

Keychron Keychron Q3J3

Keychron Q3 QMK/VIA Wired Custom Mechanical Keyboard User Manual

Model: Keychron Q3J3

1. INTRODUCTION

The Keychron Q3 is a fully assembled, custom mechanical keyboard designed for enthusiasts and professionals. Featuring a full aluminum CNC machined body, double-gasket design, and QMK/VIA support, it offers a premium typing experience and extensive customization options. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your Keychron Q3 keyboard.



Image: The Keychron Q3 mechanical keyboard in blue, showcasing its tenkeyless layout and a Gateron G Pro Brown switch.

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Upon unboxing your Keychron Q3 keyboard, please ensure all the following components are present:

- **Keyboard:**

- 1x Fully Assembled Keyboard
- 1x Aluminum Case
- 1x PCB (Printed Circuit Board)
- 1x Steel Plate
- 1x Sound Absorbing Foam
- 1x Case Foam
- 16x Gaskets (10 installed, 6 spare)
- 5 sets x Stabilizers
- 1 set x Keycaps (Double-Shot PBT)
- 1 set x Switches (Gateron G Pro)

- **Cables:**

- 1x Type-C to Type-C Cable
- 1x Type-A to Type-C Adapter

- **Tools:**

- 1x Switch Puller
- 1x Keycap Puller
- 1x Screwdriver
- 1x Hex Key

What's in the box? Keychron Q3 Fully Assembled Version



Keyboard

1x Fully Assembled Keyboard
Including
1x Aluminum Case
1x PCB
1x Steel Plate
1x Sound Absorbing Foam
1x Case Foam
16x Gaskets (10 Installed and 6 in the Box)
5 sets x Stabilizers
1 set x Keycaps (Double-Shot PBT)
1 set x Switches (Gateron G Pro)

Cable

1x Type-C to Type-C Cable
1x Type-A to Type-C Adapter

Tools

1x Switch Puller
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1x Hex Key

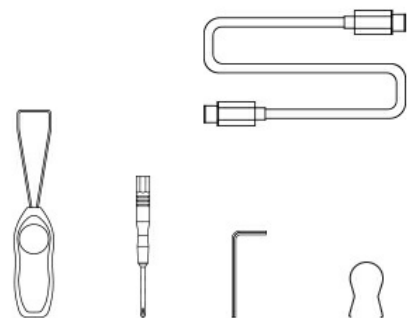


Image: An illustration detailing the complete list of items included with the Keychron Q3 keyboard, such as the keyboard itself, cables, and various tools.

3. SETUP

3.1 Initial Connection

Connect the Keychron Q3 keyboard to your computer using the provided Type-C to Type-C cable. If your computer does not have a Type-C port, use the Type-A to Type-C adapter with the cable. The keyboard is plug-and-play and should be recognized automatically by your operating system.

3.2 Operating System Switch

The Keychron Q3 features a physical toggle switch on the rear of the keyboard to select between Windows and macOS layouts. Ensure this switch is set to the correct operating system for optimal key mapping and functionality.

