

## Microsoft 656-00082

# Microsoft Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro Joystick

MODEL: 656-00082

## 1. Introduction

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The Microsoft Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro is a PC game controller designed to enhance gaming immersion through force feedback technology. This joystick provides a range of tactile sensations, from subtle vibrations to strong forces, in compatible games. It features a 16-bit on-stick processor for precise force effects and a digital-optical camera for accurate positioning.

### Key Features:

- 16-bit on-stick processor for detailed force feedback.
- Multilayered force effects for realistic game sensations.
- Digital-optical camera for pinpoint accuracy and optimal speed.
- Eight programmable buttons for customized control.
- Shift button to double functionality of controls.
- Ergonomic design for comfortable extended use.



Image 1.1: The Microsoft Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro joystick. This image displays the complete unit, highlighting its ergonomic grip, the array of buttons on the base and stick, and the integrated throttle control. The design is intended for comfortable and precise gaming input.

## 2. Setup

Follow these steps to properly set up your Microsoft Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro joystick:

1. **Power Connection:** The joystick requires an external AC power adapter for force feedback functionality. Ensure you have the correct power adapter (not always included with used units) and connect it to the joystick and a power outlet. Without the power adapter, the force feedback features will

not operate.

2. **Computer Connection:** The Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro connects to your computer via a 15-pin gameport connector. Locate the gameport on your computer's sound card or motherboard. This joystick is not natively compatible with USB ports. If your computer lacks a gameport, a specialized USB-to-gameport adapter may be required, though full force feedback functionality might be limited or unavailable with such adapters.
3. **Driver Installation:** After connecting the joystick, power on your computer. Windows operating systems typically detect new hardware. You may need to install specific drivers for the Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro. These drivers were usually provided on a CD-ROM with the original product or can be found on the Microsoft support website for older operating systems. For newer operating systems (Windows 7, 8, 10, or later), official driver support may be limited or non-existent, potentially requiring community-developed drivers or compatibility modes.
4. **Calibration:** Once drivers are installed, calibrate the joystick through your operating system's game controller settings. This ensures accurate response from the stick and controls.

### 3. Operating the Joystick

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The Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro is designed for intuitive control in PC games.

- **Basic Control:** Use the main stick for directional control (pitch, roll, yaw in flight simulators). The integrated throttle wheel allows for precise speed or power adjustments.
- **Force Feedback:** In games that support Force Feedback technology, the joystick will provide tactile responses such as vibrations, resistance, or jolts, simulating in-game events like collisions, engine stalls, or weapon fire. The intensity of these forces can often be adjusted within the game's settings or through the Sidewinder control panel in Windows. You can also choose to disable force feedback entirely if preferred.
- **Programmable Buttons:** The joystick features eight buttons. Use the included Game Device Profiler software (if available and compatible with your OS) to assign specific keyboard commands or macros to these buttons, customizing your gameplay experience.
- **Shift Button:** The shift button, when held down, doubles the functionality of the other buttons, the hat switch, throttle wheel, trigger, and handle movements, providing a wider range of accessible commands without lifting your hand from the stick.
- **Digital-Optical Accuracy:** The built-in digital-optical camera provides highly accurate and drift-free positioning, ensuring your in-game movements precisely match your physical joystick input.

### 4. Maintenance

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To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro joystick, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the joystick's surfaces. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth with mild soap can be used, but ensure no liquid enters the internal components. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the joystick in a clean, dry environment away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust.
- **Cable Care:** Avoid kinking or sharply bending the connection cable. Do not pull on the cable to disconnect the joystick from the computer or power supply.
- **Avoid Impact:** Protect the joystick from drops or impacts, which can damage internal mechanisms or

external components.

## 5. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

- **Joystick Not Detected:**

- Ensure the 15-pin gameport connector is securely plugged into your computer's gameport.
- Verify that the gameport on your sound card or motherboard is enabled in your computer's BIOS or device manager.
- Check if the necessary drivers are installed. For older hardware, drivers might need to be installed manually or in compatibility mode for newer Windows versions.

- **No Force Feedback:**

- Confirm that the external AC power adapter is connected and receiving power. Force feedback requires this power supply.
- Ensure the game you are playing supports Force Feedback technology.
- Check in-game settings and Windows game controller settings to ensure force feedback is enabled and calibrated.
- If using a USB-to-gameport adapter, force feedback functionality may not be supported by the adapter.

- **Inaccurate or Drifting Control:**

- Recalibrate the joystick through your operating system's game controller settings.
- Ensure the joystick is placed on a stable, flat surface during use.

- **Compatibility with Modern Systems:**

- The Microsoft Sidewinder Force Feedback Pro was designed for older Windows operating systems (e.g., Windows 95/98/Me/2000/XP). Compatibility with Windows 7, 8, 10, or later is not officially supported by Microsoft and may require third-party drivers, community patches, or specific hardware configurations (like older sound cards with gameports) to function, often with limited or no force feedback.

## 6. Specifications

<b>Product Dimensions</b>	9.69 x 10.75 x 8.5 inches
<b>Item Weight</b>	5.8 pounds
<b>Model Number</b>	656-00082
<b>Brand</b>	Microsoft
<b>Connectivity Technology</b>	IR (Infrared) for internal positioning, Gameport for PC connection
<b>Compatible Devices</b>	Windows PCs (primarily older versions)
<b>Controller Type</b>	Joystick with Force Feedback

## 7. Warranty and Support

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This product is an older model and may no longer be covered by a manufacturer's warranty. For support regarding drivers, compatibility, or troubleshooting, please refer to historical Microsoft support resources or community forums dedicated to classic PC gaming hardware. Specific warranty details would have been provided at the time of original purchase.