

DROP Carina Mechanical Keyboard Kit User Guide

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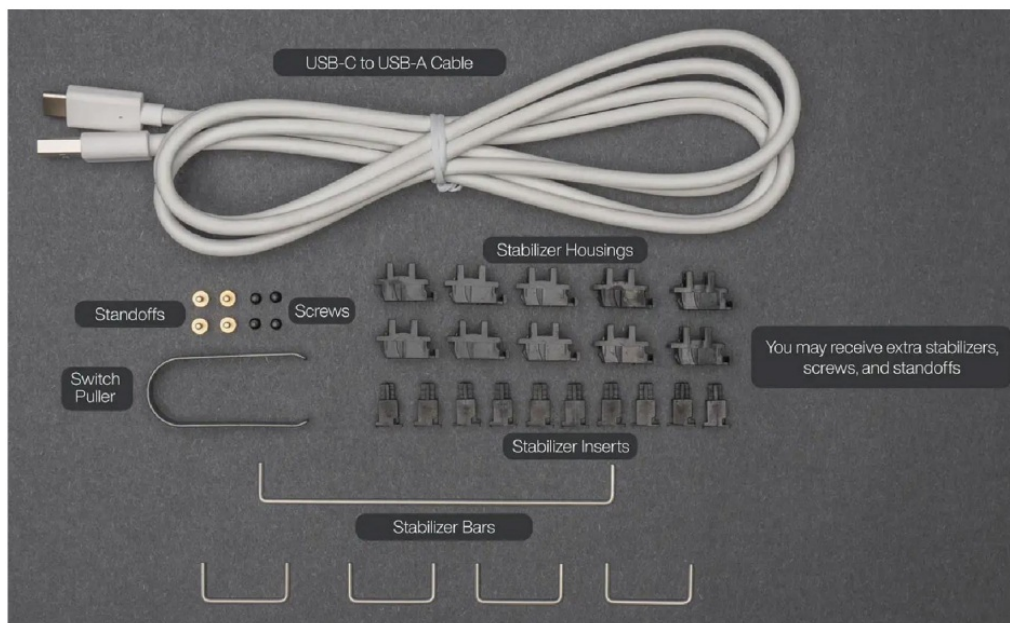
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SETTING UP YOUR CARINA

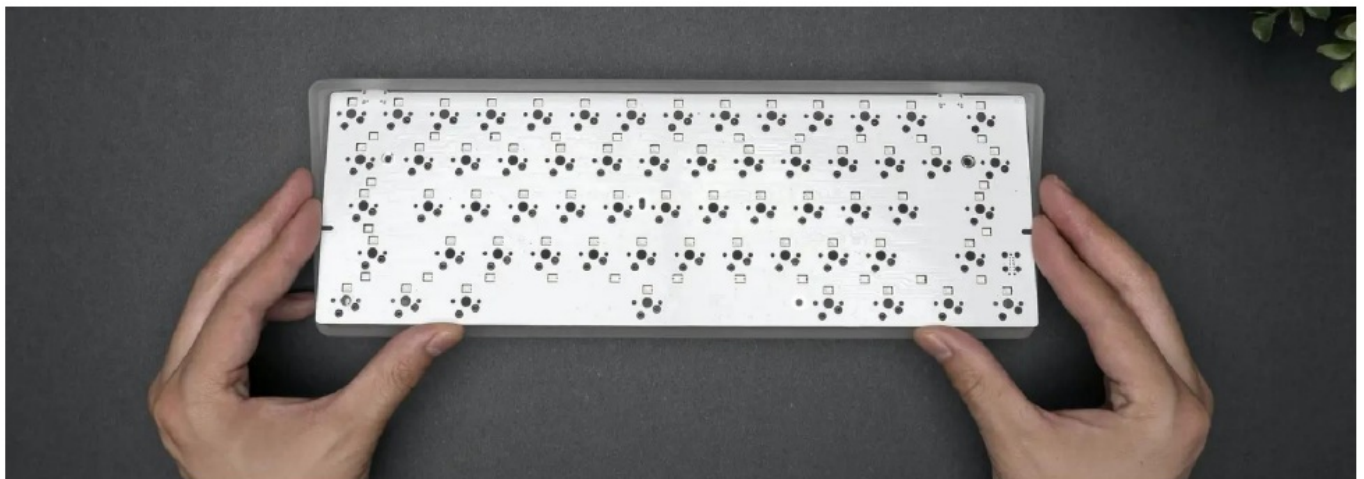
Step 1: Parts Check

Make sure you've all the components that are required to build your Carina.

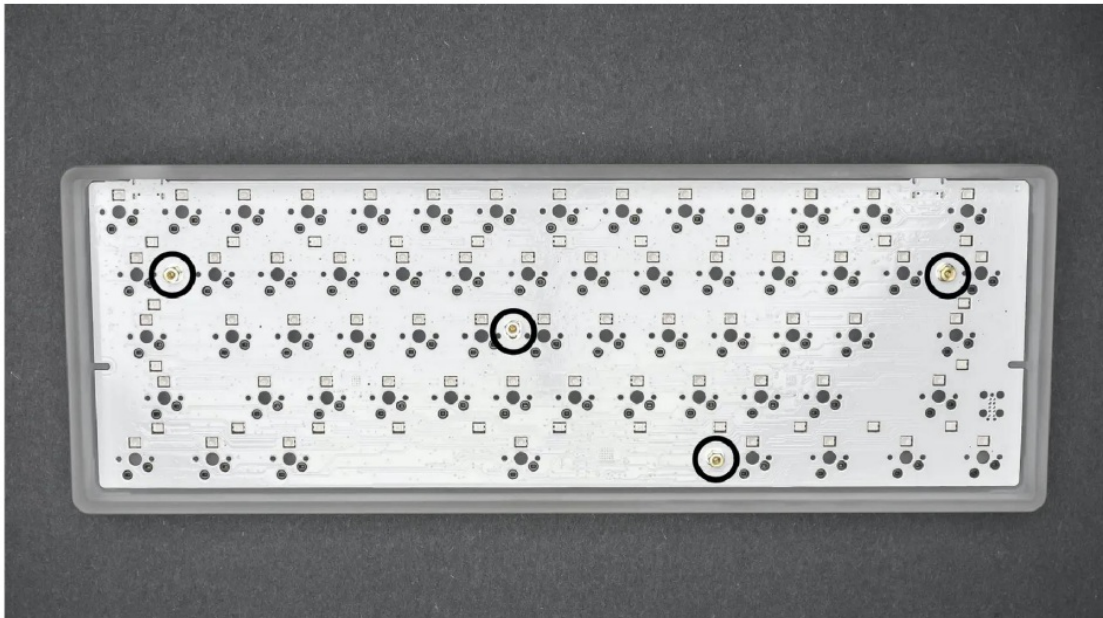


Step 2: Install PCBA & Standoffs

Inspect the PCBA for visible issues. With the side of the PCBA that has surface mounted components facing down, angle and gently lower the USB-C ports into the two cutouts before lowering the rest of the circuit board into the acrylic case.

