



CoolTouch-E
 \$39.99
 Aerocool
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Aerocool CoolTouch-E

Recently we gave Aerocool's CoolTouch-R a spin, letting it give our test system's fans a spin. (See the January 2014 issue of *CPU*.) The CoolTouch-R packs a heck of a lot of fun into a single 5.25-inch bay, with four fan channels, a temperature sensor, one USB 3.0 port, and two memory card slots. Having this much utility in a single-bay fan controller can be helpful, of course, but there are plenty of users who simply need a fan controller to, you know, control fans. If you'd rather have a jack-of-one-trade and save a few bucks in the process, Aerocool has your thing: the CoolTouch-E.

The CoolTouch-E is the minimalist's fan controller. Up front, it has a touch-sensitive LCD screen, as is often the case with Aerocool fan controllers, and nothing else. The screen itself measures approximately 4 inches diagonally and displays a wealth of information. On the left, there's a fan animation similar to the CoolTouch-R's; like the CoolTouch-R, it means all systems are go for the selected fan. The currently

selected channel is displayed in the middle of the screen, and arrows on either side let you switch channels. Just to the left, there's a control that lets you disable a given fan. On the other side of the channel display, two speed control buttons fulfill the CoolTouch-E's promise. The fan controller can run fans at three speeds: 50%, 75%, and 100%. Most of the top half of the CoolTouch-E's screen is a speed indicator, so you can see just how hard the CoolTouch-E is working your fans.

We can't forget about the button tucked away in the bottom-right of the CoolTouch-E's screen. Another carryover from the CoolTouch-R, this button lets you change the color of the fan controller's backlight. Taste this rainbow: red, green, yellow, blue, purple, light blue, and white. Obviously, this makes the CoolTouch-E an excellent choice if your build has a particular color theme and you're looking to match or complement that color. You can also turn

the CoolTouch-E's display off, if you do not like fun.

Installation is as easy as ever. Slide the unit into an open bay and secure it with the included mounting screws. That's really all there is to it. Then, connect your fans to the CoolTouch-E. Again, the CoolTouch-E takes a page from its big brother, as you're able to connect any case fan in your arsenal, whether it has a 3-pin, 4-pin, or 4-pin Molex connector. Each of the CoolTouch-E's four channels can supply up to 20 watts to connected fans.

The CoolTouch-E gives you nice control over your system's case fans without requiring much space. The impressive palette of display colors is great, too. If you crave bells and whistles, the \$10 premium for Aerocool's CoolTouch-R may be a better option. Otherwise, the CoolTouch-E is a solid fan controller at a friendly price. ■

BY VINCE COGLEY

Specs: Connectors: 4 3-/4-pin connectors, 4 4-pin Molex connectors; Max wattage per channel: 20W; Cable length: 26.5 inches (main power and fan power cables); Compatibility: 1 5.25-inch bay; LED backlight: 7 colors