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Isn't it a thing of  
beauty?  
Softpedia

## [Razer Naga MMO Gaming Mouse Review](#)

### *'Get Imba' with a real gamer mouse*

Without a doubt the gaming industry has become the main force behind the rapid advancement of today's computing technology. Gaming is no longer just pure fun and games or accessories are no longer made by gamers for gamers. Gaming has become an industry, with numerous accessories and games with budgets that would make any Hollywood motion picture cry. Yet again beyond the shadow of a doubt is the fact that one of the most successful companies in the gaming accessories industry is Razer.

With products ranging from gaming surfaces to gaming audio, accessories, mice, keyboards or other types of gear, Razer definitely has all bases covered. Speaking of gaming mice, I have just finished testing the Razer Naga, a mouse that has been especially created for gamers that are into Massive Multiplayer Only Role Playing Games such as World of Warcraft, Runes of Magic or the soon to come Star Wars: Knights of The Republic, Star Trek or Stargate Online.

If there is something that can be said about the Naga from the very first glance, then that is definitely related to its looks. The Naga is one great looking piece of technology and Razer sure knows how to take advantage of it. The device comes inside quite a big package that's made to look like a treasure chest, one that you normally find in most MMOs. Don't worry about traps or not having the right key since it is pretty simple to unpack. Once the chest is opened, inside you will find three items. A very cool looking pouch in which to insert your mouse whenever you want to take it with you (in tournaments or LAN parties maybe), the mouse itself and a scroll. While the scroll does not offer you any spells, it does provide you with a surface onto which you will place your mouse. I am pretty sure you got it by now: the nicely packed scroll is the actual mouse pad.

I suggest you keep on reading for a more in-depth analysis of the Naga MMO mouse because like with all devices of its kind, it comes with a lot of Pros but has its share of annoying and mood spoiling Cons as well. Will it really make you "Get Imba?" Stay tuned and find out!

[[BREAK=Design and Technical Specifications]]

### The Razer Naga

Like I mentioned in the introduction, the Razer Naga comes neatly packed together with a mouse pad and pouch. The pouch itself is quite simple and made so as to easily fit inside your jacket's side pockets even if the mouse is inside. One thing you have to beware though is this: it will not protect your mouse from the harsh weather, so don't "whip it out" on a rainy day. While it will keep it relatively safe for a while, you'll end up with a broken device quite quickly. Next in line is the Naga mouse pad, a very cool looking pad, though a bit too whitish for my taste. You'll immediately notice that the surface is very high quality and you will definitely not experience any problems when moving your mouse onto it. Since the pad makes up for about 20 percent of your actual gaming skills (especially in MMOs or First Person Shooters), the Naga mouse pad is definitely an ally that you want on your team and not the opponent's.

Since you're, of course, curious to see the "main attraction," I will keep you waiting no

longer. Meet the Razer Naga, a mouse that comes with its own attitude. In terms of design and overall appearance, the best way to describe this computer peripheral is "Wow!" If you've seen other Razer mice, you'll probably be familiar with the way it is shaped. It sports 12 buttons on the side, to be used with your thumb, as well as two additional, fully configurable buttons to its far left side that can be easily pressed using your index finger. Plug it in and you'll find it embraced by a cold blue light because the scroll wheel, Razer logo and the 12 side buttons light up when the mouse is plugged in the computer. While obviously there wasn't anything I could say about the specs regarding a pouch and mouse pad, the Naga mouse is a whole different enchilada.

The device sports a 3.5G Laser Sensor that allows it to reach a speed of 5600dpi. It has a response time of 1ms (100Hz Ultrapooling), as well as zero-acoustic Ultraslick Teflon feet. Together with the thumb grit, it comes with 17 MMO-optimized buttons and approximate size is 116 x 69 x 41.6mm (length, width, height).

Now that this is out of the way, how 'bout we see how the hardware performed under a series of strenuous testing? Next: Hardware Performance.

[[BREAK=Hardware Performance]]

I consider myself quite a gamer. Been one for as long as I can remember. There isn't a genre that I do not like, though I admit I like some more than others. Since to me the devices I use in order to play my favorite games matter as much as a good in-game control scheme, I decided to test out the mouse's features using some of my favorite titles.