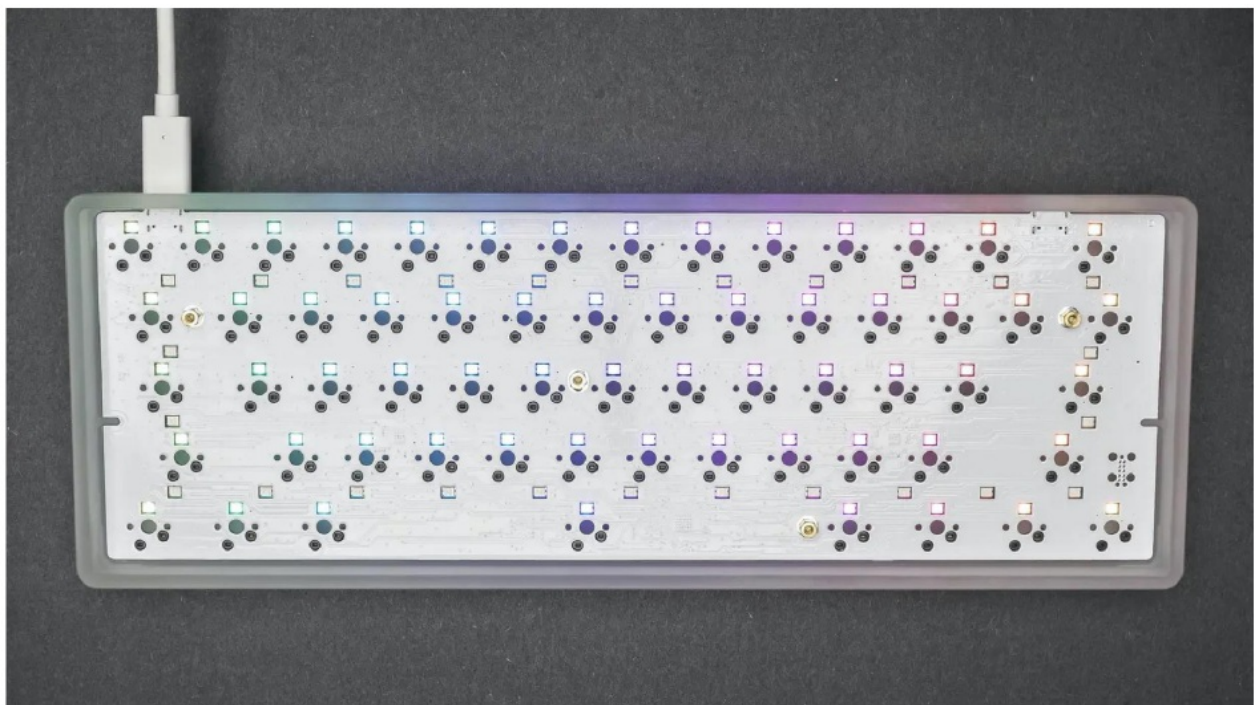


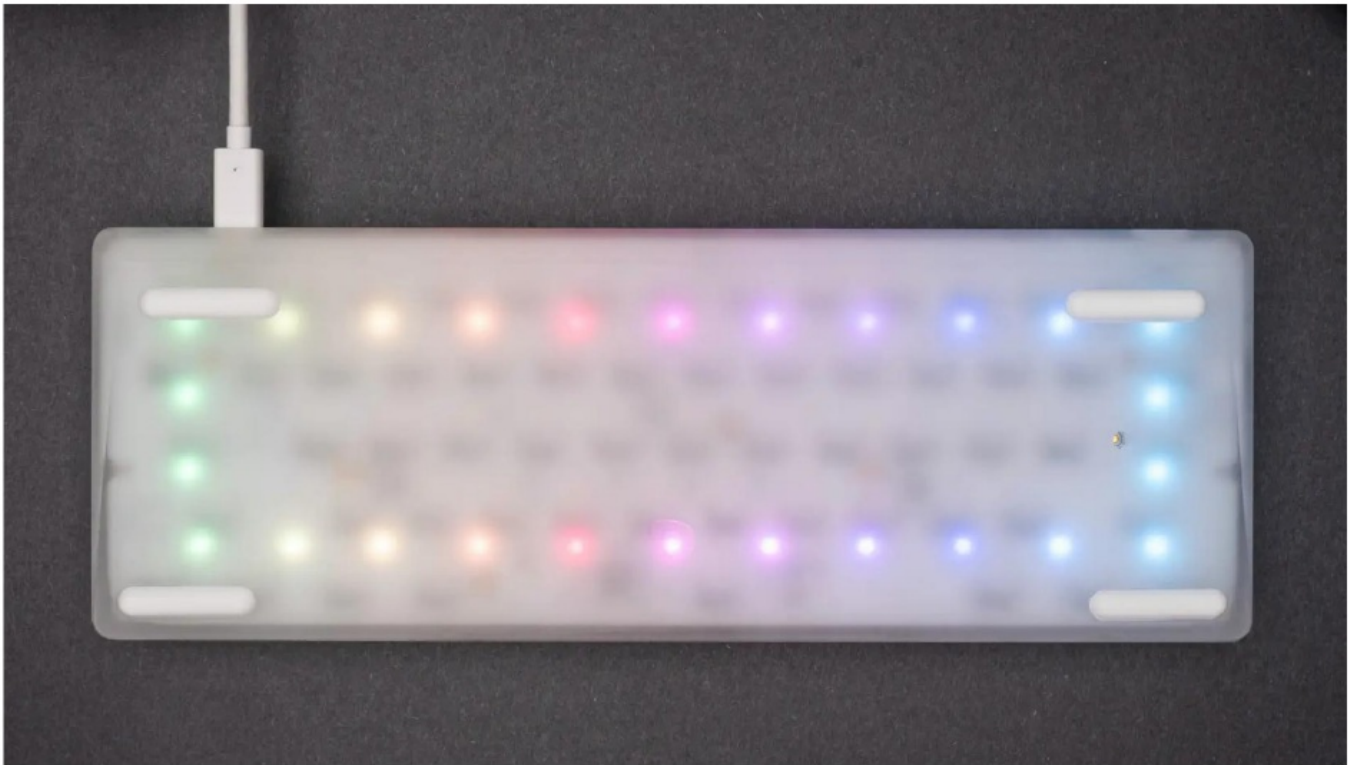
After, grab your brass standoffs, thread and tighten them by hand through each of the four holes into the inserts below.



Step 3: Test Basic Functionality

Plug in the keyboard and check if everything is working. Every LED should be lit. Be sure to check the per-switch LEDs as well as the underglow LEDs.

