

ZMX STARS80 V2

ZMX STARS80 V2 Mechanical Gaming Keyboard User Manual

Model: STARS80 V2 | Brand: ZMX

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing the ZMX STARS80 V2 Mechanical Gaming Keyboard. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your keyboard. Please read this manual thoroughly before use to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your device.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items are present in your package:

- STARS80 V2 Aluminum Keyboard
- User's Manual
- USB-C Cable
- 2.4G Receiver
- Keycap & Switch Puller

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Video: Unboxing the ZMX STARS80 V2 keyboard and its included accessories.

PRODUCT FEATURES

- Solid Aluminum Alloy Build:** The keyboard casing is crafted from high-quality aluminum alloy, providing durability and a premium feel.
- Quick Release Hot-Swappable Design:** Features tool-free rapid assembly and disassembly of the aluminum top and bottom case, allowing for easy customization and switch changes. Supports both 3-pin and 5-pin mechanical switches.

- **QMK & VIA Programmable:** Offers full customization of key assignments, macros, and lighting effects through QMK and VIA software.
- **Triple Mode Connectivity:** Supports Bluetooth 5.0, 2.4GHz wireless, and USB-C wired connections. Connect up to four devices and switch easily.
- **8000mAh High-Capacity Battery:** Equipped with a large-capacity battery for extended wireless usage.
- **80% Layout (88 Keys):** A compact layout that balances functionality with a smaller footprint.
- **Gasket-Mounted Structure:** Incorporates five layers of padded silencers for a quiet and comfortable typing experience.
- **South-facing RGB LEDs:** Features vibrant 16.8 million color RGB lighting with various effects.



Image: The ZMX STARS80 V2 keyboard showcasing its aluminum alloy build and 80% layout.

STARS80^{V2}

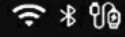
ALUMINUM QUICK RELEASE KEYBOARD



CNC Aluminum Case



Quick Detachable



Tri-Mode Connection



Gasket Structure



8000 mAh Battery



75% Layout



Hot Swappable



VIA/QMK
Programmable



Flex-Cut FR4 PCB

Image: Diagram illustrating the internal gasket mount structure of the keyboard.

8000 mAh High-Capacity Battery



Image: Illustration showing the dual 4000mAh batteries for a total of 8000mAh capacity.

SETUP

Connecting Your Keyboard

The STARS80 V2 keyboard supports three connection modes: 2.4GHz wireless, Bluetooth 5.0, and USB-C wired.

2.4GHz Wireless Mode

1. Locate the 2.4G receiver stored magnetically under the nameplate on the bottom of the keyboard.
2. Remove the receiver and plug it into an available USB port on your computer.
3. Switch the keyboard to 2.4GHz mode using the designated switch or key combination (refer to the FN Multimedia Function table).
4. The keyboard should automatically connect.

VIA/QMK Programmable

STARS80 Keyboard supports QMK and VIA, you can easily program each key on the keyboard with open source firmware, and customize the keyboard layout, shortcuts, backlighting effects and more.



With VIA you can define every keystroke and even write macro buttons for the key combinations you want on STARS80. VIA supports Mac OS/Windows/Linux systems

Image: Magnetic Nameplate Organizer showing the hidden 2.4G wireless receiver.

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Video: Demonstrates the tri-mode connection, including retrieving the 2.4G receiver.

Bluetooth 5.0 Mode

1. Switch the keyboard to Bluetooth mode using the designated switch or key combination (refer to the FN Multimedia Function table).
2. On your device (PC, Mac, Tablet, Smartphone), enable Bluetooth and search for new devices.
3. Select "STARS80 V2" from the list of available devices to pair.
4. The keyboard can connect to up to four Bluetooth devices. Use specific key combinations (e.g., FN+Q, FN+W, FN+E) to switch between paired devices.

USB-C Wired Mode

1. Connect the provided USB-C cable to the keyboard's USB-C port and the other end to your computer.
2. The keyboard will automatically switch to wired mode and begin charging.



Image: Diagram illustrating the three connection methods: Wireless 2.4G, Type-C Wired, and Bluetooth 5.0.

Quick Release and Hot-Swapping Switches

The STARS80 V2 features a quick-release design for easy customization and hot-swappable switch sockets.

