

iPad mini Gets Tactus Physical Keys

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The iPad mini is the first device to get physical on-screen buttons from Tactus Technology with the Phorm, a screen protector able to pop-up a physical keyboard whenever the user needs to type.



Described as a "morphing tactile surface," the technology uses "tiles" (Tactile Pixels) to turn specific areas of the screen into squishy tactile buttons via micro-fluid. Once the keyboard is not needed the keys disappear with the flick of a trigger. The technology is technically not too new, having [made its first appearance back at CES 2013.](#)

However one has to note the keys only work while holding the device in portrait mode, but Tactus says it is working on a case offering both landscape and portrait support.

The actual case promises to be thin and light, adding just 3mm of thickness to the tablet while weighting 180g.

iPad mini-compatible versions of the Phorm case should hit the market by Q2 2014, and preorders are already opens. An iPhone 6 version should follow from Q4 2015, before the company refines its technology further to fit other members of the iDevice family.

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