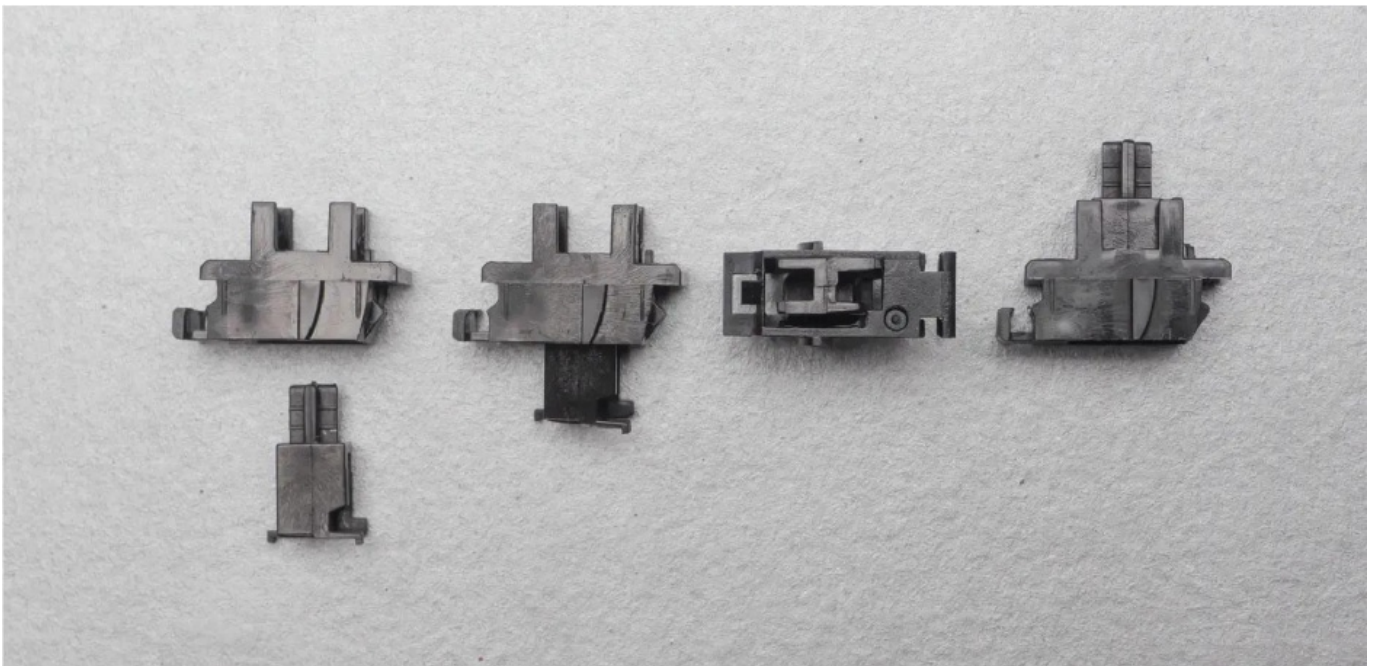




Step 4: Assemble Stabilizers You should have 5 wires (4 short and 1 long), 10 stabilizer inserts and 10 stabilizer housings. If you prefer quieter sounding stabilizers you can lube or grease them during assembly.

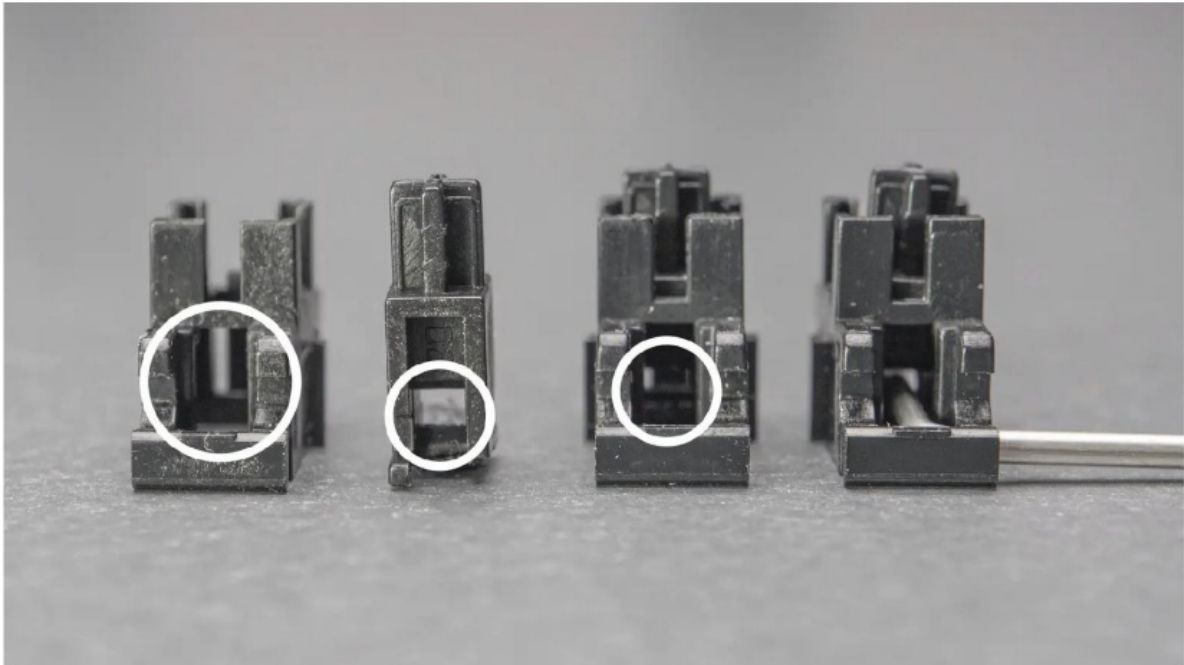
Assembling the Inserts and Housings

Take one insert and drop it into a housing. There is only one correct orientation. If the insert does not seem to fit, remove it, rotate it 180 degrees and try again.



