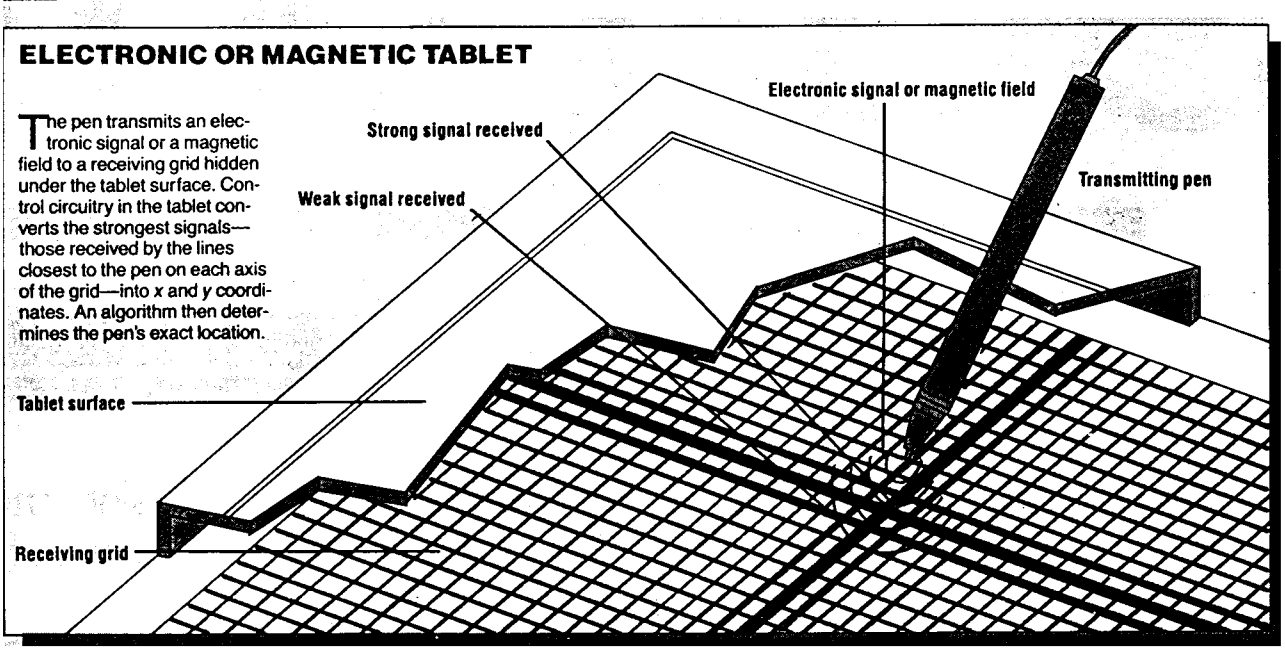
How a Tablet Works

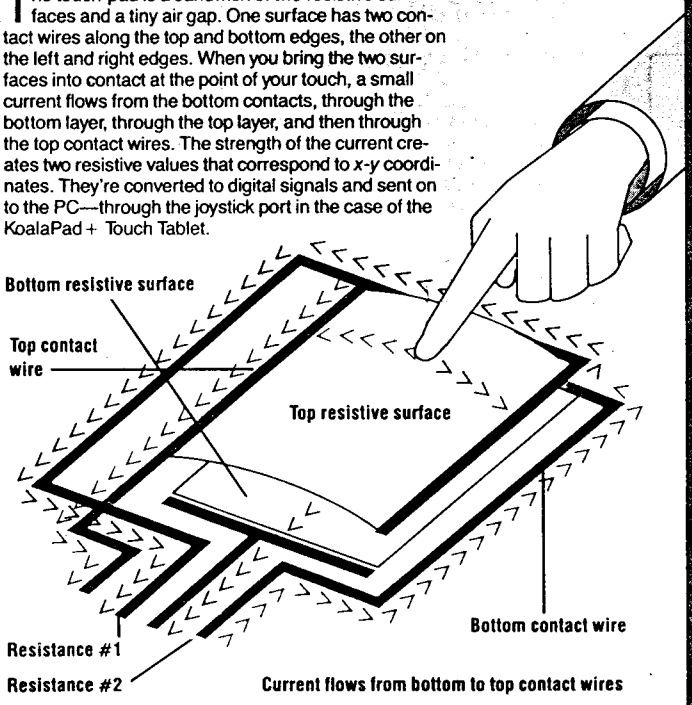
ELECTRONIC OR MAGNETIC TABLET

The pen transmits an electronic signal or a magnetic field to a receiving grid hidden under the tablet surface. Control circuitry in the tablet converts the strongest signals—those received by the lines closest to the pen on each axis of the grid—into *x* and *y* coordinates. An algorithm then determines the pen's exact location.



RESISTIVE TOUCH-PAD

The touch-pad is a sandwich of two resistive surfaces and a tiny air gap. One surface has two contact wires along the top and bottom edges, the other on the left and right edges. When you bring the two surfaces into contact at the point of your touch, a small current flows from the bottom contacts, through the bottom layer, through the top layer, and then through the top contact wires. The strength of the current creates two resistive values that correspond to *x*-*y* coordinates. They're converted to digital signals and sent on to the PC—through the joystick port in the case of the KoalaPad+ Touch Tablet.



ACOUSTIC TABLET

The pen transmits high-frequency sound waves that are received by microphones at the corners of the work area. The strength of the signal received at each microphone is measured to indicate the pen's distance from that microphone, and triangulation is used with the two distance measurements to determine the pen's position.