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## SteelSeries Apex M400

# SteelSeries Apex M400 Illuminated Mechanical Gaming Keyboard User Manual

Model: Apex M400

## INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your SteelSeries Apex M400 Illuminated Mechanical Gaming Keyboard. The Apex M400 is designed for performance, featuring SteelSeries QX1 Linear Mechanical Gaming Switches and blue LED backlighting.



**Figure 1:** The SteelSeries Apex M400 Illuminated Mechanical Gaming Keyboard, showcasing its full layout and blue LED backlighting.

## PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items are present in your product packaging:

- SteelSeries Apex M400 Keyboard
- Quick Start Guide (QSG)

- SteelSeries Stickers



Figure 2: The SteelSeries Apex M400 keyboard as it appears in its retail packaging, indicating included items.

## SETUP

### Connecting the Keyboard

1. Unpack the SteelSeries Apex M400 keyboard from its packaging.
2. Locate an available USB port on your computer.
3. Insert the USB connector from the keyboard into the USB port. The keyboard is plug-and-play and should be recognized automatically by your operating system (Windows 10 or later recommended).
4. For optimal cable management, route the keyboard cable through the integrated channels on the underside of the keyboard to exit from the center, left, or right side.



Figure 3: The underside of the Apex M400 keyboard, illustrating the integrated cable routing channels for organized cable management.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