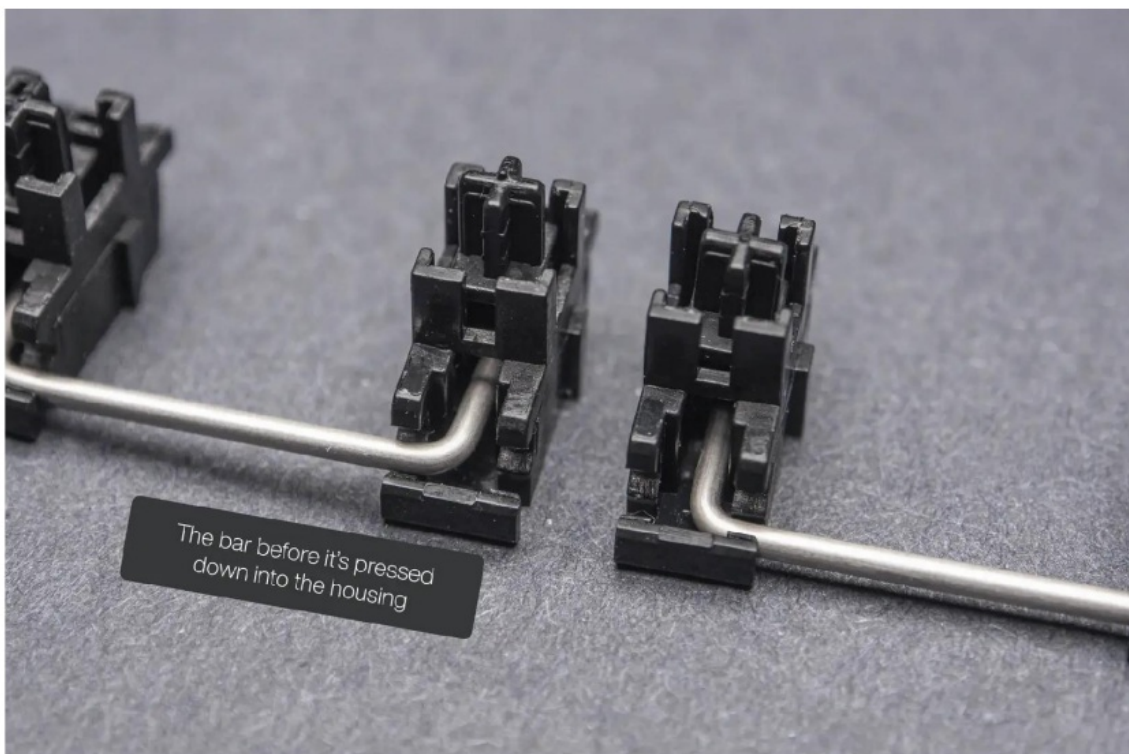
Add Stabilizer Wire

It goes through the opening on the housing and through the bottom hole on the insert. Align the two parts, insert the bar, and it should look like this.

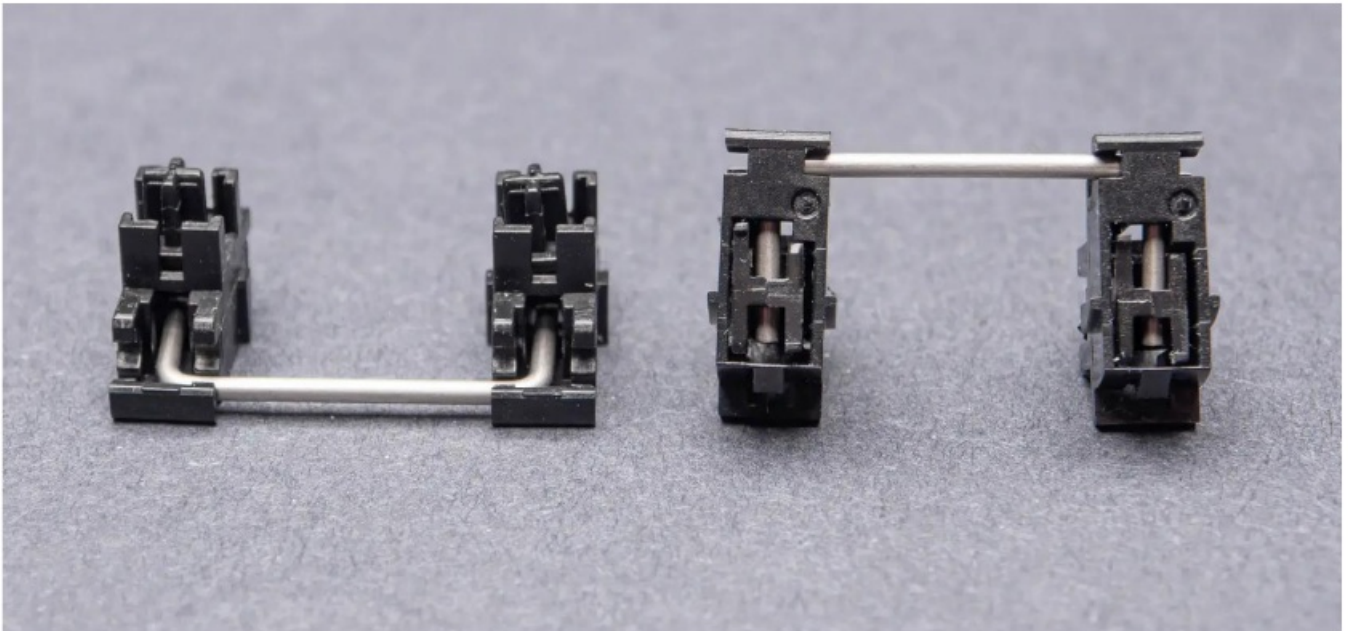


If it refuses to go in all the way, the wire was placed too high up on the insert. Pull the wire out, raise the insert and try again.

If that's good, you can snap the wire into the groove below and you should hear a click. All the parts will stay together and rotating the wire will pop the insert up.