The mouse's installation is quite simple. Just plug it into your USB drive and it is good to go. Of course, if you want the full features, you need to install the dedicated software that can be downloaded from Razer's website. Speaking of the software, you won't be seeing a lot of things that you can adjust. There's a choice of polling rates ranging from 125Hz to 500Hz and 100Hz, as well as the usual DPI setting. The standard setting is 3,000 but you can take it as high as 100 or 5,600.

There's also the option of setting X and Y sensitivity independently but that is something that you generally don't need. Next there's the Lighting and Maintenance tab where you can choose to turn off the mouse's lighting with separate choices for the Logo or Scroll Wheel and Keypad. Of course, you also get the Addons interface; however, I found it to be pretty useless since there are quite a few addons. There are no settings that allow you to configure all those available buttons and that is definitely the worst part of it all. The 1-12 buttons work either as numkeys or as regular numbers on the keyboard (1, 2, 3 and so on).

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In-game performance from a hardware standpoint is definitely top notch; my only complain being that if you are one to play for extensive periods of time, you might be bothered by the side panel lights getting warm to the touch. Not something you would normally mind especially if you forgot to turn on the heating. After a while however, you might experience that icky sticky feeling that comes whenever plastic and a sweaty finger rub against each other for too long.

The mouse works like it should. It is extremely responsive and pretty soon you'll find it has become an extension of yourself, with your fingers sliding seamlessly across the buttons and the front half of the number pad. Why the front half and not the full numpad? Because, my friends, if you can bend your thumb like you should in order to reach the 10/ 11/ 12 keys

and still make it feel ergonomic, you're my heros.

[IMG=23][IMG=24][IMG=25][IMG=26]

Otherwise, it performs admirably. Next in line is real-life performance, where we'll see just how good this mouse has functioned in game after a few hours of playing my favorite, be they Real Time Strategies, First Person Shooters or MMOs.

[[BREAK=Real-Life Performance]]

The first game I thought about trying out was definitely World of Warcraft, especially since there is also an interface add-on for it and I was curious how that would look like. Just so you know, I run most of my favorite games at a resolution of 1680x1050 pixels with all details set to maximum so when I install an add-on, I do not expect any problems with it.  
[IMG=27][IMG=28][IMG=29]

As for this particular add-on, I have a word of warning: DO NOT ACTIVATE ALL THE BARS. You'll get a mixed up jumble of buttons and copy-pasted things that you won't be able to make heads or tails of. Taken apart, it offers redesigned action bars, as well as a new XP bar and inventory screen. Unfortunately, while Razer excelled in designing the mouse, the WoW add-on bars look extremely, incredibly, utterly poor in design. Which is why the very next second, I uninstalled them.

Firing up the game again with my very own interface, I found the mouse to be quite responsive and easy to get used to. I programmed the only two programmable buttons so as to give my pet attack and return commands while I used the twelve keys in the "numbers" mode so as to attack or heal whenever I need to. Only problem was... I never actually got the chance to press the buttons since you tend to lose focus and I preferred to play the game the old fashioned way.  
[IMG=30][IMG=31][IMG=32]

However, one of my battles lasted for longer than I expected (over 40 minutes) and that's where the extra numpad came in handy: I could move my character and hit using just the mouse while with my left hand I was pouring mineral water into my glass. After drinking the water, I returned to using my left hand in order to press the numbers on my keyboard. My experience with the Naga in World of Warcraft? Great mouse with a lot of extra features that you won't be using unless you're thirsty. Good mouse to have if you're gaming in the desert.

Next I decided to take it for a spin and play my all time favorite MMO, namely Runes of Magic, thinking that seeing how I am quite a proficient RoM player, the mouse might give me an extra edge. Which it did. I changed it so it used the "numkeys" configuration and while I still used the classic "left hand on keyboard" way of playing, I chose to press the mouse keys for other chores such as throwing a dagger, giving a more advanced command to my pet and so on.