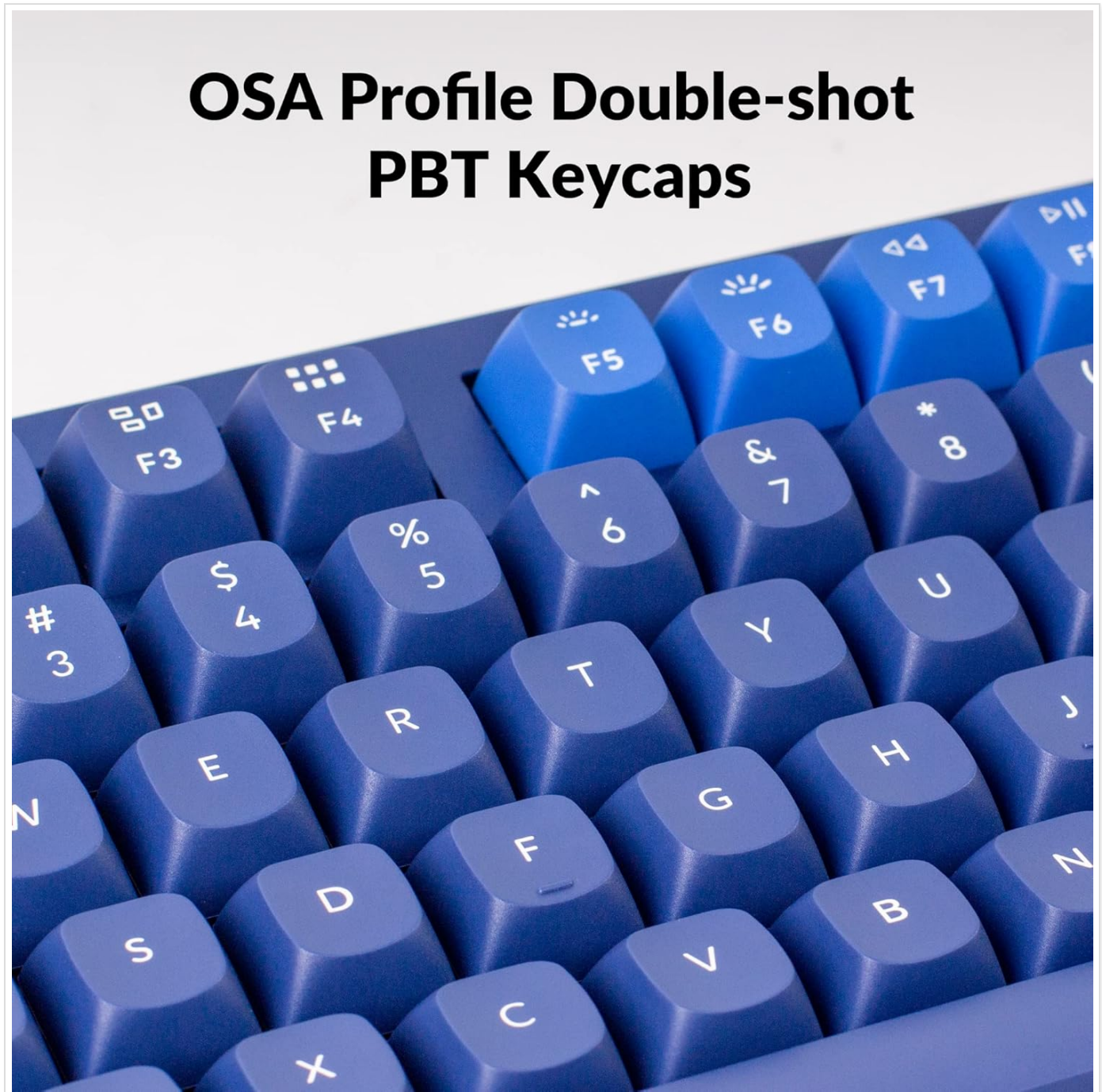


Image: A close-up of the physical switch on the back of the Keychron Q3, allowing users to toggle between Windows and macOS modes, next to the USB-C port.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 QMK and VIA Customization

The Keychron Q3 supports QMK and VIA firmware, allowing for extensive customization of keymaps, macros, and lighting effects. VIA is a graphical user interface that simplifies the process of remapping keys and creating macros without needing to write code. Download the VIA software from the official Keychron website or the VIA GitHub repository.

**Hot-Swappable with most of the
MX style mechanical switches
(including Gateron, Cherry, Kailh, etc.)**



Image: A screenshot of the VIA software interface, demonstrating how users can intuitively personalize their keymap for the Keychron Q3 keyboard.

4.2 Hot-Swappable Switches

The Keychron Q3 features hot-swappable sockets, allowing you to change switches without soldering. It comes pre-installed with Gateron G Pro Brown switches. The PCB is compatible with most MX style 3-pin and 5-pin mechanical switches (e.g., Gateron, Cherry, Kailh). Use the provided switch puller to carefully remove and install switches.



Image: A close-up view of the hot-swappable sockets on the Keychron Q3, showing different colored switches inserted and removed, highlighting the ease of customization.

4.3 Backlight Control

The keyboard is equipped with south-facing RGB LED backlighting. Lighting effects and brightness can be adjusted directly on the keyboard using function key combinations or through the VIA software for more advanced customization.