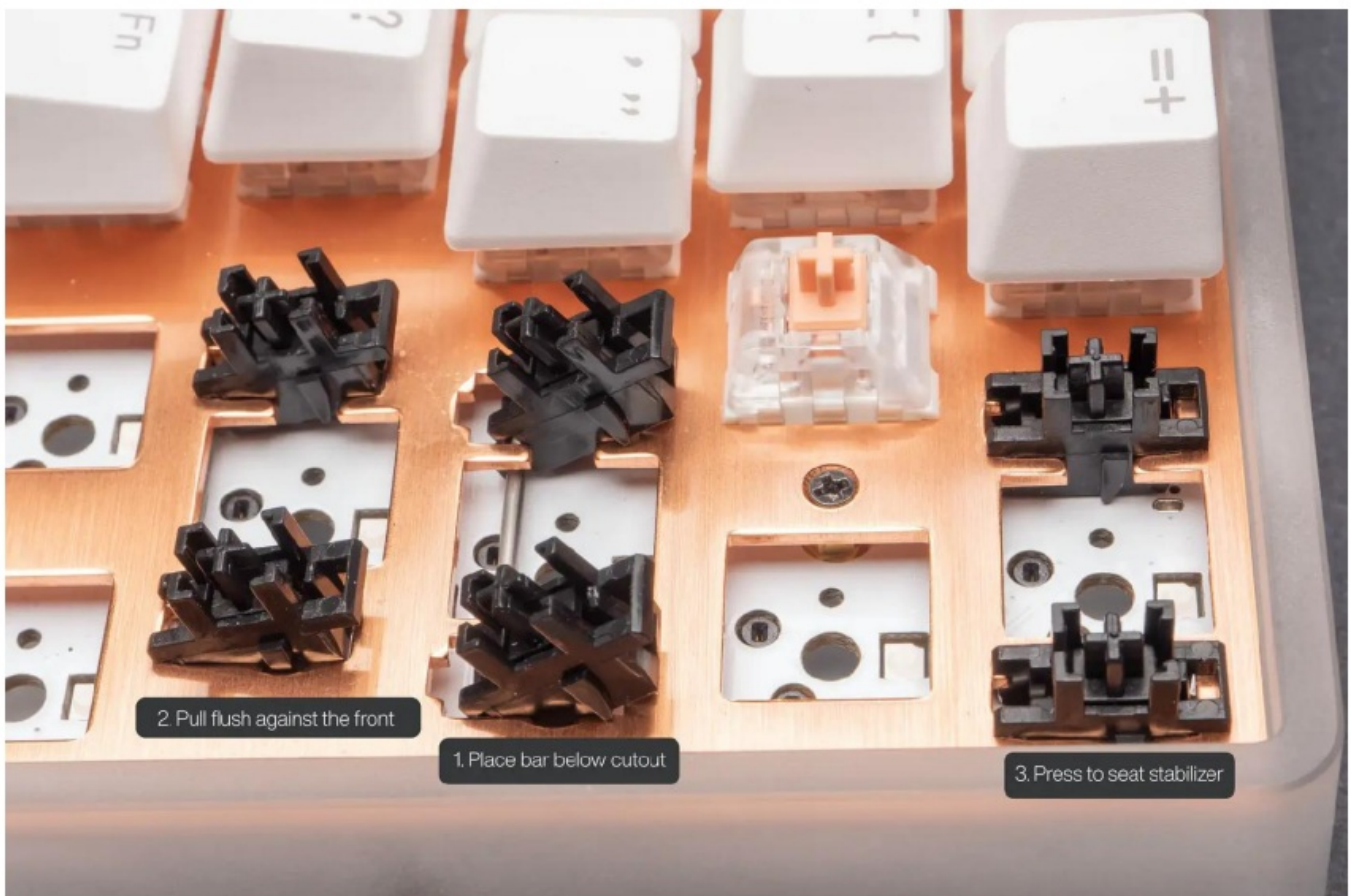


Repeat the same process for the other side. Repeat for all stabilizers. Below is an image of an assembled stabilizer.



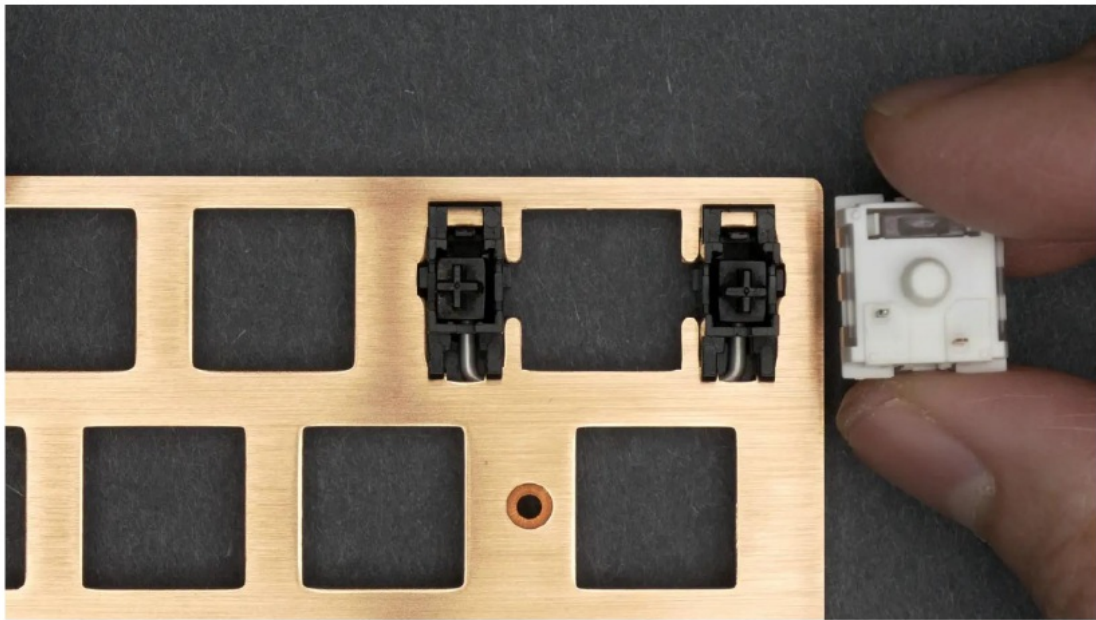
Install Stabilizers on the plate

Rotate each stabilizer assembly so the bar faces towards the bottom in U shape. Drop the bar through the cutout, pull down until both stabilizer ends are seated on the plate, then push the opposite end into place. They will clip into the plate. Install the other four in the same way.

