

Corsair CH-91E901E-NA

Corsair Vanguard 96 Wired Mechanical Gaming Keyboard User Manual

Brand: Corsair | Model: CH-91E901E-NA

1. INTRODUCTION

The Corsair Vanguard 96 is a high-performance wired mechanical gaming keyboard designed for serious gamers and productivity users. It features a compact 96% layout, integrating essential keys like arrow keys, a tenkey pad, an LCD screen, a rotary dial, and 6 programmable G-keys within a space-saving frame. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, maintaining, and customizing your Vanguard 96 keyboard.

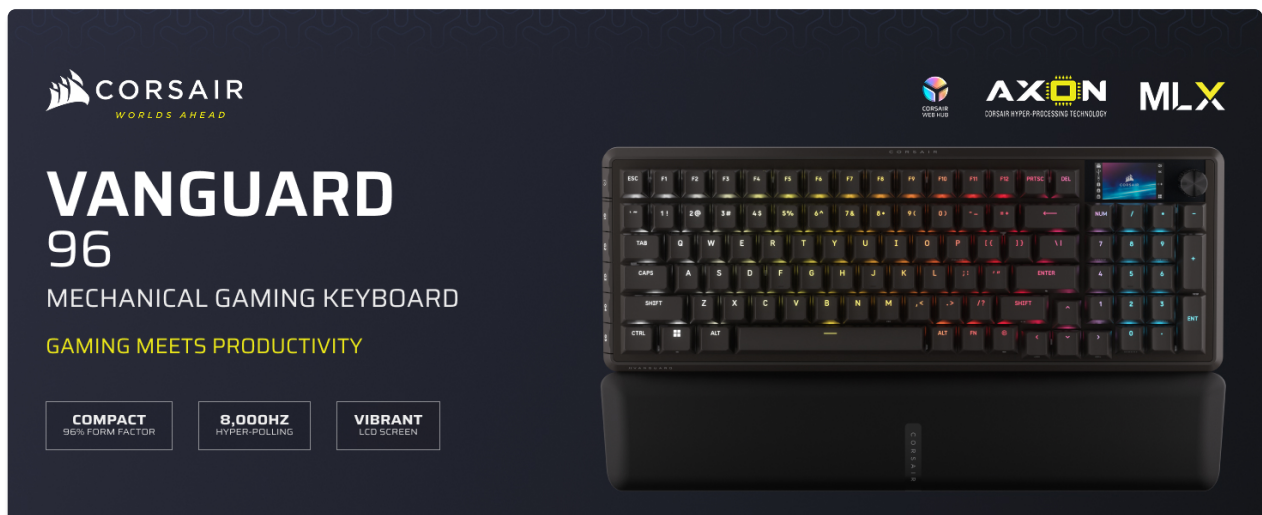


Figure 1: The Corsair Vanguard 96 keyboard showcasing its compact layout and RGB lighting.

2. KEY FEATURES

- **96% Compact Layout:** Full keyboard functionality including arrow keys, tenkey pad, LCD screen, rotary dial, and 6 programmable G-keys in a compact form factor.

- **MLX Plasma Linear Switches:** Pre-lubricated, wobble-free switches for fast, clean, and consistent actuation.
- **8,000Hz Hyper-Polling:** Ultra-responsive input for minimal lag and lightning-fast actions.
- **Vibrant Full-Color LCD Screen:** 1.9-inch, 320x170 IPS display for custom animations, images, system stats, and game integration.
- **Elgato Virtual Stream Deck Integration:** Map Stream Deck functions to G-keys for enhanced productivity and in-game performance.
- **FlashTap SOCD Handling:** Optimize input resolution for cleaner movement techniques in competitive gaming.
- **Quad-Layer Sound Dampening:** Reduces unwanted keyboard noise for satisfying keypress acoustics.
- **Hot-Swappable Switches:** Supports compatible 3-pin and 5-pin switches for personalized feel.
- **Corsair Web Hub Customization:** Lightweight, web-based utility for programming macros, mapping buttons, and customizing lighting without additional software installation.


BATTLESTATION INNOVATION

THE KEYBOARD OF THE FUTURE

The sleek, sculpted **aluminum frame** is the perfect complement to the keyboard's elegantly compact design. The low-profile of the **6 G-keys** allows them to be easy to find, but tough to accidentally press.


CLICK ACROSS TO LEARN ABOUT: VIRTUAL STREAM DECK BUTTON →

QUAD-LAYER SOUND DAMPENING




4 layers of sound dampening foam help keep unwanted keyboard noise to a minimum, so you're better able to enjoy your satisfying keypress acoustics.

