Why a Manual Typewriter Is Better Than a Computer

By, Bert Rosica, May 22, 2012

1. No power cords.
2. No cords connecting to a printer.
3. No cords connecting to an external hard drive.
4. No cords connecting to anything.
5. No software to install.
6. No software to download.
7. No drivers to download.
8. No driver updates to download.
9. No software updates to download.
10. A typewriter can't crash.
11. No "Fatal System Error" messages.
12. If a typewriter doesn't work (which virtually never happens) you just open it up and look for the problem.
13. If a typewriter has a problem, you can usually fix it yourself.
14. Typewriters have a lot of really cool mechanical parts.
15. The feel of the keys.
16. The sound of the keys.
17. The sound of the bell when you reach the end of a line.
18. The sound of the carriage as it returns.
19. The handle you push to make the carriage return.
20. The typewriter leaves you alone. It lets you type. If you make a mistake, so be it.
21. The typewriter makes you think about putting words on the page in a manner similar to how a slide rule makes you think about mathematical calculations.
22. The sound of the platen turning when you pull out a finished page.
23. Typewriters have character. No two are exactly alike.
24. No font to choose.
25. No font color to choose. Unless you have two tone ribbon.
26. No font size to choose.
27. You don't have to format your font.
28. As you type, your product is physically there before you.
29. No print button to push.
30. No "Print Failed" messages.
31. If something goes wrong, you are not asked if you want to sent a message to Microsoft (as if there is someone there to respond anyway). But again, nothing goes wrong with a typewriter in the first place.
32. No printer to format.
33. No leaving your desk to retrieve your printed work.
34. The typewriter can reflect your mood. If you are upset and you type harder as a result, it will show in your work because the keys will penetrate the paper.
35. As you type, there is a pile of blank paper on one side and a pile of finished work on the other. As you progress, one gets bigger and one gets smaller making you feel like you are accomplishing something.
36. Typing makes you feel connected to a bygone era.
37. Typing slows things down and can make you relax. We all could use some slowing down and relaxation.
38. When I type, it calls to mind Andy Rooney. He typed at a time when there was a lot to type about. (Of course there always is.) I like to call to mind Andy Rooney.
I like baseball. Shirley Povich used a typewriter. Need I say more?

There is no chance what you type will be uploaded inadvertently to the internet for all the world to see whether you want it to or not. Typewriters are secure and private.

There is no spell check. You need to learn how to spell and use a dictionary. In the process, you will improve your vocabulary.

There is no grammar check. Read Strunk & White and learn how to use it.

No annoying perforated red underlines telling you something is mis-spelled.

No annoying perforated green underlines telling you something isn't punctuated properly. (They are not always correct anyway.)

You need to think as you type.

You need to learn to strike with accuracy.

Once you type it, it better be good and mean something, because it's not easy to change. This teaches discipline and discernment.

The typewriter does not power down on its own if it is idle for some period of time.

You don't have to wait for it to power up after it has powered down.

You don't have to "boot up."

If you are working late and happen to fall asleep at the keyboard with one of your fingers pressing against a key, you don't wake up later to discover you have just typed 2,359 pages of the letter "k."

The typewriter gives you an appreciation for, and teaches you to respect, the written word.

No mouse.

No tutorials. You don't need them with a typewriter.

A typewriter is like a great old movie. Its greatness is its content, not the special effects.

You don't get interrupted with e-mails.

No one tries to "friend" you.

If you spill coffee on your keyboard, you don't have to worry about it shorting anything out.

I have some really expensive white grease that I use on my good fishing reels, now I have something else to use it on.

No one in the family is bothering me to use my typewriter to get online.

The typewriter does exactly what I tell it. It doesn't try to "guess" that I wanted to capitalize something or what I might be planning to type next. When the computer does this, it is usually wrong anyway.

A ribbon costs a lot less than toner or ink and it lasts a lot longer.

When I come to the end of a line, I decide when the carriage returns.