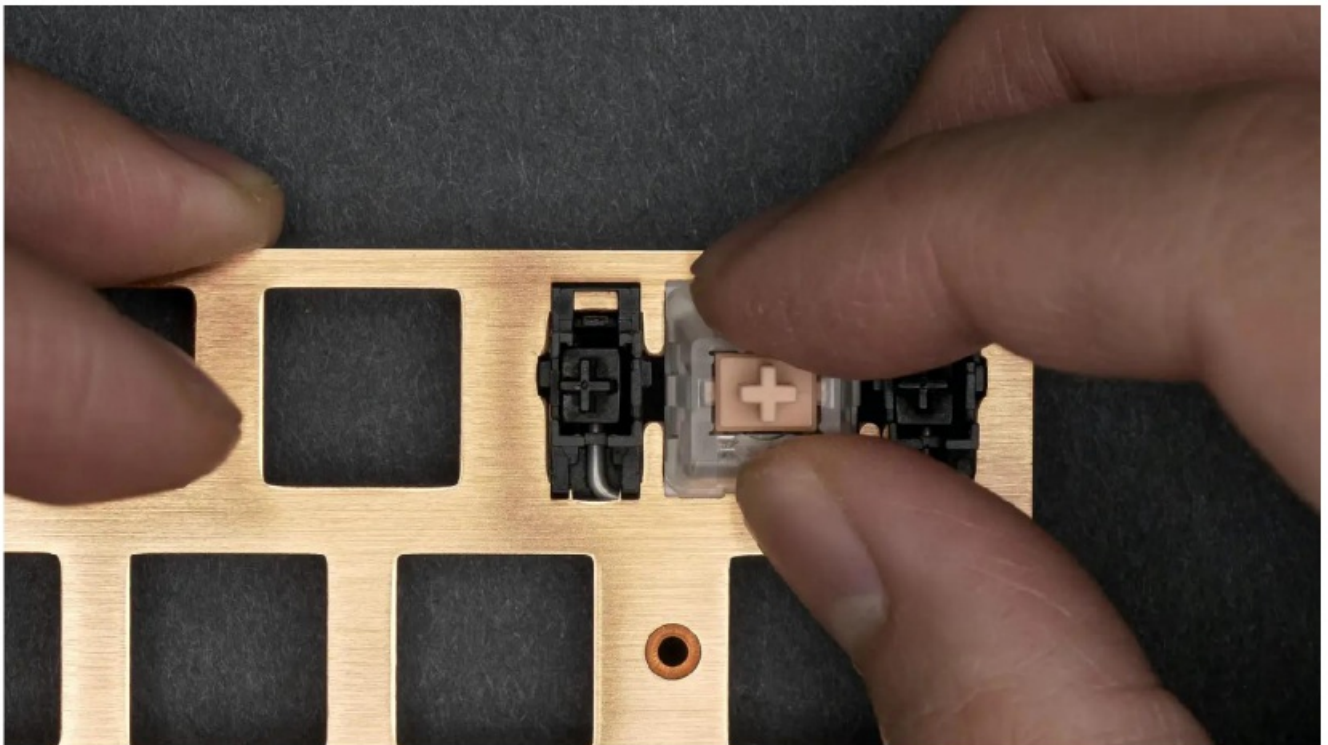


Step 5: Install Switch Plate

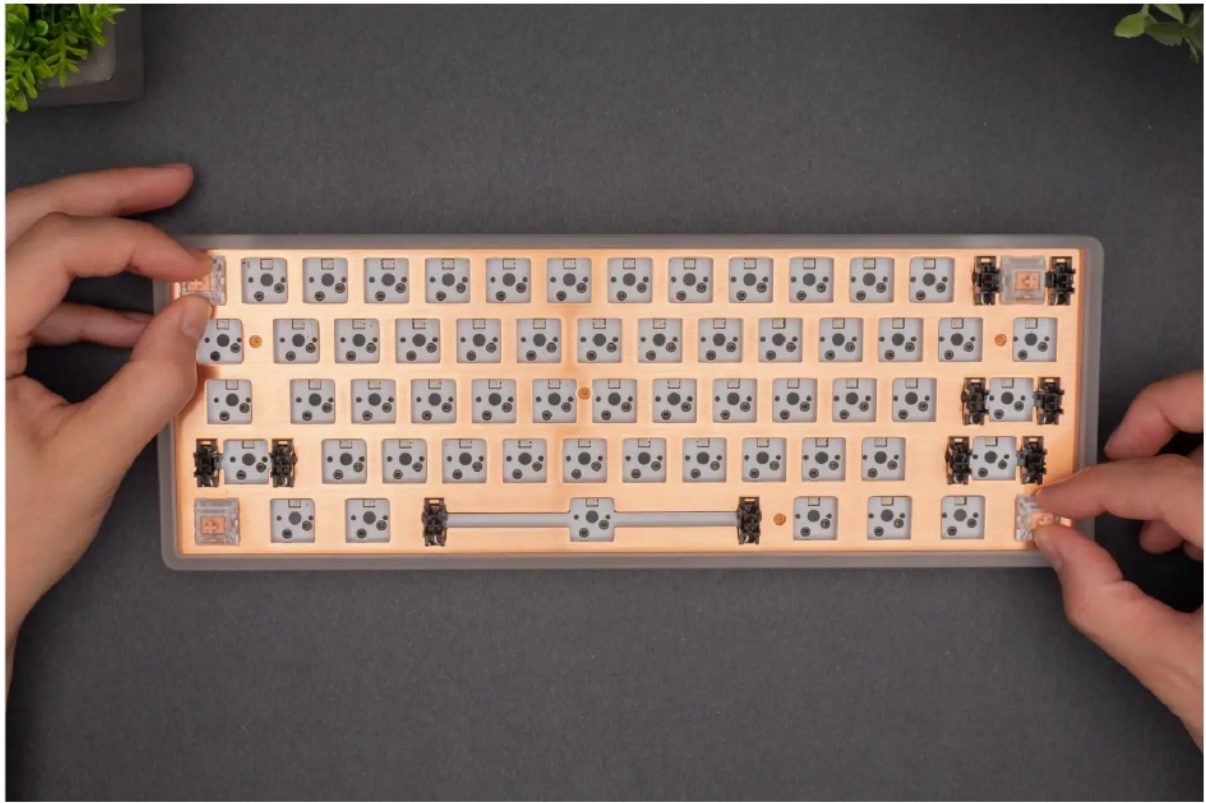
Before installing the switch plate, we will first add switches to the four corners of the plate. This is an important step to align the plate with the circuit board and prevent damage during assembly. Before placing each switch you want to check the underside and see if the pins are straight. If bent, you can use your fingers to straighten them but it's best to use another one instead.



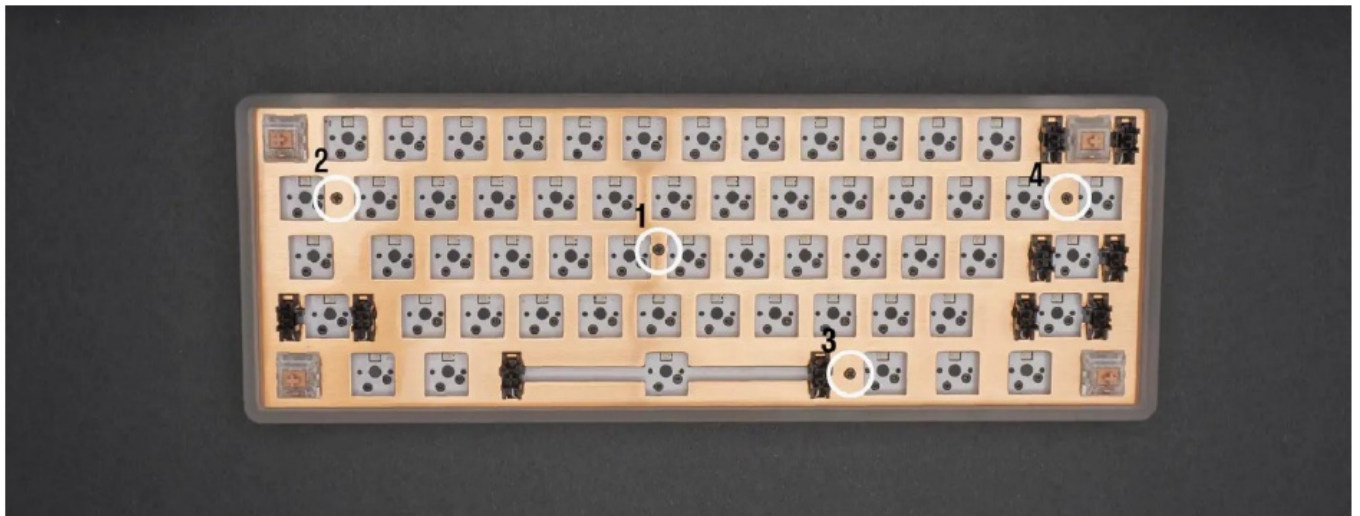
To insert the four switches in each corner, center each switch over the plate, ensuring that the pins align with the sockets, and press firmly until seated. They will snap into place.