HOTSWAPPABLE MLX SWITCHES



Refined for top-tier responsiveness and rated for 80 million keypresses, **VANGUARD 96** also features hotswap support for compatible 3-pin and 5-pin switches.

OPTIMALLY COMPACT 96% FORM-FACTOR




A full keyboard with arrow keys, a tenkey pad, brilliant LCD screen, 6 programmable G-keys, and a rotary dial in a super-compact frame. You get all this in a footprint roughly the size of a TKL keyboard.

Figure 2: The 8,000Hz hyper-polling rate ensures minimal input lag for rapid response times.

MAGIC IN EVERY CLICK

DO VIRTUALLY ANYTHING

Hit the dedicated **Virtual Stream Deck Launch Button** to instantly summon a Virtual Stream Deck. Give your **VANGUARD 96** powerful new versatility, transforming your new favorite gaming keyboard into a **powerful productivity tool** as well.



CLICK ACROSS TO LEARN ABOUT: BATTLESTATION INNOVATION →

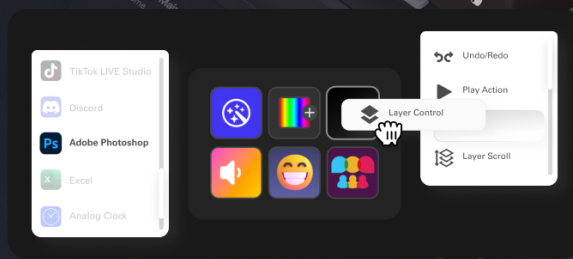


Figure 3: The optimally-compact 96% form factor retains essential keys in a smaller footprint.

3. SETUP

3.1 Connecting the Keyboard

1. Locate the USB-C port on the underside of the keyboard.

2. Connect the provided USB cable to the keyboard's USB-C port.
3. Route the cable through one of the integrated channels on the keyboard's underside to ensure tidy cable management.
4. Connect the other end of the USB cable to an available USB port on your computer.

3.2 Adjusting Keyboard Angle

The keyboard features two sets of flip-out feet on its underside, allowing you to adjust the typing angle for optimal comfort. Choose between a flat position or a slightly elevated angle.

3.3 Attaching the Wrist Rest

The Corsair Vanguard 96 includes a magnetic wrist rest for enhanced ergonomic support. Simply align the wrist rest with the front edge of the keyboard; the magnets will secure it in place.



Figure 4: The keyboard with its magnetic wrist rest attached, providing ergonomic comfort.

4. CUSTOMIZATION (CORSAIR WEB HUB)

The Corsair Vanguard 96 is customized using the web-based Corsair Web Hub utility. This eliminates the need

for software installation and allows for comprehensive personalization directly through your web browser.

4.1 Accessing Corsair Web Hub

1. Open a Chromium-based web browser (e.g., Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge).
2. Navigate to the Corsair Web Hub website.
3. Connect your Vanguard 96 keyboard when prompted.

4.2 Customization Options

- **Lighting Effects:** Adjust RGB lighting patterns, colors, and brightness. You can program individual key lighting or apply dynamic effects.
- **Key Assignments:** Remap keys, create macros, and assign media controls or other functions to any key.
- **Rotary Dial:** Configure the multi-functional rotary dial for volume control, media playback, screen scrolling, zoom, or other custom actions.
- **FlashTap Settings:** Adjust SOCD handling for competitive gaming, prioritizing inputs for cleaner movement.
- **LCD Screen:** Upload custom animations, images, or GIFs to the integrated 1.9-inch LCD screen. Configure widgets to display system stats or other information.
- **Game Mode:** Activate game mode to disable the Windows key and switch to static lighting, preventing accidental interruptions during gameplay.