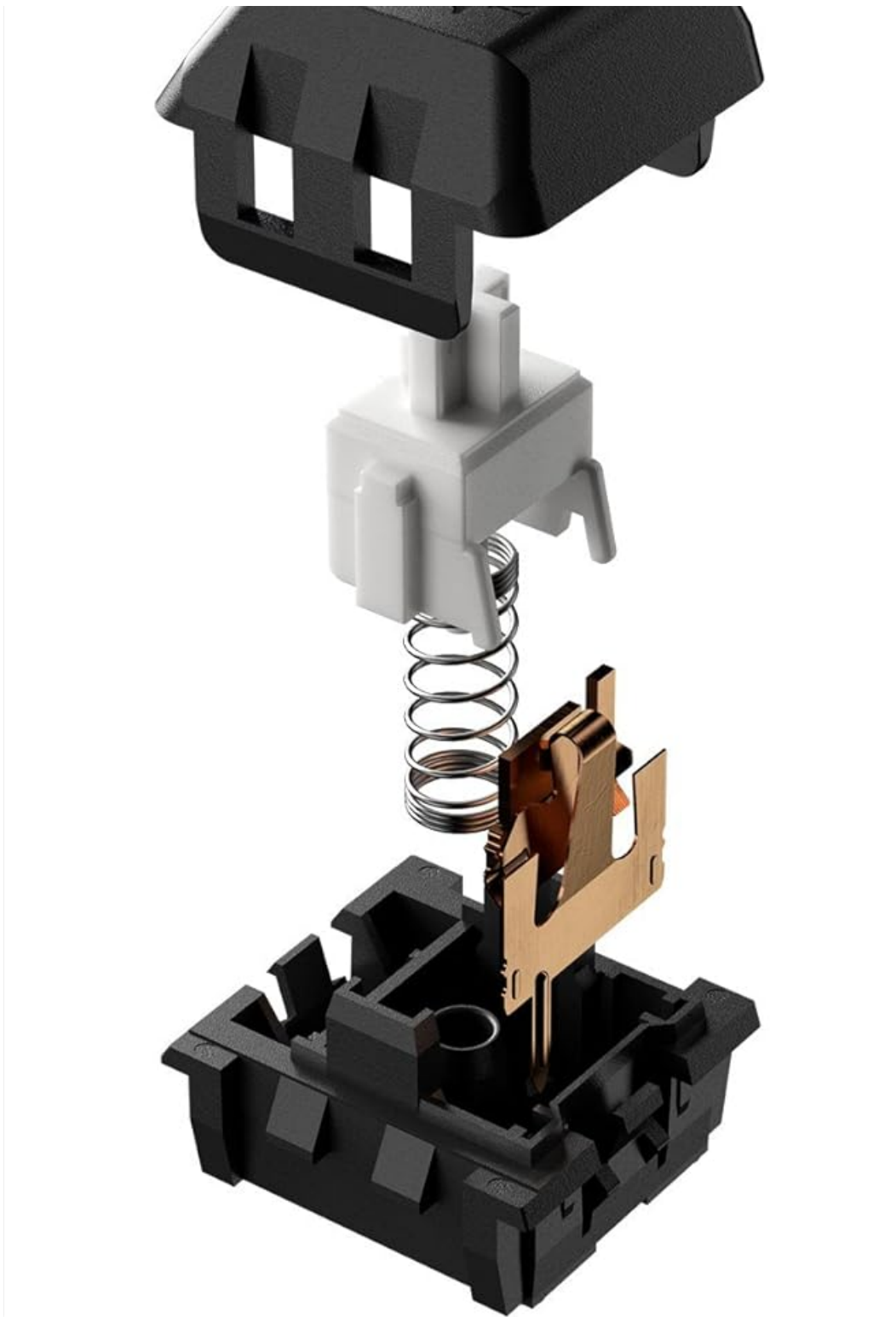
## Key Features

- **SteelSeries QX1 Linear Mechanical Switches:** These switches provide a smooth, consistent keystroke with a linear feel, designed for rapid actuation.
- **Blue LED Backlighting:** The keyboard features individual blue LED backlighting for each key, enhancing visibility in various lighting conditions.
- **Anti-Ghosting and N-Key Rollover:** The Apex M400 supports 100% anti-ghosting and 104-key rollover, ensuring every keystroke is registered accurately, even during complex key combinations.
- **Media Controls:** Utilize the function (Fn) key in combination with the F-keys (F5-F12) for quick access to media playback controls (play/pause, stop, previous, next, volume up/down, mute).



**Figure 4:** A close-up of a keycap, showing the Kailh mechanical switch and the blue LED illumination beneath it.





**Figure 5:** An exploded diagram illustrating the internal components of a mechanical switch, including the keycap, stem, spring, and housing.

## Customization with SteelSeries Engine

The SteelSeries Apex M400 is 100% programmable using the SteelSeries Engine software. This software allows you to:

- Remap individual keys.
- Create and assign macros.
- Adjust backlighting settings (if applicable, based on software features).
- Create custom profiles for different applications or games.

Download the latest version of SteelSeries Engine from the official SteelSeries website ([steelseries.com/engine](https://steelseries.com/engine)) for full customization capabilities.

## MAINTENANCE

### Cleaning the Keyboard

- **General Cleaning:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth slightly dampened with water or a mild cleaning solution to wipe down the keycaps and chassis. Avoid excessive moisture.
- **Dust Removal:** Use compressed air to remove dust and debris from between the keycaps.
- **Deep Cleaning (Keycaps):** For thorough cleaning, keycaps can be carefully removed using a keycap puller (not included) and washed with mild soap and water. Ensure keycaps are completely dry before reattaching.

**Caution:** Do not immerse the keyboard in liquid. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive materials, as these may damage the keyboard's finish or components.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

### Keyboard Not Responding

- Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the keyboard and the computer.
- Try connecting the keyboard to a different USB port on your computer.
- Test the keyboard on another computer to determine if the issue is with the keyboard or the original computer's setup.
- Restart your computer.

### Keys Not Registering or Ghosting

- The Apex M400 features 100% anti-ghosting and 104-key rollover. If you experience issues, ensure the SteelSeries Engine software is up to date.
- Clean the affected keys as described in the Maintenance section to remove any debris that might be obstructing the switch.

### Backlighting Not Working

- Ensure the keyboard is properly connected and receiving power.
- Check the SteelSeries Engine software for any backlighting settings that might be turned off or set to a very low brightness.