1. To remove the top case, gently pull it upwards from the designated quick-release points. No tools are required.
2. Use the included keycap and switch puller to carefully remove keycaps and switches.
3. Align new 3-pin or 5-pin mechanical switches with the PCB sockets and press firmly until they click into place.
4. Replace keycaps by pressing them onto the switch stems.
5. Reattach the top case by aligning it and pressing down until it securely clicks into place.

Magnetic Nameplate Organizer

The 2.4G wireless receiver is hidden under the nameplate at the bottom, and the magnetic design makes the receiver easy to store.



Image: Close-up view of hot-swappable mechanical switches on the keyboard.

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Video: Demonstrates the quick release mechanism and hot-swapping switches.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

FN Multimedia Functions

Use the FN key in combination with other keys to access multimedia and system functions:

Key Combination	Function
FN+F1	My Computer
FN+F2	Search

Key Combination	Function
FN+F3	Calculator
FN+F4	Media Player
FN+F5	Previous Track
FN+F6	Next Track
FN+F7	Play/Pause
FN+F8	Stop
FN+F9	Mute
FN+F10	Volume Down
FN+F11	Volume Up
FN+F12	Email
FN+Win	Lock/Unlock Win Key
FN+Q/W/E	Switch Bluetooth Devices (up to 3)
FN+R	Switch to 2.4G Wireless Mode
FN+T	Switch to USB-C Wired Mode

Light Settings

Control the RGB backlighting with the following key combinations:

- **FN+DEL:** Switch between different lighting effects.
- **FN+INS:** Change lighting colors.
- **FN+Home:** Adjust backlight brightness (5 levels).
- **FN+End:** Adjust backlight speed (5 levels).
- **FN+Page Up:** Turn ON/OFF the main key area lights.
- **FN+Page Down:** Turn ON/OFF the side lights.