If I don't like or want what I've typed, I simply remove the page and shred it. That's it. It doesn't remain hidden away somewhere in a hard drive even after I have deleted it.

The hard drive never gets full. Just add more paper.

When I am working on my typewriter, everybody knows it.

When I am working on my typewriter, it can't be confused with playing solitaire or shopping on the web.

People really enjoy receiving a typed letter. It's much more personal. And it's a novelty.
It is easy to type an address on a label or envelope.

If I want to handwrite something on a piece of paper I've typed, I just do. I don't need an app.

When I type, I am not distracted by all the other things on a computer that are all ultimately less fulfilling.

Most typewriters are made in America.

A typewriter is solid. It is made of steel.

All the controls on my typewriter are mechanical. If I mess up one, it doesn't automatically mess up a bunch of others like it does on a computer.

A typewriter isn't rendered obsolete by the next generation typewriter.

Nor is it rendered obsolete by the next generation software package.

There are no gamers on typewriters.

If a typewriter breaks (they rarely, if ever, do) you take it to some old guy that has interesting stories to tell rather than some young kid that doesn't know anything. You have more in common with that old guy - even if you're not old.

You don't need extended warranties. (You can't get them anyway.

Typewriters bring you back to a time gone by that seems better than now - even if it wasn't.

You can't watch a movie on a typewriter.

You can write a screenplay on a typewriter.

If someone sees you (or hears you) typing on a typewriter, they will stop and ask you about it and you will have something interesting to discuss. No one ever asks me about my computer.

A typewritten page isn't backlit.

A typewritten page is the next best thing to a hand written page. A computer printed paged can't compare to either.

I never have paper jams in my typewriter.

A typewriter does not contribute to global warming.

A typewriter is to a computer what a sailboat is to a powerboat. One may be faster, the other is unquestionably better.

A typewriter does not put strain on your eyes like a computer does.

No "Incompatible Software" messages.

If I want to "Carbon Copy" someone, I get to use real carbon paper.

Now my kids can learn what real carbon paper is and why they "CC" someone - or at least they will know where the term "CC" came from.

I now have a use for those 3 bottles of white-out I have been saving in my desk drawer for so many years.

An original typewritten page is truly original.

When I am finished typing, I just stop. I don't have to shut anything down or save anything.

There is no need for RAM, whatever that is. But whatever that is, there never seems to be enough of it.

You never receive a "not responding" message.

You never receive any messages from you typewriter. Because you don't need them.

You never have to reboot your typewriter.

My typewriter is sturdy. My computer is flimsy.
101. They say you should replace your computer every 3 years. Something about obsolescence or just not working properly after some period of time. Apparently that period of time is three years. My computer attests to that.

102. Typewriters on the other hand apparently last forever. The one I am typing on right now is more than sixty years old and by the looks of things, is good for another sixty years.

103. You don't run multiple apps on a typewriter. It does just one thing - it types. But it does it well.

104. A typewriter does not have to be compatible with anything to function properly.

105. A typewriter does not need a WiFi signal.

106. A typewriter does not need to connect to the internet.

107. Typewriters cost less than computers. I paid $15 for this one.

108. It is fun to work on typewriters. I wouldn't even know where to begin on a computer.

109. You don't have to dock or undock your typewriter into anything.

110. No screen name.

111. No screen saver.

112. No Screen.

113. I use all the keys on my typewriter and know exactly what they do.

114. There are many keys on the computer I have never used and have no idea what they are for.

115. I don't have to scan my typewriter for viruses.

116. There is nothing to "configure" on a typewriter.

117. No "Low Battery" messages.

118. Typewriters are much more interesting-looking than computers.

119. I have never had the urge - or felt the need - to raise my voice to, or swear at, or feel driven to smash with a baseball bat, my typewriter. I feel those urges constantly regarding my computer.

120. Pounding the typewriter keys relieves stress.

121. Computers induce anxiety.

122. No spam on a typewriter.

123. I never have to unsubscribe to anything on a typewriter.

THE END (For now!)