## SPECIFICATIONS

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Brand             | SteelSeries                                       |
| Model Name        | Apex M400   |
| Item Model Number | 64555   |
| Switch Type       | SteelSeries QX1 Linear Mechanical Gaming Switches |
| Backlighting      | Blue LED Backlit                                  |
| Anti-Ghosting     | 100% Anti-Ghosting                                |



|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Key Rollover</b>           | 104-Key Rollover   |
| <b>Connectivity</b>           | USB  |
| <b>Hardware Platform</b>      | PC   |
| <b>Operating System</b>       | Windows 10 (and compatible with earlier versions)            |
| <b>Dimensions (L x W x H)</b> | 44.04 x 13.64 x 3.96 cm (approx. 17.34 x 5.37 x 1.56 inches) |
| <b>Weight</b>                 | 1.7 kg (approx. 3.75 lbs)                                    |
| <b>Material</b>               | Composite with Reinforced Steel Back Plate                   |

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

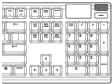
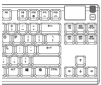

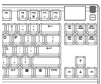
For detailed warranty information, technical support, and frequently asked questions, please visit the official SteelSeries website:



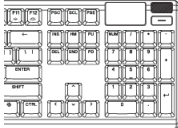
[steelseries.com/support](https://steelseries.com/support)

You can also find product registration and driver downloads on the support page.

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## Related Documents - Apex M400

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p><b>APEX 5</b><br/>PRODUCT INFORMATION GUIDE</p>     | <p><a href="#">SteelSeries Apex 5 Product Information Guide</a></p> <p>Comprehensive guide to the SteelSeries Apex 5 gaming keyboard, covering features, setup, multimedia controls, macro recording, and system requirements. Includes OLED display and SteelSeries Engine customization.</p>                        |
|  <p><b>APEX 7 TKL</b><br/>PRODUCT INFORMATION GUIDE</p> | <p><a href="#">SteelSeries Apex 7 TKL Product Information Guide</a></p> <p>Comprehensive guide to the SteelSeries Apex 7 TKL gaming keyboard, covering features, setup, functions, and compatibility. Learn to use SteelSeries Engine for customization.</p>  |
|  <p><b>APEX 3 TKL</b><br/>PRODUCT INFORMATION GUIDE</p> | <p><a href="#">SteelSeries Apex 3 TKL Keyboard: Product Information Guide</a></p> <p>A comprehensive guide to the SteelSeries Apex 3 TKL keyboard, covering its features, setup, functions, and compatibility. Learn about SteelSeries Engine, multimedia controls, macro recording, and illumination brightness.</p> |
|  <p><b>APEX 7 TKL</b><br/>PRODUCT INFORMATION GUIDE</p> | <p><a href="#">SteelSeries Apex 7 TKL Keyboard Product Information Guide</a></p> <p>This guide provides comprehensive product information for the SteelSeries Apex 7 TKL keyboard, covering its features, setup, functions, compatibility, and regulatory details.</p>  |

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|---|--|
| <div data-bbox="154 105 272 123" data-label="Text"><p>STEELSERIES SHIFT</p></div> <div data-bbox="129 165 296 271" data-label="Image">A black SteelSeries Shift gaming keyboard with a numeric keypad and a wrist rest.</div> <div data-bbox="189 338 236 351" data-label="Text"><p>USER GUIDE</p></div>   | <div data-bbox="341 174 786 203" data-label="Section-Header"><p><a href="#">SteelSeries Shift Keyboard User Guide</a></p></div> <div data-bbox="341 215 1445 284" data-label="Text"><p>A comprehensive user guide for the SteelSeries Shift gaming keyboard, covering setup, features, software installation, profile customization, and usage.</p></div>  |
| <div data-bbox="129 416 296 443" data-label="Image">The SteelSeries logo, featuring a stylized 'S' and the word 'steelseries'.</div> <div data-bbox="114 504 292 631" data-label="Image">A diagram of the SteelSeries Apex Pro Gaming Keyboard showing the key layout and the illuminated display on the right side.</div> <div data-bbox="178 694 248 707" data-label="Text"><p>APEX PRO</p></div> <div data-bbox="158 710 269 721" data-label="Text"><p>PRODUCT INFORMATION GUIDE</p></div> | <div data-bbox="341 504 1107 533" data-label="Section-Header"><p><a href="#">SteelSeries Apex Pro Gaming Keyboard Product Information Guide</a></p></div> <div data-bbox="341 544 1450 651" data-label="Text"><p>Comprehensive guide to the SteelSeries Apex Pro gaming keyboard, covering setup, features, functions, and software integration. Learn about customizable actuation, macro recording, lighting controls, and multimedia functions.</p></div> |