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> Keychron Q8 Alice 65% Layout Mechanical Keyboard User Manual

Keychron Q8

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Model: Q8 | Brand: Keychron

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the Keychron Q8 Alice 65% Layout Gasket Hot Swappable Custom Mechanical Keyboard. The Q8 is an all-metal mechanical keyboard featuring an ergonomic Alice layout, QMK/VIA programmability, a rotary knob, RGB backlighting, and a Type-C wired connection. It is designed for enhanced typing comfort and customization for both Mac and Windows users.



The Keychron Q8 Alice Layout Mechanical Keyboard, showcasing its ergonomic design and key layout.

PRODUCT FEATURES

Ergonomic Alice Layout

The Q8 features a 65% Alice layout, splitting the keyboard into left and right halves. This curved split keyframe promotes a more natural typing posture, aiming to reduce wrist fatigue and forearm muscle strain during extended use.



Top-down view of the Keychron Q8, highlighting the ergonomic Alice layout.

Programmable Rotary Knob

The integrated rotary knob is fully programmable via QMK and VIA software. It can be customized for various functions such as adjusting volume, screen brightness, brush size, or navigating media clips.



A close-up view of the programmable rotary knob, located on the upper right of the keyboard.

Hot-Swappable Sockets

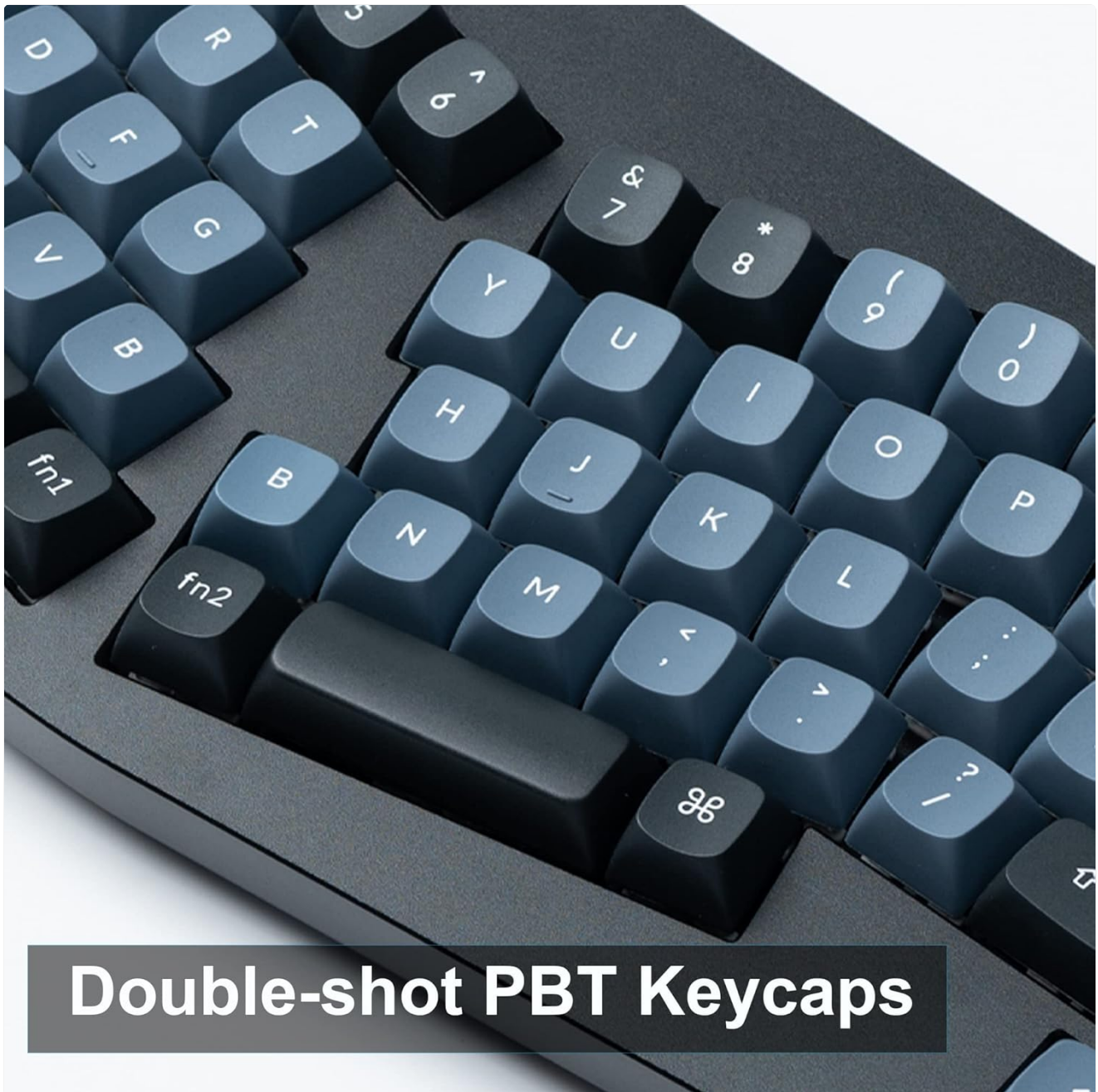
The keyboard features hot-swappable sockets compatible with most 3-pin and 5-pin MX style mechanical switches (e.g., Gateron, Cherry, Kailh). This allows for easy switch replacement without soldering. The large keys (space bar, shift, enter, delete) are equipped with screw-in PCB stabilizers for enhanced stability and smoothness.



