

Techno magic



The technology that powers the wand is based on science, but it is so advanced and so miniaturised that it might as well be magic. Based on the advances in motion sensing, the accelerometer that tells the wand's microprocessor how hard it is and in which direction accelerating was originally developed for use in cars. These tiny silicon architectures are microscopically small but can detect the force of gravity even at rest. They are the sort of thing that detects if you are slowing down very rapidly in a traffic accident and signals for the airbag to deploy, or you'll find them in mobile phones and cameras telling the device which way up to put the picture.

The wand has a special three axis accelerometer that can measure the g force in x-y-and -z. Using this information, and constantly updating the programme for the orientation of the wand, a special program on the onboard microprocessor can tell how the wand is being moved about. Using some clever maths the microprocessor determines if the move made by the wand bearer was a deliberate one and if so, whether or not it was one of

the predefined gestures programmed into it at manufacture. If it recognises the gesture then the wand's microprocessor plays back the infra red remote code that it has been taught by the user to associate with that gesture. A very small vibration motor similar to that found in a mobile phone gently pulses inside the wand to give what is called haptic feedback to the user so that they know that the wand has understood the gesture and has emitted an infrared remote control code.

The whole assembly is squeezed into the shape of a wand, and put together so that there are no visible seams and no unsightly screws to give the game away and that's it, the Kymera Wand.

It's simple really.

Spin back 50 or 100 years and what the wand does would have been real magic, but if you spin back a further 200 years it's likely you would have been burnt at the stake for using the Kymera Wand. But then you wouldn't have had a 72inch plasma screen to magically control.