Support Full Keys Hot Swap

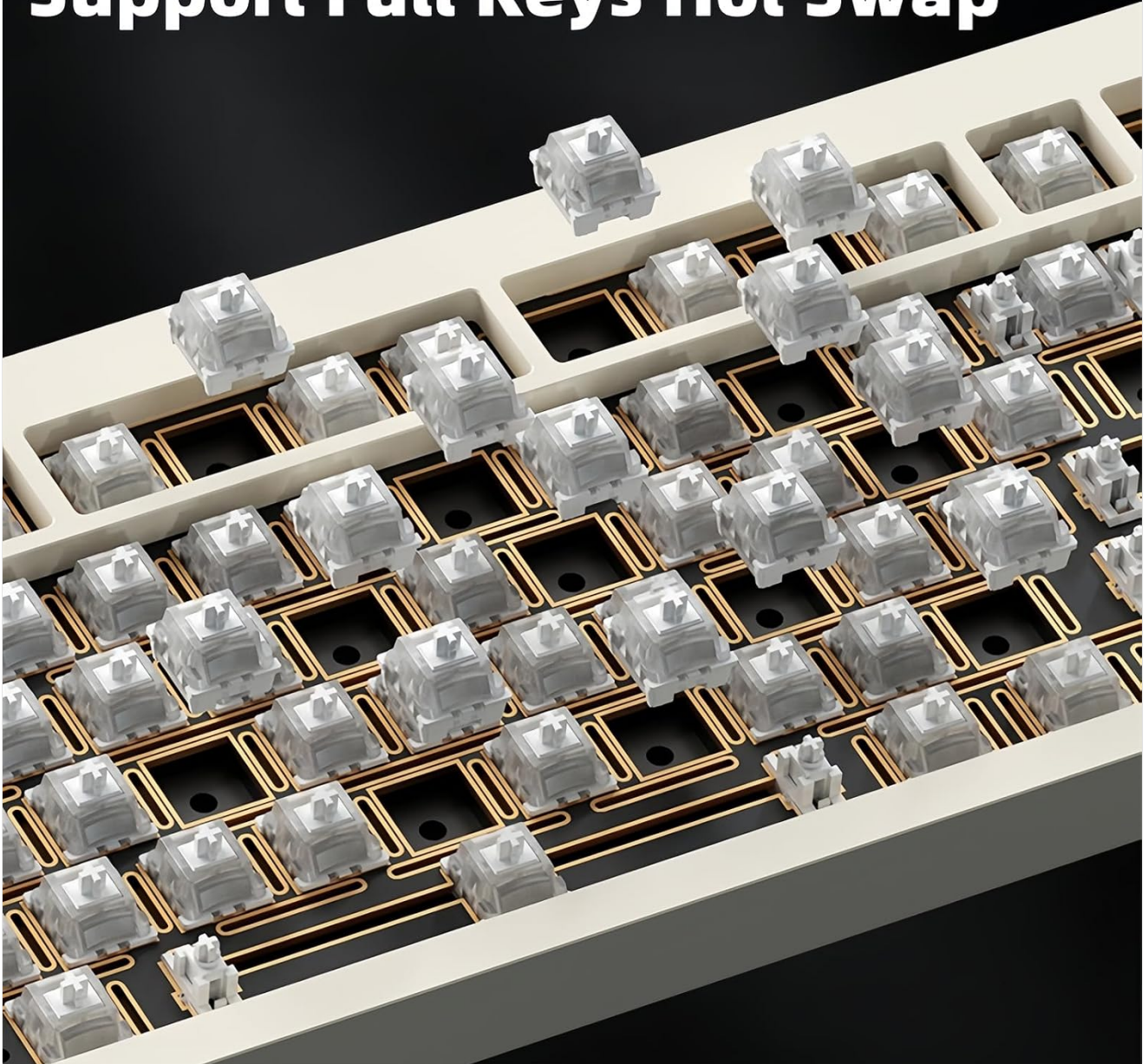


Image: Keyboard showcasing its 16 million RGB light effects.

QMK & VIA Programming

The STARS80 V2 keyboard is fully programmable using QMK and VIA software. This allows you to customize key mappings, create macros, and fine-tune lighting effects.

1. Download the QMK Toolbox and VIA software from the official websites.
2. Connect your keyboard in wired mode.
3. Follow the software instructions to load the appropriate firmware and customize your keyboard settings.

16 Million RGB Light Effect



Image: Screenshot of the VIA/QMK programming interface, demonstrating key remapping capabilities.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the keyboard surface. For deeper cleaning, remove keycaps and use compressed air to clear debris.
- **Switch Care:** If switches become inconsistent, they can be hot-swapped for new ones. Ensure proper alignment when inserting new switches to avoid bending pins.
- **Battery:** To prolong battery life, avoid fully discharging the keyboard frequently. Charge via the USB-C cable when the battery is low.
- **Storage:** Store the keyboard in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Solution
Keyboard not responding in wireless mode.	◦ Ensure the keyboard is charged. ◦ Verify the 2.4G receiver is properly plugged in or Bluetooth is paired. ◦ Switch to wired mode to check if the keyboard functions. ◦ Re-pair the device in Bluetooth settings or re-insert the 2.4G receiver.
Keys are not registering or double-typing.	◦ The switch might be faulty. Use the switch puller to replace the affected switch. ◦ Ensure the switch is fully seated in the PCB socket.
RGB lighting is not working.	◦ Check light settings using FN key combinations (FN+Page Up, FN+DEL, etc.). ◦ Ensure the keyboard is not in a low-power state. ◦ If using VIA/QMK, verify lighting settings in the software.
Cannot connect to multiple Bluetooth devices.	◦ Ensure you are using the correct FN+Q/W/E combinations to switch between profiles. ◦ Delete existing pairings on your device and re-pair.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	ZMX
Model Number	STARS80 V2
Layout	80% (88 Keys)
Connectivity	Bluetooth 5.0, 2.4GHz Wireless, USB-C Wired
Battery Capacity	8000mAh
Switch Type	Linear (Kailh)
Hot-Swappable	Yes (3-pin & 5-pin)
Programming	QMK/VIA Support
Backlighting	RGB (16.8 million colors, South-facing LEDs)
Material	Aluminum Alloy (CNC)
Dimensions (L x W x H)	13.3" x 5.7" x 1.5"
Weight	3 Pounds
Compatible OS	Windows, macOS, Linux

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The ZMX STARS80 V2 keyboard comes with a **1-year warranty** from the date of purchase, covering manufacturing defects. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For technical support, troubleshooting assistance, or warranty inquiries, please contact ZMX customer service through the retailer where you purchased the product or visit the official ZMX website.

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