

## Corepad Mousing Products Review

Manufacturer: Corepad ([www.corepad.com](http://www.corepad.com))

Supplied by: Performance-PCs ([www.performance-pcs.com](http://www.performance-pcs.com))



Big Al

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## Introduction

If you love to game, then you probably use a mouse. Some people use the old-style ball mice, while others go for an optical mouse (conventional / trackball) or even a laser mouse. I mostly use trackball mice so I don't need to move my hand around too much, but I have a few optical mice too. I need to have a good selection of mice at my house for those tasty LAN parties I host periodically. Anyway, Hank over at Performance-PCs ([www.performance-pcs.com](http://www.performance-pcs.com)) was able to send us a good selection of Corepad mousing products to review. Today we're going to evaluate the EYEPAD S, the EYEPAD M, the EYEPAD XL, the DESKPAD XXXL, the MAGNA Safety Glass Gaming Pad (figure 1), and three sets of SKATEZ PRO mouse feet.



Figure 1 The Corepad MAGNA Gaming Pad has a very slick glass surface

As they say in just about every industry, one size doesn't fit all. That statement is especially true for mouse pads, because the proper size mouse pad depends on many things – the amount of space next to the keyboard, how aggressive you are when moving the mouse, and even your mouse response settings for cursor speed and things of this nature. There are also different mouse pad surfaces available, and we have two types for this review, both cloth and glass. The one I liked best might surprise you. Perhaps we should go through the specifications for these items before addressing how they perform.

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### Take a Closer Look

The cloth mouse pads from Corepad come in several sizes, and we have a good selection (but not all of them) for this review. In figures 2 and 3, I have laid out the pads on a glass table for size comparison. All the smaller cloth pads are 0.06 inches thick, while the DESKPAD XXXL is 0.12 inches thick – basically twice as thick as the smaller pads. You don't really notice the difference in thickness when using the pads, but I think the reason for the greater thickness in the DESKPAD XXXL has to do with long term durability.



Figure 2 The cloth Corepad mouse pads laid out for comparison.



Figure 3 The DESKPAD is 0.12 inches thick, the others are 0.06 inches.

Corepad EYEpad and DESKPAD series cloth mouse pad specifications from Corepad's web site:

*The Corepad EYEpad is the result of a cooperation between Core Gaming Gear and Team EYEBALLERS (founded in Sweden in 1998). It's one of the thinnest cloth mouse pads on the market, and it's still comfortable for the wrist. The EYEpads are:*

- *Very durable, flexible and smooth cloth*
- *Great for high sensitivity mouse settings*
- *Compatible with all mice (laser, optical, and ball mice)*
- *Specifically designed non-slip rubber backing*
- *Washable with regular dish soap and a damp sponge*

*Measurements:*

- *255 X 220 X 1.6 mm / 10 X 8.66 X 0.06 inches [EYEpad small]*
- *325 X 290 X 1.6 mm / 12.8 X 11.4 X 0.06 inches [EYEpad medium]*
- *455 X 40.5 X 1.6 mm / 17.9 X 15.9 X 0.06 inches [EYEpad XL]*
- *900 X 450 X 3.0 mm / 35.4 X 17.7 X 0.12 inches [DESKPAD XXXL]*

The MAGNA safety glass gaming pad is closer to something I was using already. On one of my machines I have a Thermaltake plastic mouse pad with an LED surrounding light strip. It works well enough, but I bought it for the light show. Anyway, the MAGNA is quite a bit heavier and shall I say "much more stylish"? In figures 4 and 5, you can see how well protected the MAGNA is for shipping and....er....UPS handling! You get a strip of Teflon tape, a nice anti-skid pad, and then the MAGNA itself, which is shown in figure 6.



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Figure 4 Packaging for the MAGNA gaming pad.



Figure 5 Open up the box, and see how well protected the glass is.

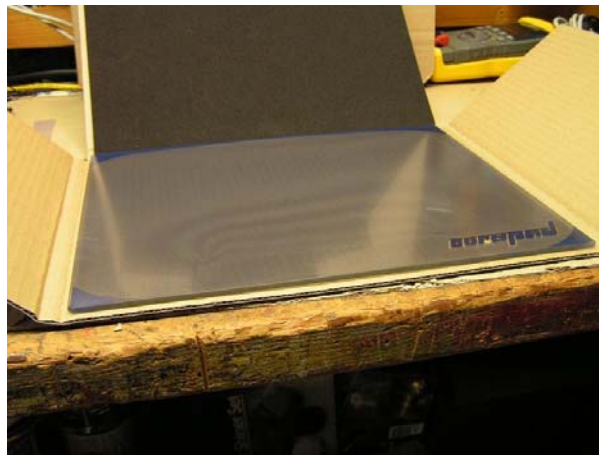


Figure 6 The MAGNA gaming pad looks perfect – no scratches.