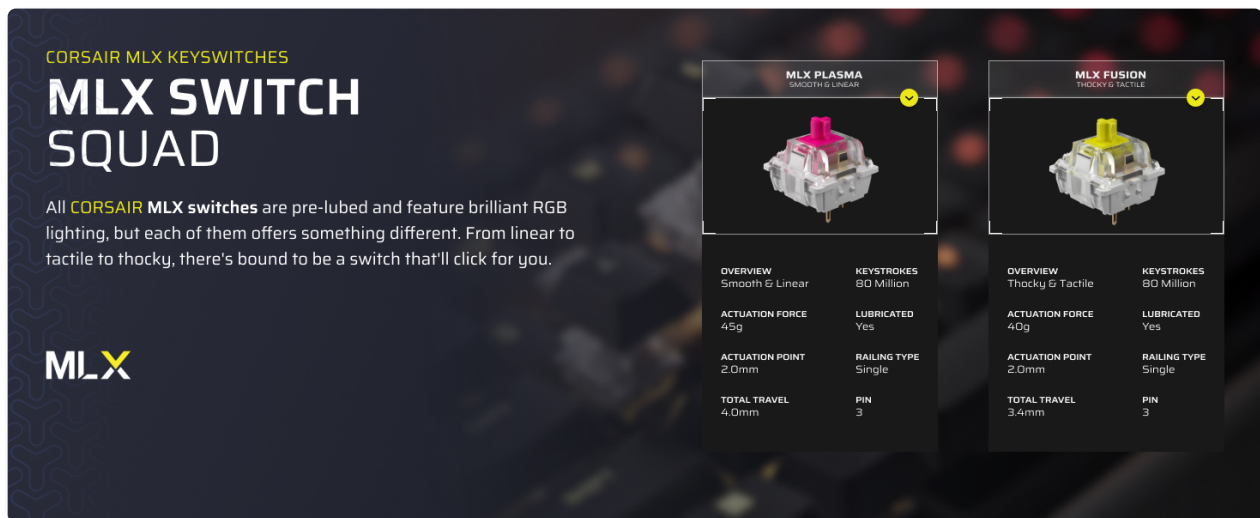
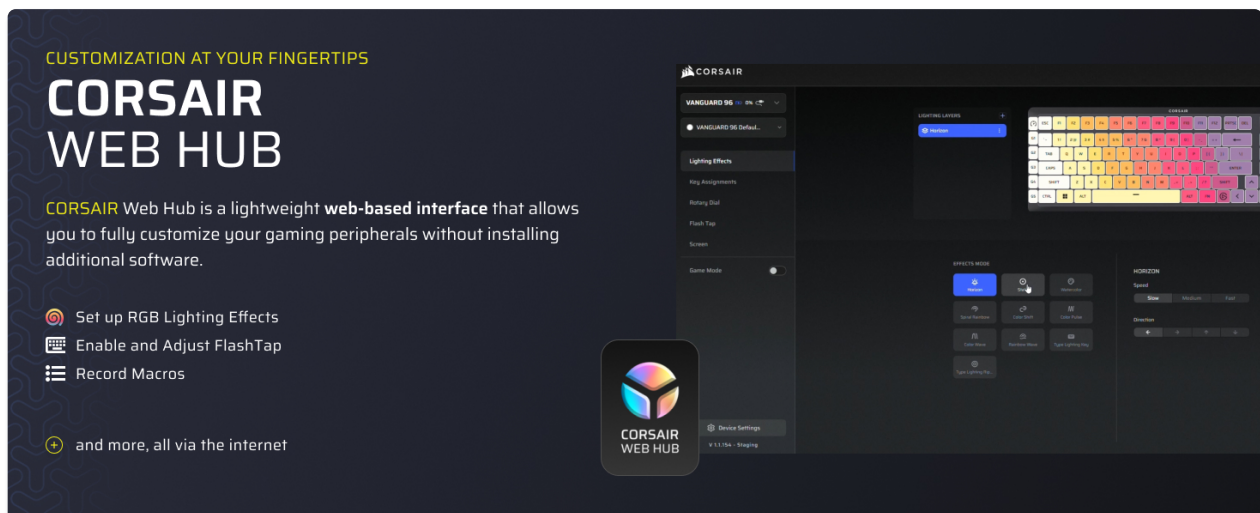


Figure 5: The Corsair Web Hub provides extensive customization options for lighting, key functions, and more.



5. OPERATING

5.1 Using G-Keys

The 6 dedicated G-keys on the left side of the keyboard can be programmed for various functions, including macros, application shortcuts, or Elgato Virtual Stream Deck commands. Refer to the Corsair Web Hub for detailed programming instructions.

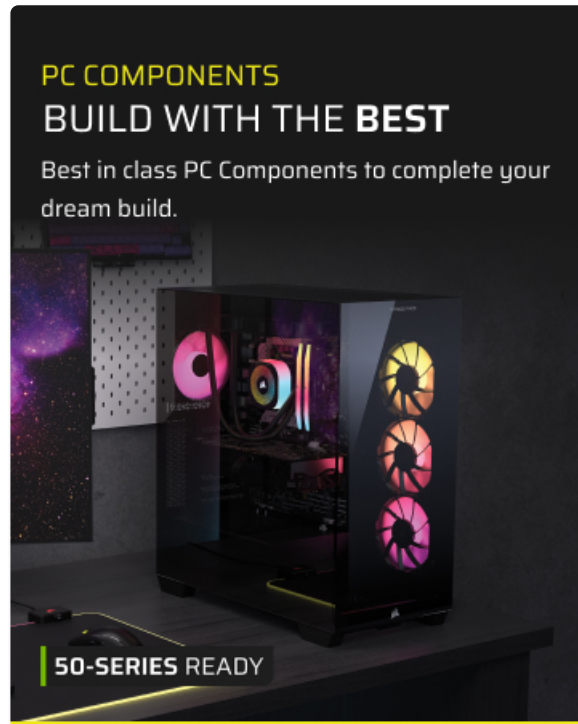


Figure 7: The 6 programmable G-keys offer quick access to macros and custom commands.

