Alternate hand controller for use with tablet & pen combo or mouse

The device is a small touchscreen, approximately 3”wide by 6” long, and has several user defined or program defined “buttons” on it, each customized for whatever application the user is running. The user would be able to define macros and access them with one touch without needing to memorize where exactly what keyboard combination they mapped it to because the controller would always display a graphical reminder.

The controller would track the usage of menu options and suggest to users that they put frequently used options onto the controller.

The device could live alongside a standard keyboard, or replace it for users of tablet PCs, offering a small, portable keyboard without needing to sacrifice main-display real estate. It would be compatible with iPhone-like text input, and could utilize developing technologies such as Swype.

The device is intended for use by graphics tablet users, and may be especially well suited for graphics design work, as one hand typically remains on the pen, while the other is either idle or contorting itself to reach keyboard combinations. This controller could directly mimic (or use simplified versions of) the palette layout of Photoshop or similar programs.