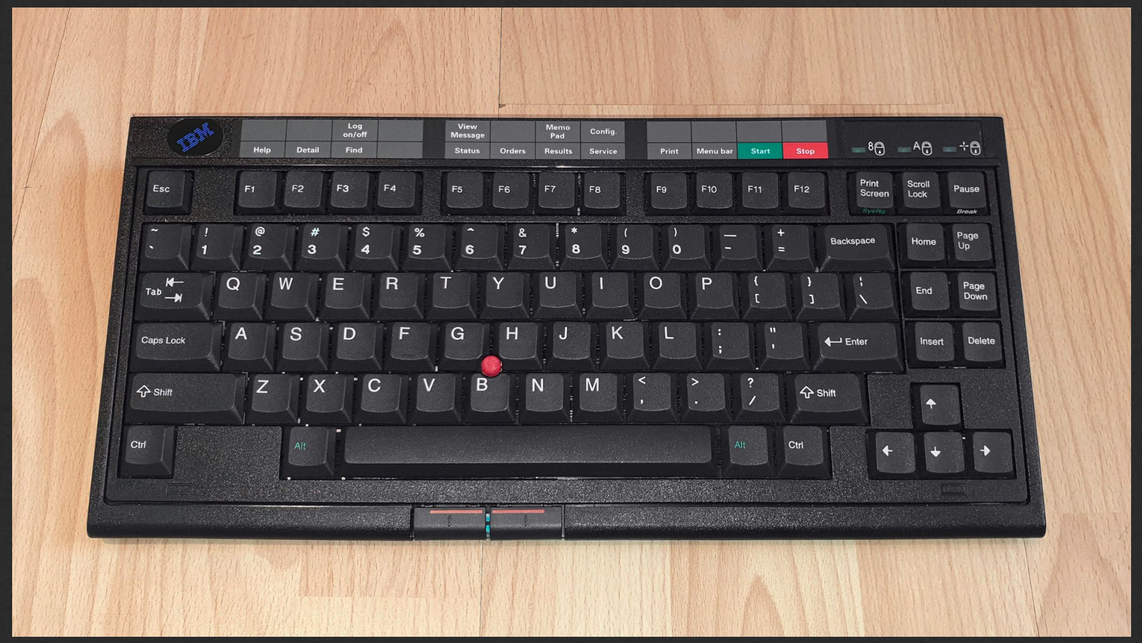
Credits: IBM (used under fair dealing)

Still in your supermarkets (cont.)



TGCS' MPOS keyboards still on their website

What about Unicomp?



Unicomp-made IBM-branded M4-1

Credits: Admiral Shark (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Various Unicomp Mighty Mice

Credits: Unicomp (used under fair dealing)

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Where to learn more...

sharktastica.co.uk/buckling_sleeves