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> MK MK61 Hotswap PCB ANSI 60% RGB QMK VIA Compatible User Manual

MK MK61

MK MK61 Hotswap PCB ANSI 60% RGB QMK VIA Compatible User Manual

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the setup, operation, and maintenance of your MK MK61 Hotswap PCB. This high-quality printed circuit board is designed for custom mechanical keyboard builds, featuring Kailh hotswap sockets for easy switch installation, per-key RGB lighting, and full programmability via QMK and VIA software. Please read this manual thoroughly before beginning your build to ensure proper functionality and longevity of your PCB.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

- MK MK61 Hotswap PCB (ANSI 60% Layout)

Note: This product includes the PCB only. Keycaps, switches, keyboard case, stabilizers, and USB-C cable are not included and must be purchased separately.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Follow these steps to assemble your custom mechanical keyboard using the MK MK61 PCB.

1. **Prepare Components:** Ensure you have all necessary components: the MK61 PCB, compatible mechanical switches (3-pin or 5-pin), keycaps, PCB-mount stabilizers, a 60% keyboard case, and a USB-C cable.
2. **Install Stabilizers:** Attach the PCB-mount stabilizers to the designated slots on the PCB for larger keys (Spacebar, Shift, Enter, Backspace). Ensure they are securely clipped into place.
3. **Mount PCB in Case (Optional, but recommended):** If your case supports it, mount the PCB into the keyboard case. Some cases require switches to be installed first to secure the PCB.
4. **Install Switches:** Carefully align each mechanical switch with the Kailh hotswap socket on the PCB. Ensure the pins on the switch are straight before inserting. Press firmly until the switch clicks into place. Do not force switches, as bent pins can damage the hotswap socket. Repeat for all 61 switch positions.
5. **Install Keycaps:** Once all switches are installed, place the corresponding keycaps onto the switches.

6. **Connect USB-C Cable:** Connect one end of a USB-C cable to the USB-C port on the PCB and the other end to your computer. The PCB should be recognized automatically.



Image: The MK MK61 Hotswap PCB, featuring Kailh hotswap sockets for easy switch installation and individual SMD LEDs for per-key RGB backlighting. The USB-C port is visible on the top right edge.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The MK MK61 PCB is designed for advanced customization and offers per-key RGB lighting.

- **Basic Functionality:** Once connected, the keyboard will function as a standard 60% ANSI layout keyboard.
- **RGB Backlighting:** The PCB features per-key RGB SMD LEDs. Lighting effects and colors can be customized using QMK/VIA software.
- **QMK/VIA Compatibility:** The MK61 PCB is fully compatible with QMK firmware and VIA configurator software.
 - **QMK Firmware:** For advanced users, QMK allows for deep customization of keymaps, macros, and lighting effects. You will need to compile and flash custom firmware. Refer to the official QMK documentation for detailed instructions: [QMK Firmware Documentation](#).
 - **VIA Configurator:** VIA is a user-friendly graphical interface for real-time keymap and lighting adjustments without needing to re-flash the firmware. Download the VIA software from the official website: [VIA Configurator](#). Ensure your PCB's JSON definition is loaded if it's not automatically detected.

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity of your PCB.

- **Cleaning:** Disconnect the PCB from your computer before cleaning. Use a soft, dry brush or compressed air to remove dust and debris from the PCB surface and between switches. Avoid using liquid cleaners directly on the PCB.
- **Switch Removal:** When removing switches from the hotswap sockets, use a switch puller tool. Gently rock the switch while pulling upwards to avoid damaging the socket or switch pins.
- **Storage:** If storing the PCB separately, keep it in an anti-static bag in a dry environment to prevent static discharge and moisture damage.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues, refer to the following common problems and solutions.

- **Keyboard Not Detected:**

- Ensure the USB-C cable is fully inserted into both the PCB and your computer.
- Try a different USB-C cable.
- Connect to a different USB port on your computer.
- Test the PCB on another computer to rule out driver issues.

- **Specific Keys Not Registering:**

- Remove the keycap and switch for the problematic key.
- Inspect the switch pins for bends or damage. Straighten bent pins carefully or replace the switch if damaged.
- Re-insert the switch firmly into the hotswap socket, ensuring good contact.
- Check for debris in the hotswap socket.

- **RGB Lighting Not Working or Incorrect:**

- Ensure the PCB is properly connected and recognized.
- Use the VIA configurator to check and adjust lighting settings.
- If using custom QMK firmware, verify your lighting configuration.

- **VIA Software Not Detecting PCB:**

- Ensure you have the latest version of VIA installed.
- Download and load the correct JSON definition file for the MK61 PCB within VIA. This file is usually available from the manufacturer's support page or the VIA website.
- Restart VIA and reconnect the PCB.

SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	MK
Model	MK61
Layout	ANSI 60% (61 keys)
Hotswap Sockets	Kailh Hotswap (compatible with 3-pin and 5-pin mechanical switches)
Backlighting	Per-key RGB SMD LED
Connectivity	USB-C
Programmability	QMK/VIA Compatible
Compatible Devices	PC
Power Source	USB Powered
Material	Plastic
Included Components	PCB only
UPC	810511031123

ASIN	B0BDSFWGRF
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WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official MK website or contact your retailer. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

- **Manufacturer:** MK
- **Seller:** Mechanical Keyboards Inc (as per Amazon listing)
- **Amazon Store Link:** [Visit the MK Store on Amazon](#)

