

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD

### The Tactslider Game Controller (MSRP \$ 19.95)

If you play videogames on your smartphone or tablet you will really want to know about this tiny joystick that can definitely enhance your game play. You simply stick the Tactslider onto the surface of your smartphone or tablet. Without batteries, Bluetooth, Wi-fi, or other software it instantly gives you surgical control of the animated action figures in hundreds of popular games. This joystick is about the size of a quarter and most of its surface is clear plastic so it will not physically block the view of your screen. With zero effort you can use your finger to move your game piece instantly in any direction. See photo.



It will stick to any glass surface or plastic screen protector. The manufacturer indicates that it uses “a unique adhesive film” to stick to your screen. You can’t feel this film when you touch the bottom of the unit that will stick to your screen. By placing a straight edge along its bottom I could detect that it is slightly concave and this allows the soft plastic of its outer shell to form a vacuum adhesion to your screen. If it’s a secret invisible glue or a tiny vacuum the results are the same. Its holding power is strong so you won’t have to worry about Tactslider slipping from the place you

attach it no matter much force you apply to get your action figure out of harm’s way or into the heat of the battle.

Even though it holds so tightly to your screen it can be easily picked up without leaving any scratches or unwanted residue. If its holding power ever diminishes you only need to clean off any dust, lint, or other particles that are preventing it from forming a vacuum seal. You can do this with a damp cloth or piece of scotch tape.

It comes with its own small storage case which has double sided tape on its bottom so you can affix it to the back of your phone or tablet. The surface inside of this case also has a sticky bottom to clean off any lint or other particles that your Tactslider might pick up when you are using it. You can check to see if your favorite games are compatible online at <http://www.tactslider.com/specifications>.

*Alan is co-author of **Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010** and a **TechDirections Magazine** Columnist . Visit [www.technologytoday.us](http://www.technologytoday.us) for past columns, reviews, and resources.*