A close-up showing hot-swappable switches with RGB backlighting, demonstrating the ease of switch replacement.

South-Facing RGB LED Backlight

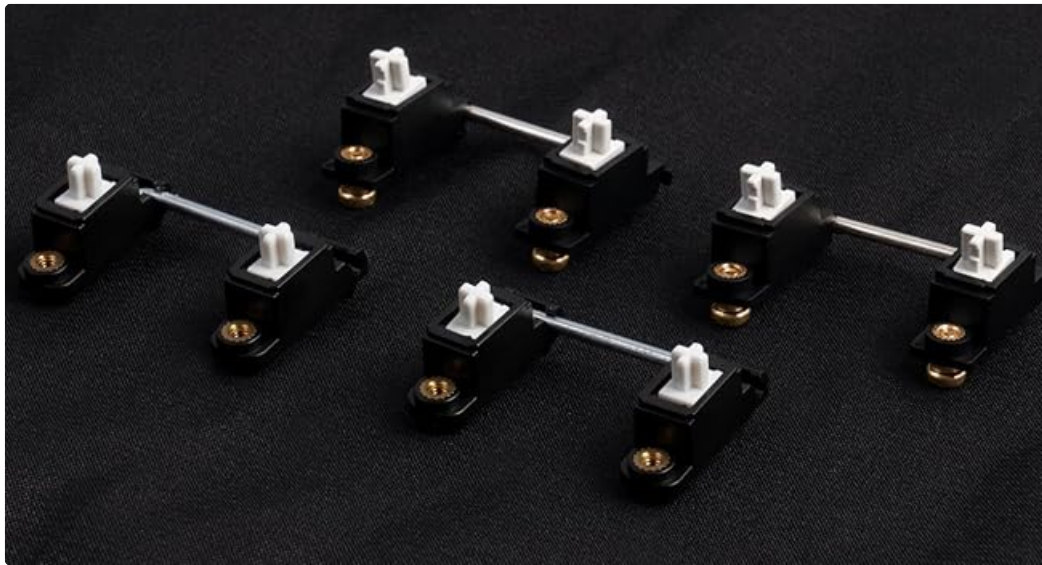
The RGB LEDs are south-facing, designed to provide better illumination from the typist's perspective, especially with non-shine-through PBT keycaps. This orientation also prevents interference when using OEM or Cherry-profile keycaps.



A view of the keyboard keys illuminated by south-facing RGB LEDs, providing clear backlighting.

Double-Gasket Design

The Q8 incorporates an innovative double-gasket design. In addition to gaskets on the plates, silicone pads are placed between the top and bottom cases. This construction significantly reduces sound resonance and noise from metal impacts, maintaining the flexibility of the gasket structure while improving overall typing sound.



An illustrative diagram detailing the double-gasket structure of the Keychron Q8 keyboard.

Pre-lubed Gateron G Pro Brown Switches

The fully assembled Q8 version comes with factory pre-lubricated Gateron G Pro Brown switches. These tactile switches offer an optimized molded design for precise positioning and reduced wobble, ensuring a smoother and more consistent typing experience.

|  Gateron G Pro Switch Features | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | Behavior | Pre-lubed | Sound level | Suitable for |
|  Red | Linear | Yes | Quiet | Office/gaming |
|  Blue | Clicky | - | Clicky | Typist |
|  Brown | Tactile | Yes | Gentle | Midway Office/gaming |

A table outlining the features of Gateron G Pro switches, including behavior, pre-lubrication, sound level, and suitable applications.

Full CNC Aluminum Body

The keyboard chassis is crafted from a full aluminum CNC machined body, providing durability, a premium feel, and significant weight to prevent movement during use.

Type-C cable + Type-A to C adapter



A detailed view of the keyboard's full CNC aluminum body, showcasing its robust construction.

Double-Shot PBT Keycaps

The Q8 comes with durable double-shot PBT keycaps. This manufacturing process ensures legends will not fade over time, providing a long-lasting and tactile typing surface.

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



A close-up of the keyboard's double-shot PBT keycaps, highlighting their texture and legend clarity.

Internal Structure Overview

The Keychron Q8 is constructed with multiple layers for optimal performance and sound. This includes keycaps, switches, top case, plate, gaskets, PCB, acoustic tape, silicone gaskets, and the bottom case.



SETUP

Connecting the Keyboard

The Keychron Q8 is a wired keyboard. Connect it to your computer using the provided Type-C to Type-C cable. A Type-A to Type-C adapter is also included for compatibility with Type-A USB ports.

Switch layouts between mac OS & Windows



The included Type-C cable and Type-A to C adapter for connecting the keyboard.

Operating System Switch

Locate the operating system switch on the back or side of the keyboard. Slide the switch to the appropriate position for either Windows or macOS to ensure correct key mapping and functionality.