Something that I didn't like when playing that particular game is the fact that it had issues recognizing the two programmable buttons and I couldn't use them at all. Something that I encountered in other MMO games besides WoW and RoM as well (I was curious if it was a Runes of Magic-only defect so I got a few trials or free MMOs and tested the buttons).[IMG=33][IMG=34][IMG=35]

The conclusion in regards to playing MMO games using the Razer Naga? While the device will definitely give you an extra edge, the fact that it only gives you two extra configurable buttons and the other 12 are just there as clones of either the numpad or the number keys is a no-no in my book. Instead of offering 12 cloned keyboard buttons out of which only half can be used in a way that will actually help your gaming, Razer should have added more buttons that could work as separate, fully configurable input options (you know: mouse button 4, 5, 6 and so on) while keeping just 6 of the cloned buttons. Or they could have allowed to user to choose whether the buttons would be employed independently or as cloned keyboard keys.

Next I thought about seeing how the device would handle if I played one of my favorite real time strategy games, for example. I chose Command and Conquer - Tiberium Wars because, unfortunately, StarCraft (best RTS of all times) does show its age when it comes to configuring keys and so on (you can't). After a few minutes playing C&C, I have to admit I was surprised of how good I'd become. The extra keys on the mouse would let me select groups and deal with micromanagement faster while my left hand would issue other commands. Sure more configurable buttons would have been great, nevertheless it was a rewarding experience. Especially since I set up the two separate buttons to issue the Hold Ground or Attack Stance command, which helped me reduce the number of casualties that I had after every mission. My experience with the Naga in RTS games? Amazing! Definitely helps reduce the pain of micromanagement.

Last but not least, I went all out and fired up a First Person Shooter. Since I wanted something with a lot of depth to it, I chose Fallout 3. I initially thought that the buttons might help me switch weapons faster but I found myself relying on the good old number keys on my keyboard and switching weapons via mouse interface only from time to time out of boredom or just "because." What did help me a lot, however, is that I used the two programmable buttons to enter slash exit the VATS aiming interface, which anyone that's played Fallout 3 knows is used quite often and can become annoying. As far as First Person Shooters go, the Naga is a friend indeed every time you need a quick change in pacing and so on. Of course, the lack of extra customizable buttons is visible. Time to end this part and head towards the conclusion, but not before I give you my overall impression after spending one week with the Naga. No matter what kind of gamer you are, you will find the mouse to be quite useful even if most of the time you won't be using the number keys on the side. When you do use them though, it usually happens in order to gain an edge. Which you do. This is definitely its strongest point: while you won't be using it a lot, when you do, you're usually doing it to assure your victory.

[[BREAK=Conclusions]]

### **The Good**

The Razer Naga is a mouse that has been made with gamers in mind. It can really help you get an extra edge in the heat of the battle and the fact that the 12 keys can be set up to work as numkeys or the keyboard's regular number keys is definitely a bonus. Very precise and responsive, with two extra buttons that can be programmed to perform diverse functions, you will definitely enjoy owning it. No matter if you play regular RPGs, MMOs, FPS or RTS games, you're bound to find a faithful friend in the Razer Naga.

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### **The Bad**

While I cannot say there is something truly bad about the Naga, it is definitely lacking a few

things that I find to be essential in a good gaming mouse. More than two programmable (aka keyboard independent) buttons and fully accessible keypad. I mean, the keypad is fully accessible but only the first 6 keys can be considered truly ergonomic. Keys 7 to 12 are quite hard to reach especially in an RTS when every second can decide the fate of your troops.

## **Overall Impressions**

All in all, the Razer Naga is a mouse worthy of joining your army of gaming-oriented peripherals. Very responsive, customizable DPI settings and, of course, all those buttons amount for quite a fun and impressive little gadget. It can definitely take on the best of them and has a chance of leaving the scene as the winner. However, the Razer Naga is not a mouse that will guarantee your success. You won't "Get Imba" but in some moments, it will offer you an advantage in speed due to the extra keys that it sports on the side.

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As far as the "specially designed for MMOs" idea, I found it to be a lot better in real time strategies.

I can definitely find very good use for it from a gamer's standpoint and, to be honest, it looks so good that even if you don't want the mouse for its specifications and overall performance, you'll want it in order to impress your friends when they come to visit. I had a great time testing it and I am sorry to let it go but like that old saying goes, all good things come to an end. Just like my time with the Naga, just like this review. See you again next time!

## **Sales Package**

The Razer Naga MMO mouse;  
Mouse Pouch;  
The Naga Mouse Pad;  
Quick Start Guide;  
Master Guide;  
Razer Stickers;  
Trainers for the thumb grid.