

Hardware Review:

Saitek R100 USB Sports Wheel An Affordable, But Quality Built Steering Wheel

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Small Wheel Delivers Big Results

I don't have a lot of room on my desk for some fancy-schmancy expensive force-feedback wheel. I also didn't want to spend a bicep and a tricep for a wheel. I shopped around for a compact wheel which would enhance my current and upcoming driving skills in PC games. My price point is set at around \$30 bananas. With great driving games being released this holiday season such as NFS Underground 2, it's a great time to consider a wheel. My original plan was to pick up the Saitek R80 but I could not find it anywhere. The R80 had no floor mounted gas and brake pedals because they were both attached to the wheel. As space was at a premium on my desktop, this seemed like a good idea. A few phone calls later confirmed this model was discontinued, but alas, the R100 seemed to fit my requirements nicely. The R100 is quite similar to the R80, but includes the stable non-slip designed floor gas and brake pedals. The R100 has actually been out for quite a few years, a testament to its success in the marketplace. When my approximately 11"x11"x11" square box arrived I felt all tingly inside (I know, it doesn't take much), and I proceeded to hook it up to my killer Alienware rig without a hitch. Installation was simple and moments later I was pulling 123 MPH in NFS Hot Pursuit 2 before the "heat" took me down to the slammer! The ergonomic comfortable grip with 2 wheel-mounted gear shift paddles makes manual shifts a breeze. There are 2 wheel buttons for added functionality depending on the driving game. The desktop mounting clamp is first class and secures tighter than a college freshman's first wedgie. This wheel is truly a bargain and combines outstanding quality at an affordable price. The two year warranty is like icing on the cake—a nice Saitek touch! If you are interested in more upgraded or feature rich wheels from Saitek, check out either the R440 or R220. To learn more about the R100 USB Sports Wheel or any of Saitek's other quality products, visit www.saitekusa.com.

Reviewed on [Alienware](http://www.alienware.com) Area 51 Desktop Computer.

Note: The R100 can be purchased at Amazon.com for \$24.98, J&R.com for \$29.88, and Overstock.com for \$15.99.