The Corepad MAGNA safety glass mouse pad specifications from Corepad's web site:

*After years of research for a great gaming mouse pad that delivers both the precision needed by those with a passion for gaming, together with the durability required by the discerning computer user, we have developed the Corepad safety glass mouse pads.*

*Incorporating a unique branding feature, the Corepad safety glass mouse pads offer a super-responsive surface. Our construction methods ensure that the Corepad safety glass mouse pads will outlast our competitor's products which mean that you will never be let down again. The MAGNA :*

- *Fencing is branded into the glass so it's extremely hardwearing*
- *Offers precision and a smooth gaming surface*
- *For low and high sensitivity mouse settings*
- *The safety glass is impossible to bend or distort*
- *Inclusive non-slip rubber base*
- *Easy to clean*

*Measurements:*

*315 X 255 X 4.0 mm / 12.4 X 10.0 X 0.16 inches [MAGNA]*



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Lastly, we have the SKATEZ PRO mice feet. Three packages were sent, each one containing two sets of mice feet for either a specific mouse, or a range of mice models. The three sets we have are for the Logitech MX1000, the Razer Diamondback-Copperhead, and the Logitech models MX500, 510, 518, 700, and 900. Figure 7 shows you the packaging for these items, and in figure 8 you can see how the Teflon pads differ in shape.



Figure 7 Three packages of SKATEZ PRO mice feet.



Figure 8 Different pads to cover the wide range of mice designs.

The Corepad SKATEZ PRO mice feet specifications from Corepad's web site:

*Corepad SKATEZ PRO are new and smoother mice feet and therefore increase accuracy while gaming. They reduce the amount of friction between the mouse and the mouse pad. Because Corepad SKATEZ PRO are made from pure untextured Teflon, it delivers premium glide across any surface. The Corepad SKATEZ PRO mice feet are able to provide the same "feel" from the first day you use them until the day when they're worn thin after months of gaming. Each package contains two sets of mice feet.*

*Corepad SKATEZ PRO are available for 8 different mice designs. Also available are normal Corepad SKATEZ mice feet which are designed for all-around use. These are made of solid Teflon. Simply adjust the tape to the mouse feet to increase accuracy.*

- PRO-1 Logitech G1, MX200, and Razer Viper
- PRO-2 Logitech MX500, MX510, MX518, MX700, and MX900
- PRO-3 Microsoft IE 3.0, Intellimouse 1.1, 1.1 special edition
- PRO-4 Logitech MX310
- PRO-5 Razer Diamondback – Copperhead
- PRO-6 Logitech MX1000
- PRO-7 Microsoft IE 4.0 optical blue, Laser 6000
- PRO-8 Logitech G5, G7
- All around use – 50 X 2 cm Teflon tape

## Hands-On Testing

I started with the cloth mouse pads (the EYEpad series), since I didn't think I was going to find these too slick for my optical mice. Speaking of which, I only had one optical mouse hooked up to start with (a cheap Logitech model M-BJ58). To make

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this a fair review, I decided to open up a few other optical mice I had in my vast supply of modding parts. I bought these other two optical mice on sale over the past year – both are wireless designs, where the Logitech M-BJ58 was a wired mouse. The two additions were the wireless Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer 2.0 (figure 9) and the wireless Micro Innovations PD880P (figure 10) mice. Gaming mice these are not, but remember that I'm a trackball kind of guy.



Figure 9 Time to break out some better mice; first the Intellimouse.



Figure 10 Here's the Micro Innovations bargain-bin special.

I tried the smaller EYEpad mouse pad on my 'Ella' gaming computer first, since this configuration has a nice wooden desk with pull-out keyboard tray. I used both the Logitech and the Microsoft optical mice, and found that I couldn't detect any problems moving them across the cloth mousing surface. No tracking issues were noted when I watched the cursor move across the screen. I did tend to run out of mouse pad surface area though, as I was used to the size of that glowing Thermaltake plastic mousing pad you see in figure 11 (also shown there is the smaller EYEpad). So I swapped in the medium EYEpad mouse pad and just look how well it fits the keyboard tray (figure 12). Even when I put that wrist pad back in there (as shown in figure 11), I still have plenty of mousing room. Hey, I kind of like this medium EYEpad. It's a keeper!



Figure 11 Out with the Thermaltake glow-pad, and in with the EYEpad.



Figure 12 The medium EYEpad is a perfect fit for me.

I was paying close attention to the difference between that old Thermaltake plastic mouse pad and the new Corepad cloth mouse pads. There was a definite improvement in both 'feel' and 'tracking', but it's a hard thing to measure. Perhaps over time both will wear differently and I'll reverse my option. If I was looking for a non-emotional measurement, I guess I could try to measure the coefficient of friction values between the mice and the mouse pads, but not easy to do without precision equipment. I did notice that cat hairs were attracted to the cloth mouse pads. We have four cats, so I need to keep the kitties away from my keyboard area.