5.2 LCD Screen Functions

The LCD screen provides quick access to various settings and information. Use the rotary dial and function keys to navigate through widgets for volume control, media playback, system monitoring, and more.



Figure 8: Elgato Virtual Stream Deck integration allows for clickable shortcuts and hotkeys.

5.3 FlashTap SOCD Handling

FlashTap SOCD (Simultaneous Opposite Cardinal Direction) handling allows you to configure how the keyboard resolves conflicting directional inputs. This feature is crucial for competitive gaming, enabling cleaner and more precise movement techniques. Settings can be adjusted via the Corsair Web Hub.

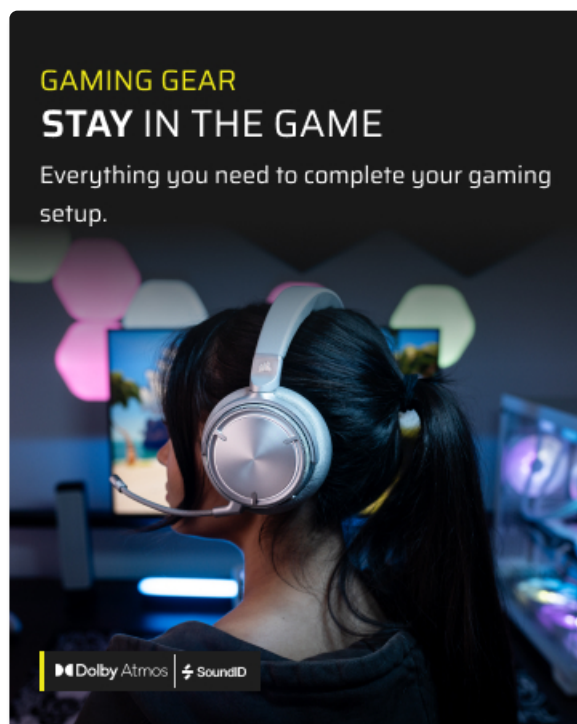


Figure 9: FlashTap SOCD handling optimizes input for cleaner movement techniques.

6. SWITCHES

The Vanguard 96 is equipped with CORSAIR MLX Plasma Linear Switches, known for their smooth and consistent keypresses. These switches are pre-lubricated for optimal performance and rated for up to 80

million keypresses.

6.1 Hot-Swappable Design

The keyboard features a hot-swappable design, allowing you to easily replace switches without soldering. It supports compatible 3-pin and 5-pin switches, giving you the flexibility to customize the feel of your keyboard.

6.2 Quad-Layer Sound Dampening

Four layers of sound dampening foam are integrated into the keyboard's design to minimize unwanted noise and provide a more satisfying acoustic experience with each keypress.

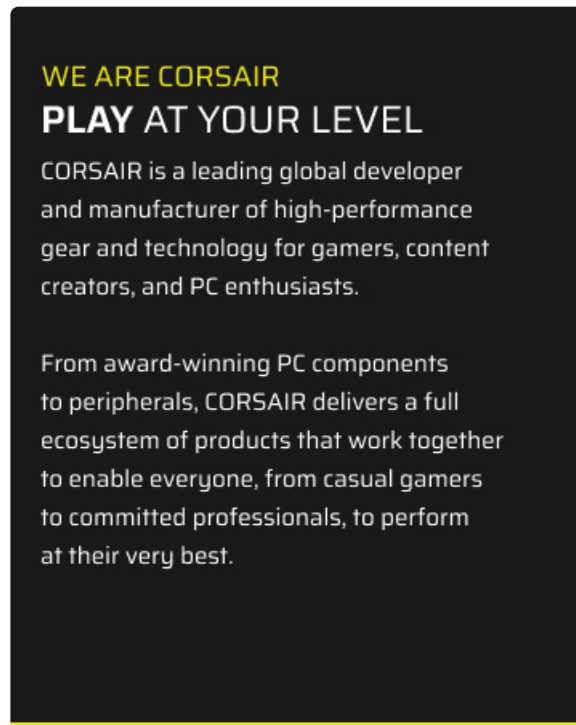


Figure 10: CORSAIR MLX switches offer top-tier responsiveness and are hot-swappable.