Screw-In PCB Stabilizers

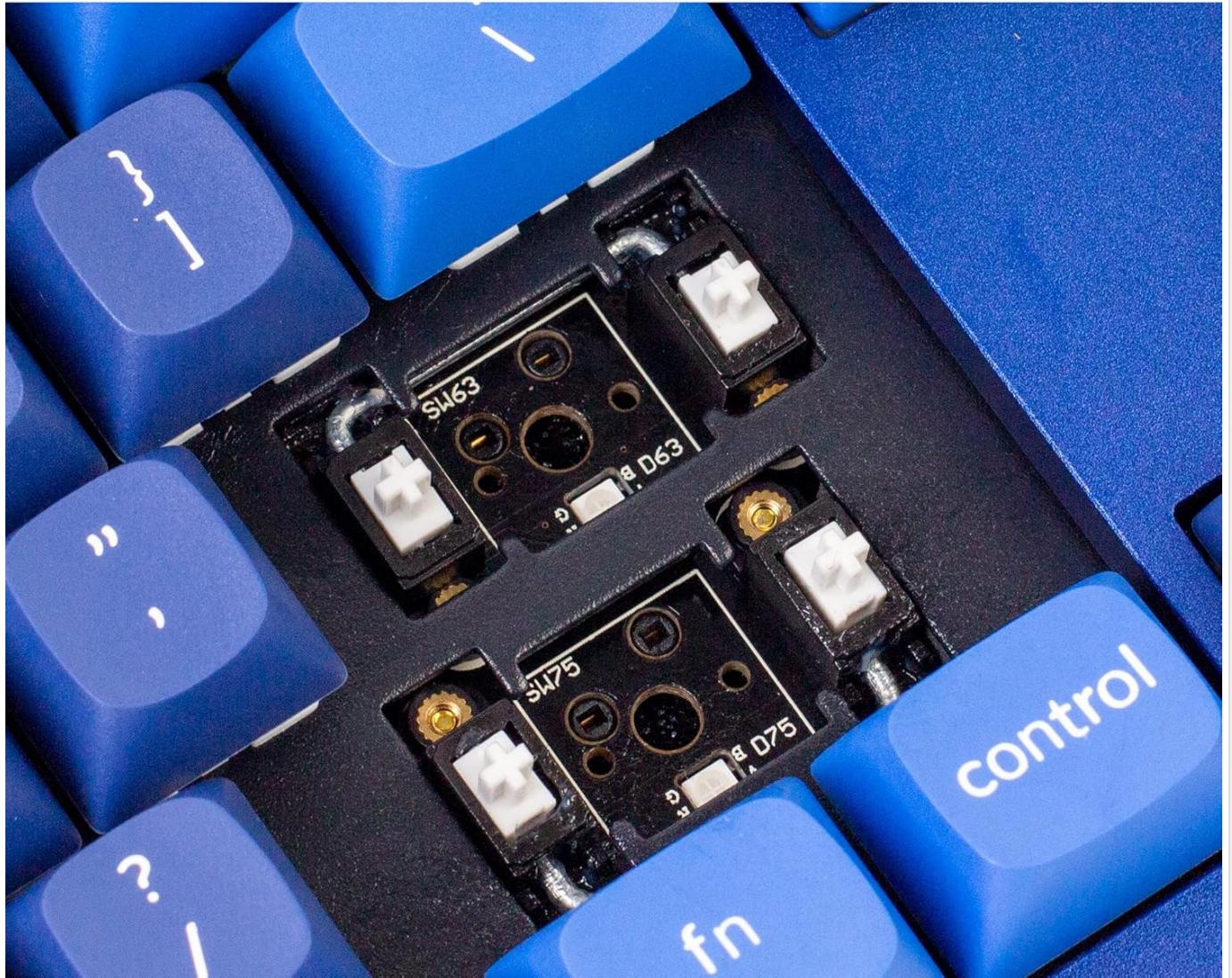


Image: A detailed shot of the south-facing RGB LED backlight illuminating the switches and keycaps on the Keychron Q3 keyboard.

4.4 Keycaps

The Keychron Q3 comes with OSA Profile Double-shot PBT Keycaps. These keycaps are durable and resistant to shine, ensuring longevity and a consistent typing feel.

South-facing RGB LED Backlight



Image: A close-up of the OSA Profile Double-shot PBT Keycaps, highlighting their texture and legends on the Keychron Q3.

5. MAINTENANCE

5.1 Cleaning

To clean your keyboard, disconnect it from the computer. Use a soft brush or compressed air to remove dust and debris from between the keycaps. For stubborn dirt, gently wipe the keycaps and case with a slightly damp, lint-free cloth. Avoid using harsh chemicals or excessive moisture.

5.2 Switch and Keycap Replacement

The hot-swappable design allows for easy replacement of switches and keycaps. Use the provided keycap puller to remove keycaps by gently pulling straight up. Use the switch puller to remove switches by gripping the top and bottom clips and pulling upwards. When installing, align the switch pins with the PCB sockets and press down firmly until it clicks into place. Ensure the pins are not bent.