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Ok, we can't forget about the bigger EYEpad XL and the DESKPAD XXXL (figure 13), can we? These require much more room than a keyboard tray, so I set the larger mouse pads up on my workbench (figure 14). Here I used the Micro Innovations wireless optical mouse for some 'glide' and 'tracking' tests. These pads felt about the same as the smaller EYE pads (ignore the bumps you see, as they will flatten out in a few days), so I have to say that you should just get the size that fits your desk layout. Any one of these pads would be a good choice, and price-wise, they range from about \$11.99 to \$23.99 on-line. You can find most of the Corepad items at [www.performance-pcs.com](http://www.performance-pcs.com).



Figure 13 The Corepad DESKPAD XXXL up close.



Figure 14 Size comparison between the larger cloth mouse pads.

I was able to find an excellent place to test the DESKPAD XXXL in a real application. We have a friend that owns one of those Power MAC G5 machines – you know two IBM G5 microprocessors in that beautiful aluminum case. Anyway, she has the large Apple cinema display to support her photography work. The large work area afforded by the DESKPAD XXXL is perfect on the desktop, as shown in figure 15.



Figure 15 The large desk area is a perfect fit for the DESKPAD XXXL

Moving on to the MAGNA safety glass gaming pad (figure 16), I tried a little gaming on this mouse pad with the Microsoft Intellimouse. While the tracking was fine, it didn't feel quite as smooth as the cloth pad. It did feel about the same as my old Thermaltake plastic mouse pad. The size is just about right for my keyboard tray, and don't get me wrong – I do like it. I would be happy with this mouse pad. But I think I prefer the cloth mouse pads. Which will last longer? That's a no-brainer. Get the MAGNA if you do extensive mousing. I couldn't even attempt to wear out the cloth EYE pads, but I bet that



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in a year they will be showing signs of wear. Washable yes, but they will wear out over time? All the more reason to buy a few extra ones.



Figure 16 This glass pad gets a thumbs-up from Big Al!

That leaves us with some mice feet testing. Performance PCs sent us three sets of the SKATEZ PRO mice feet, but none of these sets were a direct fit for the three types of mice I had on hand. If I tore off my current mice feet and replaced them with SKATEZ PRO mice feet, it wouldn't be a good solution for me. So I did the next best thing. I pulled out samples from the three sets, and placed them under my mice to get a feel for the different sliding motion. These mice feet are better than what comes stock on your mouse. Of course, I'm talking about non-gaming mice here. I don't know what type of mice feet are installed on the high-end gaming mice like the Razer Diamondback series and Logitech MX series. I also moved the mice feet pads around individually with my most precision instrument available (yep – my finger), and I did this on several surfaces, not just the cloth and glass mouse pads. They are slick. I pulled the backing tape (figure 17) off a few of them, and found that they do stick. What's more, they slide so well because they use untextured Teflon (figure 18) and that makes the SKATEZ PRO series a top pick.



Figure 17 The backing tape side of the SKATEZ PRO mice feet.



Figure 18 The untextured Teflon side of the SKATEZ PRO mice feet.

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## Conclusions

When you look at the Corepad products in general, it's hard to not be impressed by the quality. Some companies have a "professional" line of products and a "consumer" line of products. If you have both types of products to review, you would see the small differences that separate the two groups. I didn't see any difference in quality across the product line with the Corepad mouse pads or the mice feet. Everything was on the level of a "professional" product. If you know what you want in terms of mouse pad size and type (glass or cloth), I know you will be happy with your selection.

Personally, I liked the Corepad cloth mouse pads the best (figure 19). I thought those would be a distant second place to the MAGNA safety glass mouse pad, but there is something about the smoothness of the cloth pads that I like. Neither mouse pad is really better or worse than the other one. It comes down to personal preference. As they said in the movies, "Go with your feelings Luke. Feel the force." Or in this case, feel which one takes less force to move the mouse. The SKATEZ PRO mice feet (figure 20) were fine, and I think these would be a great replacement for your current mice feet if they are worn thin. The sticky side appears to hold well, but if you are real aggressive with a mouse, I don't know if they can be torn off with hard use. I guess any mice feet you place on your mouse would be subject to the same question. I doubt you can do better than untextured Teflon however.



Figure 19 Glass or cloth? I can't decide this for you.



Figure 20 Hard to test unless you put your finger on it.

## Pros

- Precision tracking for all three mice that I used (both cloth and glass mouse pads)
- Smooth gliding action with the mice across the mouse pad surfaces
- Quality construction; absolutely no complaints in this department
- Pricing is reasonable

## Cons

- Cloth pads attract dirt and hair (common issue for all cloth pads)
- Could use a few more size selections to better fit keyboard trays

**EYEPad Cloth mouse pads: 9.7**  
**MAGNA safety glass mouse pad: 9.3**  
**SKATEZ PRO mice feet: 9.5**

**Overall Rating: 9.5**

If you want to play your next frag-session on a Corepad, head over to Performance-PCs where they've got a whole slew of Corepad products in stock-- not to mention all the cooling, modding, lighting, and other gadgets you might need for your rig. We also want to give another thanks to Hank Baron from Performance-PCs for giving us the opportunity to show you these sweet pads.