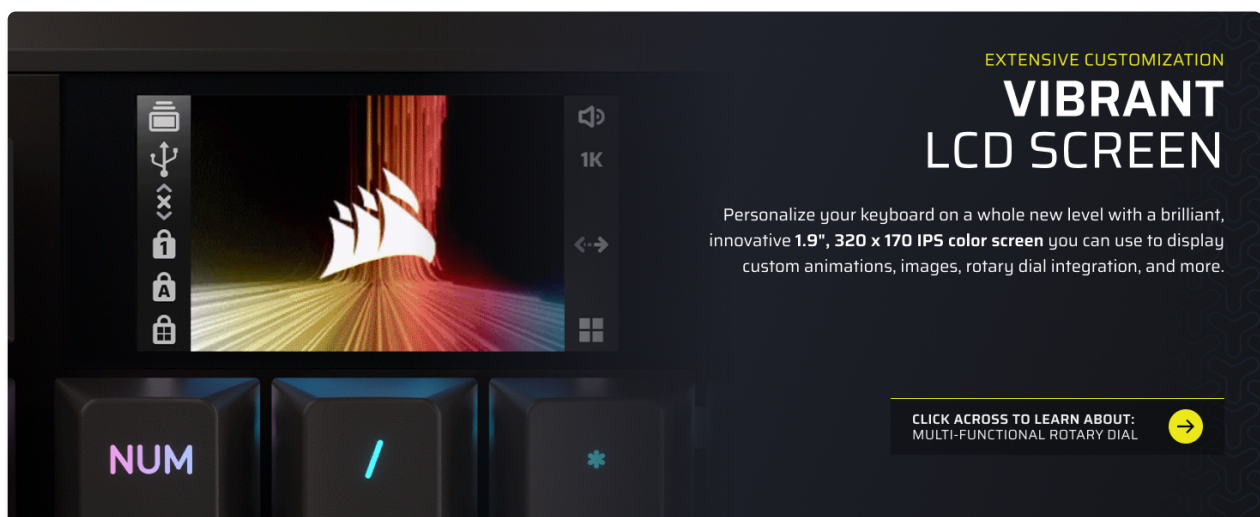


Figure 11: Quad-layer sound dampening minimizes noise and enhances keypress acoustics.

7. MAINTENANCE

7.1 General Cleaning

To maintain optimal performance and appearance, regularly clean your keyboard. Use a soft, lint-free cloth to

wipe down the keycaps and chassis. For deeper cleaning, a can of compressed air can remove dust and debris from between the keys.

7.2 Keycap and Switch Removal

The Corsair Vanguard 96 comes with a keycap puller and a switch puller. To remove keycaps, gently attach the keycap puller to the desired key and pull upwards. To remove switches, use the switch puller to carefully dislodge the switch from its socket. Exercise caution to avoid damaging the switch or the PCB.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Keyboard Not Responding:** Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the keyboard and your computer. Try a different USB port.
- **Keystroke Chattering/Double Inputs:** This may be a firmware issue. Check the Corsair Web Hub for available firmware updates.
- **iCUE Software Compatibility:** As of the product's release, iCUE software support is noted as 'coming soon'. All customization is currently handled via the Corsair Web Hub. Ensure iCUE is closed when using the Web Hub to avoid conflicts.
- **LCD Screen Issues:** If the LCD screen is not displaying correctly, try resetting the keyboard or checking settings within the Corsair Web Hub.

9. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Manufacturer	Corsair
Part Number	CH-91E901E-NA
Item Weight	2.19 pounds
Product Dimensions	15.28 x 5.55 x 1.69 inches
Item Model Number	CH-91E901E-NA
Color	Black
Style	Linear Plasma Switches
Item Package Quantity	1
Switch Style	Linear
Special Features	Backlit, Hot-Swappable, Programmable Keys, Wrist Rest
Included Components	Keycap Puller, USB Cable
Batteries Required?	No
Date First Available	September 25, 2025

10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

10.1 Manufacturer Warranty

The Corsair Vanguard 96 keyboard comes with a **2-Year Manufacturer Warranty**. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

10.2 Product Support

For further assistance, technical support, or to access the latest drivers and firmware updates, please visit the official Corsair website and utilize the Corsair Web Hub for customization and settings management.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 1: Official CORSAIR VANGUARD Video Trailer. This video provides an overview of the keyboard's features and design.