

SpaceNavigator

Navigate through 3D space

PRICE	\$99 (standard edition) \$59 (personal edition)
FROM	3Dconnexion
PHONE	408-376-2500
WEB	www.3dconnexion.com
FOR	Mac and Windows



All of you 3D designers get ready for this! 3Dconnexion (a Logitech company) has come out with what's basically a 3D mouse called the SpaceNavigator. It's primarily designed to work with 3D programs, such as 3ds Max, Maya, and Adobe Photoshop CS3 Extended, to name a few (visit www.3dconnexion.com for a complete list of supported applications). And it's pretty amazing when you use it with Google Earth. The SpaceNavigator is also a very cool-looking piece of equipment that will have everyone trying to figure out exactly what's sitting on your desk.

The SpaceNavigator is not like your conventional mouse because it allows you to navigate through 3D space with ease. Simply push, pull, tilt, or twist the controller to pan, zoom, and rotate—you can even do all three at once. There are also two programmable function keys.

What's really cool is that it's designed to work with your mouse. I've been using this

with both 3ds Max and Maya. Here's how it works: I use the SpaceNavigator with my left hand then use my mouse for normal controls like menu selection commands and manipulation controls. This took a little getting used to and the manual was virtually nonexistent, so a little trial and error was necessary. Once I got the hang of it though, I was flying through my scenes and through Google Earth like a fighter pilot! The SpaceNavigator responds like a precision joystick that's fluid and has great control.

This will definitely become a part of my workstation because it gives me flexibility that I haven't had before. If it weren't for the lack of a real manual, this would get 5 stars. —Bruce Bicknell

LAYERS VERDICT

HOT	Precision control; ease of use; cool looks
NOT	Lack of a detailed manual
RATING	👍👍👍👍👍

Arctic Butterfly 724 Bundle

Sensor brush bundle for removing dust from digital SLR sensors

PRICE	Approx. \$226.93 (items available individually)
FROM	VisibleDust
PHONE	780-455-1082
WEB	www.visibledust.com
FOR	



LARIE KOEHL

Dust on the sensor is the number one enemy of digital photographers. I've seen people go through contortions when changing lenses to avoid getting dust on their sensors, only to find that somehow dust has attached itself to the sensor, creating annoying UFOs in their images.

But dust doesn't have to be an insurmountable issue. The folks at VisibleDust have created the Arctic Butterfly 724 Sensor Brush Bundle (the name is so cool I'd buy it even if it didn't do an amazing job) to keep our sensors dust-free. The Arctic Butterfly is a brush attached to a spinning device that creates a negative charge, so when you run the brush across your sensor, it pulls the dust away with just a couple of quick strokes. If this doesn't remove the dust, then use the sensor swabs and VDust Plus solution. A couple of drops of this nonflammable magic elixir on the sensor swab, followed by one stroke from each side

of the swab, and no more dust! The solution also prevents friction and static buildup on the sensor, reducing the dust's ability to adhere. The bundle also includes a touch-up brush, Sensor Clean, Chamber Clean kit, Smear Away, Sensor Brush wash, magic cleaner, hurricane blower, 2 AAA batteries, and a padded mesh case (complete bundle not shown).

If you're still nervous about cleaning your own sensor, watch the tutorials on the company's website to see how easy it is. The Arctic Butterfly Bundle comes in three brush sizes to accommodate your sensor size: 1.0x, 1.3x, and 1.5/1.6x. Don't let the price scare you because sending your camera to the manufacturer for cleaning is also costly. —Laurie Excell

LAYERS VERDICT

HOT	Effective; easy to use
NOT	Price
RATING	👍👍👍👍👍