

Low-Profile Keyboards 2026

Low-profile mechanical keyboards, slim boards roughly half the height of a standard one, hold **51 of 502 boards** (10%) and skew hard toward portable use: 84% are wireless. They cost slightly less than the market at a **\$110 median** versus \$129, and the trade is travel distance: the 16 low-profile switches in the database travel a median **3mm** against 3.8mm for standard switches.

51

low-profile boards

84%

of them are wireless

\$110median low-profile
price**3mm**

median switch travel

A tenth of the market, built for bags

51 of 502 mechanical keyboards (10%) are low-profile, and their feature mix tells you exactly who buys them: 43 of 51 (84%) ship wireless, the highest wireless share of any segment we track, because a slim board is usually a travel board. Hot-swap is present on 33 of the 50 with a published value (66%), lower than the market rate since slim PCBs and low-profile sockets are harder to engineer.

**84%** wireless · 43 of 51 low-profile boards**66%** hot-swap · 33 of 50 low-profile boards
with a published value

The full slim shortlist: the [low-profile keyboards guide](#).

Slim does not cost more

Despite the extra engineering, low-profile boards price slightly under the market: a \$110 median against \$129 overall. The segment is dominated by mainstream brands shipping volume office and travel boards rather than boutique metal cases, which keeps prices in the same band as a good standard board.



Median listed US price, low-profile versus the full mechanical database.

The tradeoff is travel, and it is smaller than you think

The 16 low-profile switches in the database, from 4 brands, travel a median 3mm against 3.8mm for standard switches, about three quarters of the distance. Actuation force barely changes: 50g median versus 45.5g. What you actually lose is not force but keycap choice and some bottom-out feel, since low-profile stems use their own mounts and the ecosystem of aftermarket caps is thin.



Median total travel, switches with a published figure. Compare any two on the [switch database](#).

Methodology and citation

Every figure is computed live from the [KeebScout keyboard database](#) and [switch database](#) (502 mechanical keyboards and 227 switches as of August 2026; travel and force comparisons use the switches that publish each spec). Specs are normalized to one schema and units, and unpublished fields are excluded rather than guessed, with the sample size noted wherever a spec is missing. Prices are the listed US retail price where available. Nothing here is weighted by sales, sponsorship, or affiliate payouts, because the database is not; the full method is on the [about page](#). As the database grows, these numbers update on their own.

CITE THIS PAPER

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