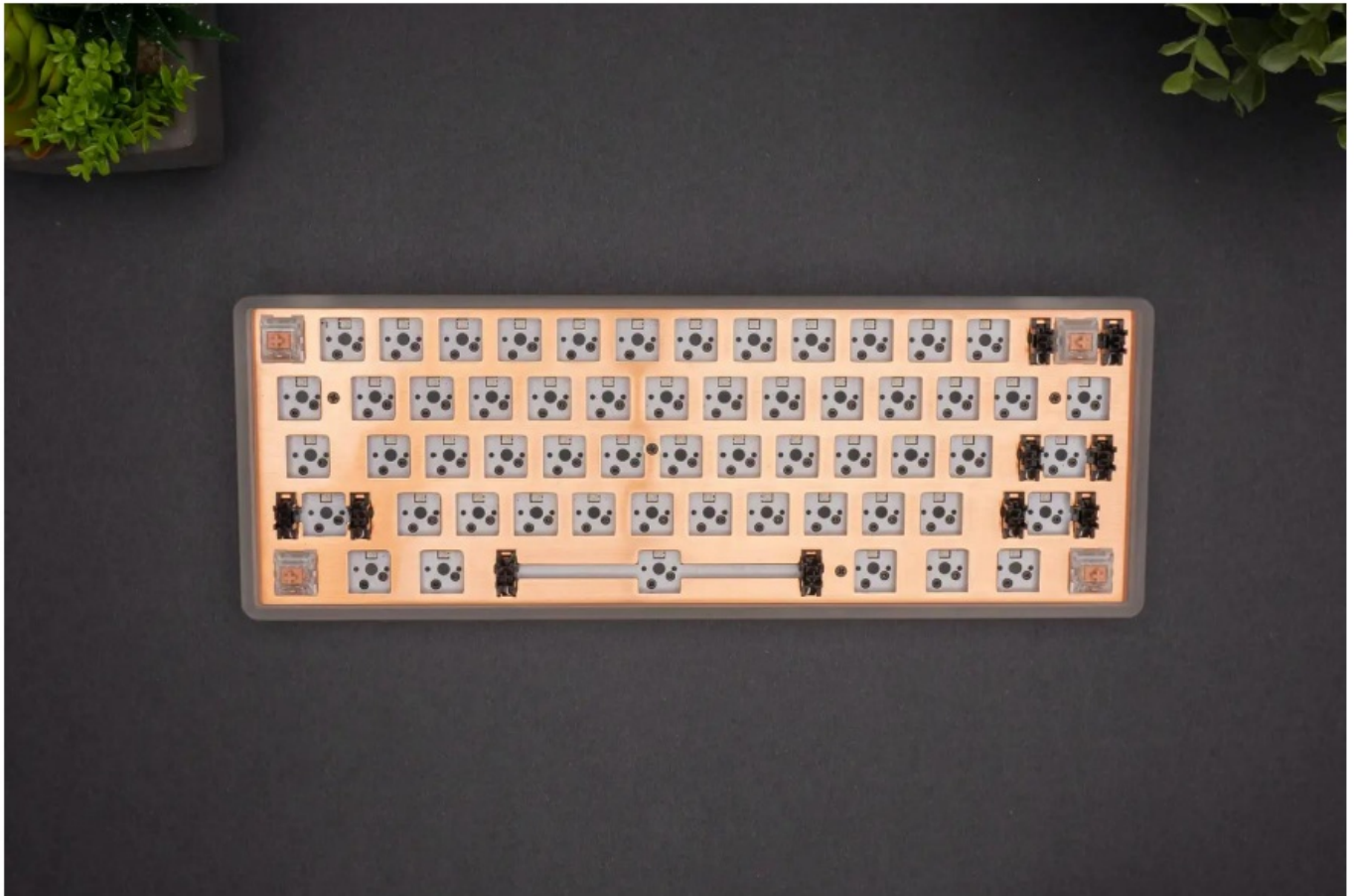


Next, place the plate over the PCBA and make sure the switch pins are aligned with the hotswap sockets. Press down on opposing corners to seat the switches.



Take your screws and secure the plate through the four holes. Start from the middle screw and work outwards so the pressure is evenly distributed.



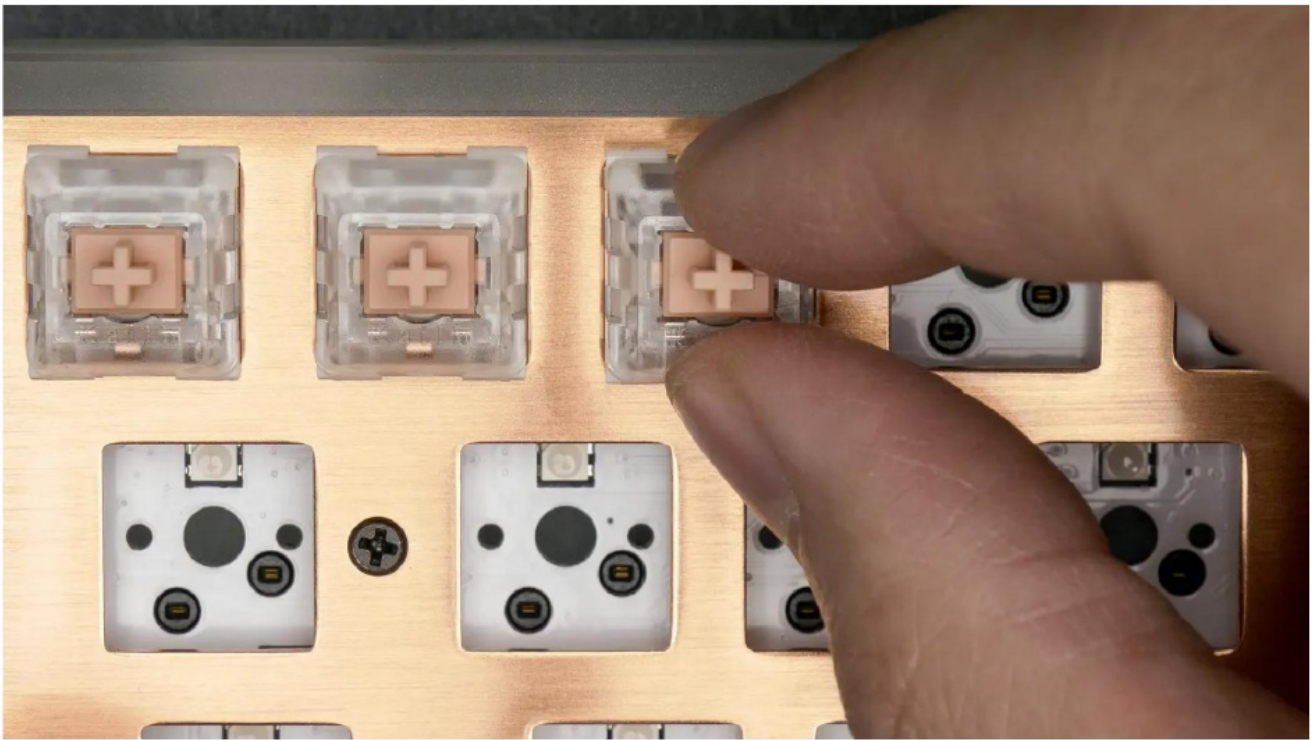


Step 6: Add Switches

Check each switch for straight pins (orthogonal to the bottom of the switch). If they are slightly angled, you can gently straighten them with your fingers.



Align each switch so the pins line up with the hot-swap socket. To insert, center the switch over the plate. You want to make sure all sides are level so the pins can easily slide straight into the socket. Using two fingers push straight down with even pressure to seat the switch. It will clip into the plate.



Repeat this same process across most of the board, checking the pins are straight each time. It is recommended that you install switches starting from the ends of each row and work your way towards the middle of the row.