South-facing RGB LED Backlight

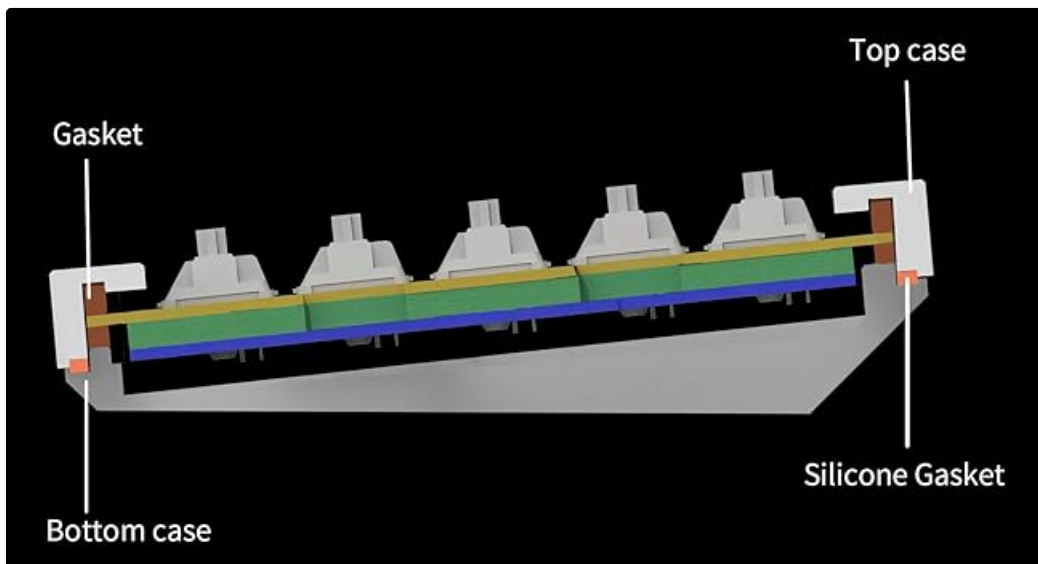


A close-up of the physical switch on the keyboard for selecting between Windows and macOS layouts.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

QMK/VIA Customization

The Keychron Q8 supports QMK and VIA firmware, allowing for extensive customization of key assignments, macros, and lighting effects. Download the VIA software from the official Keychron website to access these features. Connect your keyboard, open VIA, and begin remapping keys or creating custom macros.



The VIA software interface displaying key remapping options for the Keychron Q8.

Knob Functionality

The rotary knob's default functions typically include volume control. Through VIA software, you can reassign the knob to control various system functions or application-specific commands, such as zooming, scrolling, or adjusting backlight hue.

Keycap and Switch Replacement

To replace keycaps, use the included keycap puller to gently remove the desired keycap. To replace switches, first remove the keycap, then use a switch puller (not included, but often bundled with switches or available separately) to carefully extract the switch from its socket. Align the new switch's pins with the socket holes and press firmly until it clicks into place. Ensure the pins are not bent during insertion.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning

Regular cleaning helps maintain the keyboard's performance and appearance. Use a soft brush or compressed air to remove dust and debris from between the keycaps. For deeper cleaning, remove the keycaps using the provided keycap puller and wipe them with a damp cloth. Ensure all components are dry before reassembling.

Switch and Keycap Care

Avoid applying excessive force when removing or inserting keycaps and switches to prevent damage to the components or the PCB sockets. Store spare keycaps and switches in a clean, dry place.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Keyboard Not Responding:** Ensure the USB-C cable is securely connected to both the keyboard and the computer. Try a different USB port or cable. Verify the operating system switch is set correctly.
- **Keys Not Registering:** If specific keys are not working, check if the switches are fully seated in their sockets. For hot-swappable switches, try removing and reinserting the switch, or replace it with a known working switch.
- **RGB Backlight Issues:** If the backlight is not functioning or displaying incorrectly, ensure the keyboard is properly powered. Check VIA software settings for any custom lighting profiles that might be overriding default settings.
- **QMK/VIA Software Not Detecting Keyboard:** Ensure the latest version of VIA is installed. Close any other keyboard-related software that might interfere. Reconnect the keyboard.

For further assistance, refer to the official Keychron support resources or contact customer service.

SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Brand | Keychron |
| Model Name | Q8 |
| Layout | 65% Alice Layout (68 keys) |
| Connectivity | Wired (USB Type-C) |
| Switches | Gateron G Pro Brown (Tactile, Pre-lubed) |
| Hot-Swappable | Yes (Compatible with 3-pin and 5-pin MX style switches) |
| Backlight | South-facing RGB LED |
| Body Material | Full CNC Aluminum |
| Keycaps | Double-Shot PBT |
| Programmability | QMK/VIA Support |
| Compatible Devices | Computers with USB-C port (Mac, Windows) |
| Included Accessories | Keycap Puller, USB-C Cable, USB-A to C Adapter |

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Keychron products typically come with a manufacturer's warranty. For specific warranty terms, registration, and technical support, please visit the official Keychron website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Official Keychron Website: www.keychron.com