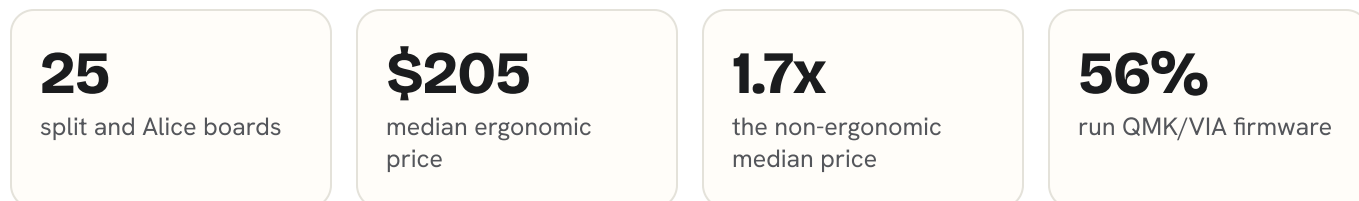


The Ergonomics Premium 2026

Ergonomic shapes are the market's luxury tier. Split and Alice boards make up just **25 of 502 mechanical keyboards** (5%), yet their median price is **\$205**, 1.7x the \$120 median across everything else. What the premium buys is an enthusiast-grade spec sheet: hot-swap on 80% and QMK/VIA firmware on 56% of them, both well above the market rate.



A small, expensive corner of the market

Between split boards, which separate the halves so each hand sits at shoulder width, and Alice boards, which angle a single board's halves for a more natural wrist line, ergonomic layouts account for 25 boards: 15 splits and 10 Alices. That is 5% of the database, small-batch, enthusiast-served, and priced accordingly.



Browse them directly: [split keyboards](#) and [Alice keyboards](#).

The tax is real: 1.7x the median

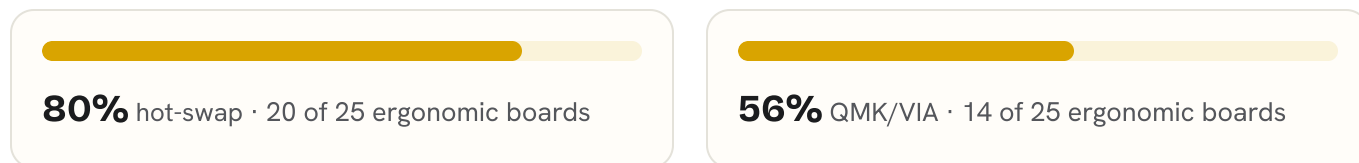
The median ergonomic board costs \$205 against \$120 for non-ergonomic boards. Three things drive the gap: low production volumes with no economy of scale, a buyer who will pay for relief from wrist pain, and a spec sheet loaded with enthusiast features that are expensive to include. Group buys are the traditional sales channel here, though none of the tracked boards are in an open group buy at report time; availability is published for only 3 of the 25 boards.



Median listed US price, ergonomic (split + Alice) versus non-ergonomic boards.

What the premium buys

Feature for feature, ergonomic boards out-spec the mainstream. Hot-swap sockets appear on 20 of 25 (80%), and 14 (56%) run open QMK/VIA firmware, both far above their market-wide rates, because remappable layers are near-mandatory on a board that moves keys off the standard grid. Wireless is the one place they trail: 12 of 25 (48%) versus a market that has crossed half, since many split designs prioritize wired reliability between halves.



If your wrists are fine and your budget is not: the [under-\\$100 guide](#) covers the mainstream end.

Methodology and citation

Every figure is computed live from the [KeebScout keyboard database](#) (502 mechanical keyboards as of August 2026; availability status is only published for a minority of boards, so production-status shares are reported as counts rather than percentages). 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/the-ergonomics-premium-2026/>

Free to quote and link with attribution. The raw comparison lives in the [keyboard database](#) and [switch database](#), and every paper in this series is listed on the [research index](#).