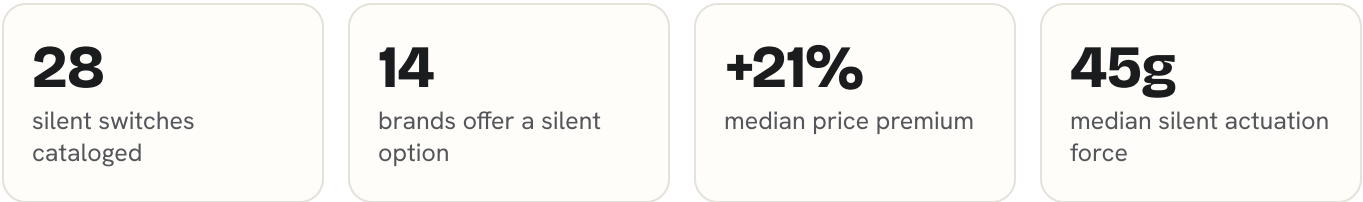


The Silent Switch Landscape 2026

Quiet mechanical switches are a real category now: the database holds **28 silent switches** from 14 brands, 22 of them linear and 6 tactile. Silence costs about **21% more per switch** (\$0.46 vs \$0.38 median), but it does not cost feel: silent switches actuate at a 45g median versus 50g for the rest, with essentially the same travel.



One switch in eight is built to be quiet

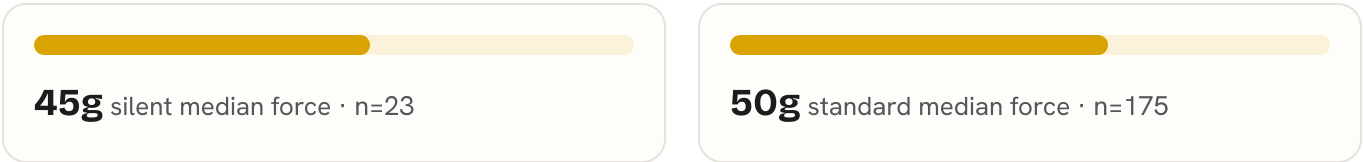
Silent switches, which use internal dampeners to hush the bottom-out and return, account for 28 of 227 switches (12%). Linears dominate the category 22 to 6, because a dampened smooth travel is what open offices ask for first. Silent tactile exists for those who want the bump without the noise, but it remains the smaller niche.



The full quiet shortlist: [best silent switches](#), or browse [silent linear](#) and [silent tactile](#) directly.

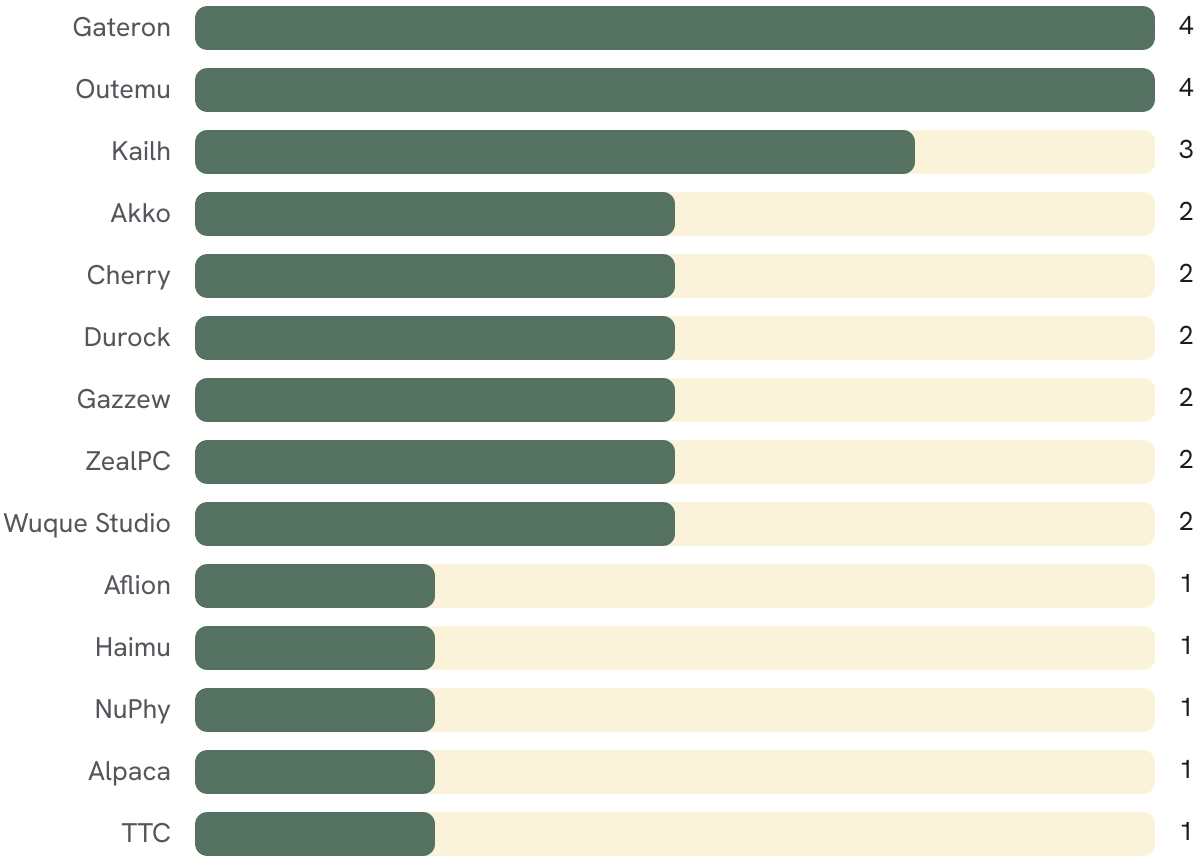
Quiet does not mean mushy specs

The fear with silent switches is that dampening ruins the feel. The published numbers say otherwise: silent switches actuate at a 45g median, right in line with the 50g median of everything else, and total travel matches at 3.5mm versus 3.9mm. The dampeners change the sound, not the geometry. What you give up is a bit of crispness at the bottom of the stroke, which is a feel preference, not a spec penalty.



The quiet premium is about 21%

Dampening is not free. The median silent switch costs \$0.46 against \$0.38 for the rest of the catalog, a 21% premium that works out to a few dollars on a full board. For a shared workspace that is the cheapest upgrade in the hobby.



Silent switches per brand, all 14 brands with at least one in the database.

Methodology and citation

Every figure is computed live from the [KeebScout switch database](#) (227 switches as of August 2026; force and price comparisons use the entries that publish each spec, 23 silent and 175 standard for actuation force). Specs are normalized to one schema and units, and unpublished fields are excluded rather than guessed, with the sample size noted wherever a spec is missing.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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<https://keebscout.com/research/silent-switch-landscape-2026/>
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