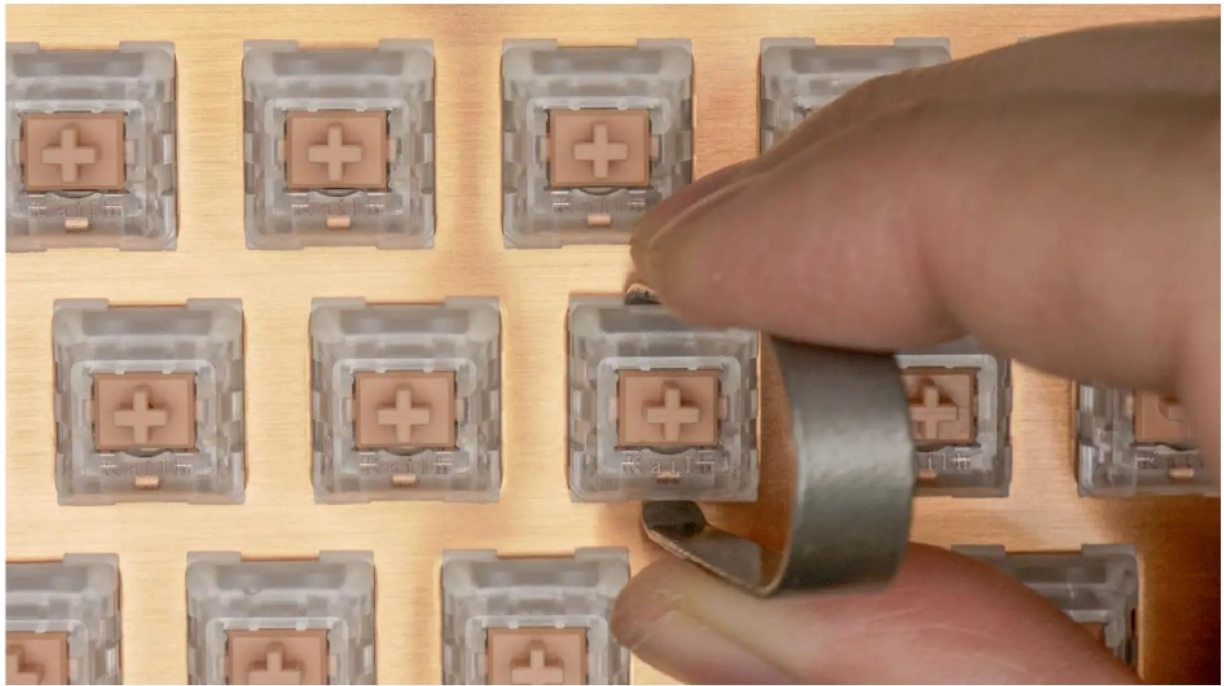
Check Switches & Troubleshooting

Once all the switches are in, check for functionality. Plug your USB-C cable into your keyboard and computer. You should see all your keys lighting up.

Next check that each switch is working. Navigate to keyboardtester.com, launch the tester and check that each switch outputs correctly when pressed. Note that pressing the function key by itself will not show anything. You'll need a combo like `fn + 1` (outputs F1) to see if the key is working.

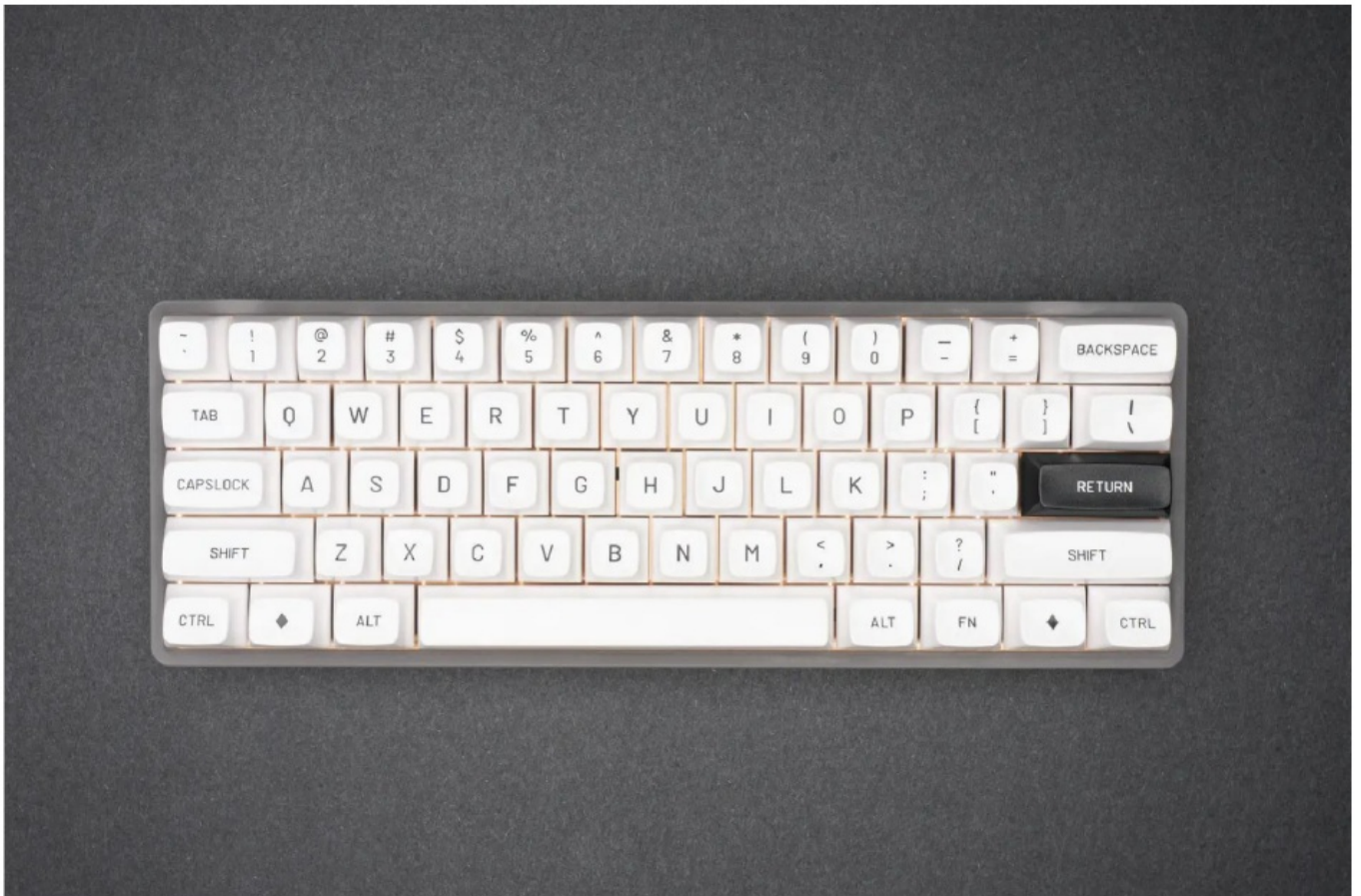
If there's a problem, press the switch down firmly to make sure it's fully seated. If you still have trouble, remove it using a switch puller and check for bent pins.

Place the tips into these grooved slots above and below the switch. Squeeze firmly to depress the tabs, and pull straight up to remove the switch.




Step 7: Add Keycaps

Lastly, add your desired keycaps.



drop

Documents / Resources

	<p>DROP Carina Mechanical Keyboard Kit [pdf] User Guide</p> <p>Carina Mechanical Keyboard Kit, Mechanical Keyboard Kit, Keyboard Kit, Carina Mechanical Keyboard, Mechanical Keyboard, Keyboard</p>
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References

- [K Keyboard Tester](#)