Disassembling and Assembling with Ease

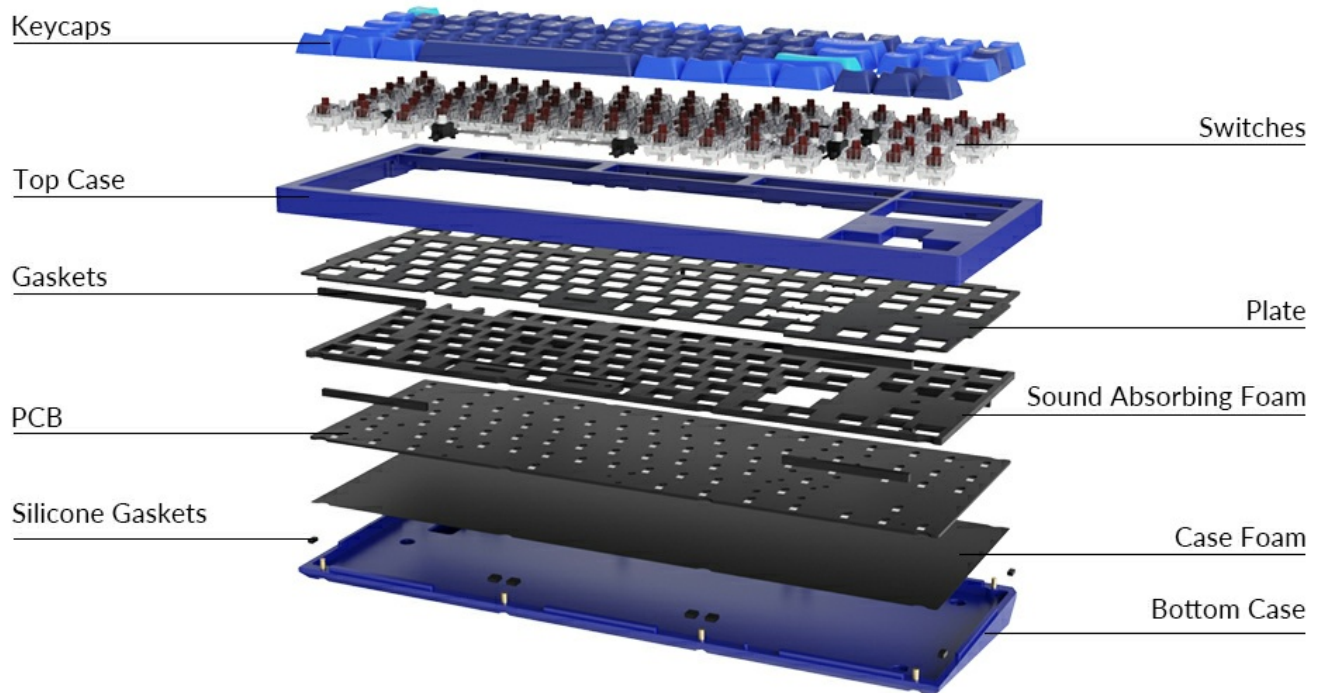


Image: An exploded diagram illustrating the various layers and components of the Keychron Q3 keyboard, from keycaps to the bottom case, demonstrating its modular design for easy assembly and disassembly.

5.3 Stabilizers

The Keychron Q3 uses screw-in PCB stabilizers for enhanced stability on larger keys (Space Bar, Shift, Enter, Delete). These can be lubricated or replaced if needed for a smoother typing experience. Refer to online guides for proper lubrication techniques if you wish to perform this maintenance.



Image: A close-up view of the screw-in PCB stabilizers, showing their secure mounting on the circuit board for improved key stability.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Keyboard Not Recognized:**

- Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the keyboard and the computer.
- Try a different USB port or cable.
- Verify the Windows/macOS switch is set correctly.
- Restart your computer.

- **Keys Not Registering:**

- Carefully remove the keycap and switch for the affected key.
- Check if the switch pins are bent. Straighten them gently if necessary.
- Reinsert the switch firmly into the hot-swappable socket.
- Test with a known working switch if available.

- **QMK/VIA Issues:**

- Ensure you are using the latest version of the VIA software.
- Verify that the keyboard firmware is compatible with the VIA version.
- If changes are not applying, try resetting the keyboard (refer to Keychron's official support for specific reset procedures).

- **Backlight Not Working/Incorrect:**

- Check backlight brightness settings using keyboard shortcuts.
- Ensure no custom VIA settings are overriding the backlight.
- If specific LEDs are out, it may indicate a hardware issue requiring professional service.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Product Dimensions	14.37"L x 5.39"W x 1.37"H (36.5 x 13.7 x 3.5 cm)
Item Weight	6.12 pounds (2.78 kg)
Manufacturer	Keychron
Model Number	Keychron Q3J3
Country of Origin	China
Connectivity Technology	Wired (USB Type-C)
Compatible Devices	PC (Mac, Windows, Linux)
Keyboard Description	Multimedia, Tenkeyless (TKL)
Recommended Uses	Office, Gaming
Special Features	For macOS & Windows, South-facing RGB LED Lights, QMK and VIA support, Hot-Swappable, Double Gasket Design, Full Aluminum CNC Body
Switch Type	Gateron G Pro Brown Switch
Number of Keys	87
Style	Modern, Tenkeyless
First Available Date	August 27, 2021

8. SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

For further assistance, updated firmware, or detailed guides on QMK/VIA customization, please visit the official Keychron

website. The Keychron community and open-source QMK/VIA resources also provide valuable information and support.

Official Keychron Website: www.keychron.com

QMK Firmware: qmk.fm

VIA Configurator: www.caniusevia.com