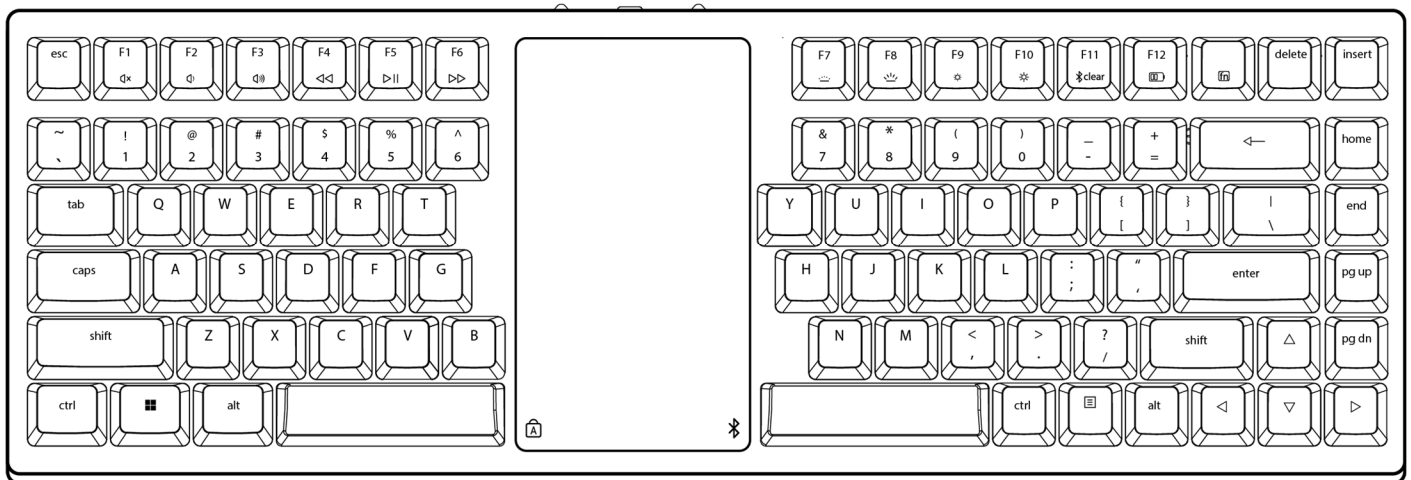




USER'S MANUAL

Form Split Touchpad Keyboard



KB100-W

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Kinesis® FORM Split Touchpad Keyboard | User's Manual May 16, 2024 Edition (Firmware v60a7c1f)

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FCC Radio Frequency Interference Statement

Note

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help

Warning

To assure continued FCC compliance, the user must use only shielded interfacing cables when connecting to computer or peripheral. Also, any unauthorized changes or modifications to this equipment would void the user's authority to operate.

INDUSTRY CANADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interface-causing Equipment Regulations.

Cet Appareil numerique de la classe B respecte toutes les exigences du Reglement sur le material brouilleur du Canada.

Table of Contents

1.0	Read Me First	
1.1	Health and Safety Warning.....	4
1.2	This keyboard is not a medical treatment.....	4
1.3	No warranty of injury prevention or cure.....	4
1.4	Digital Quick Start Guide.....	4
2.0	Keyboard Overview	
2.1	Key Layout and Ergonomics.....	5
2.2	Keyboard Diagram.....	5
2.3	Low-Force Mechanical Switches.....	5
2.4	Profile LED.....	5
2.5	Caps Lock LED.....	5
2.6	Power Switch.....	5
2.7	Profile Switch.....	5
3.0	Initial Setup	
3.1	In the Box.....	6
3.2	Compatibility.....	6
3.3	Rechargeable Battery.....	6
3.4	USB Wired Mode.....	6
3.5	Wireless Bluetooth Pairing.....	6
3.6	Conserving Power.....	6
4.0	Adapting to a Split Keyboard	
4.1	Hand Positioning for Typing.....	7
4.2	Adaption Guidelines.....	7
5.0	Basic Keyboard Use	
5.1	Special commands accessed via the Fn Key.....	8
5.2	Adjusting Backlighting.....	8
5.3	Bluetooth Profile Switching.....	8
5.4	Check Battery Level.....	8
5.5	Re-Pairing a Bluetooth Connection.....	8
5.6	Indicator LED Feedback.....	8
5.7	Windows Precision Touchpad.....	9
5.8	Mac Users.....	9
5.9	Using the keyboard with a TV.....	9
5.10	Firmware Installation.....	9
6.0	Troubleshooting, Support, Warranty, and Care	
6.1	Troubleshooting.....	10
6.2	Contacting Tech Support.....	10
6.3	Kinesis Limited Warranty.....	10
6.4	Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA).....	10
6.5	Cleaning.....	10
6.6	Swapping Keycaps.....	10
7.0	Battery Specs, Charging, Care and Safety	
7.1	Charging.....	11
7.2	Specs.....	11
7.3	Care and Safety.....	11

1.0 Read Me First



1.1 Health and Safety Warning

Continuous use of any keyboard may cause aches, pains, or more serious cumulative trauma disorders such as tendinitis and carpal tunnel syndrome, or other repetitive strain disorders.

- Exercise good judgement in placing reasonable limits on your keyboarding time every day.
- Follow established guidelines for computer and workstation setup
- Maintain a relaxed keying posture and use a light touch to press the keys.

Learn More: [kinesis.com/solutions/keyboard-risk-factors/](https://www.kinesis.com/solutions/keyboard-risk-factors/)

1.2 This keyboard is not a medical treatment

This keyboard is NOT a substitute for appropriate medical treatment! If any information in this guide appears to contradict your health care professional's advice, please follow your health care professional's advice.

Establish realistic expectations when first using the Form. Ensure that you take reasonable rest breaks from keyboarding during the course of the day. And at the first sign of stress-related injury from keyboard use (aching, numbness, or tingling of the arms, wrists, or hands), consult your health care professional.

1.3 No warranty of injury prevention or cure

Kinesis bases its product designs on research, proven features, and user evaluations. However, because of the complex set of factors believed to contribute to computer-related injuries, the company can make no warranty that its products will prevent or cure any ailment. What works well for one person or body type may not be optimal, or even suitable for someone else. Your risk of injury may be affected by workstation design, posture, time without breaks, type of work, non-work activities and individual physiology among other factors.

If you currently have an injury to your hands or arms, or have had such an injury in the past, it is important that you have realistic expectations of your keyboard. You should not expect an immediate improvement in your physical condition simply because you are using a new keyboard. Your physical trauma has built up over months or years, and it may take weeks before you notice a difference. It is normal to feel some new fatigue or discomfort as you adapt to your Kinesis keyboard.

1.4 Quick Start Guide

If you are eager to get started, please consult the digital Quick Start Guide

www.kinesis.com/solutions/form-qsg

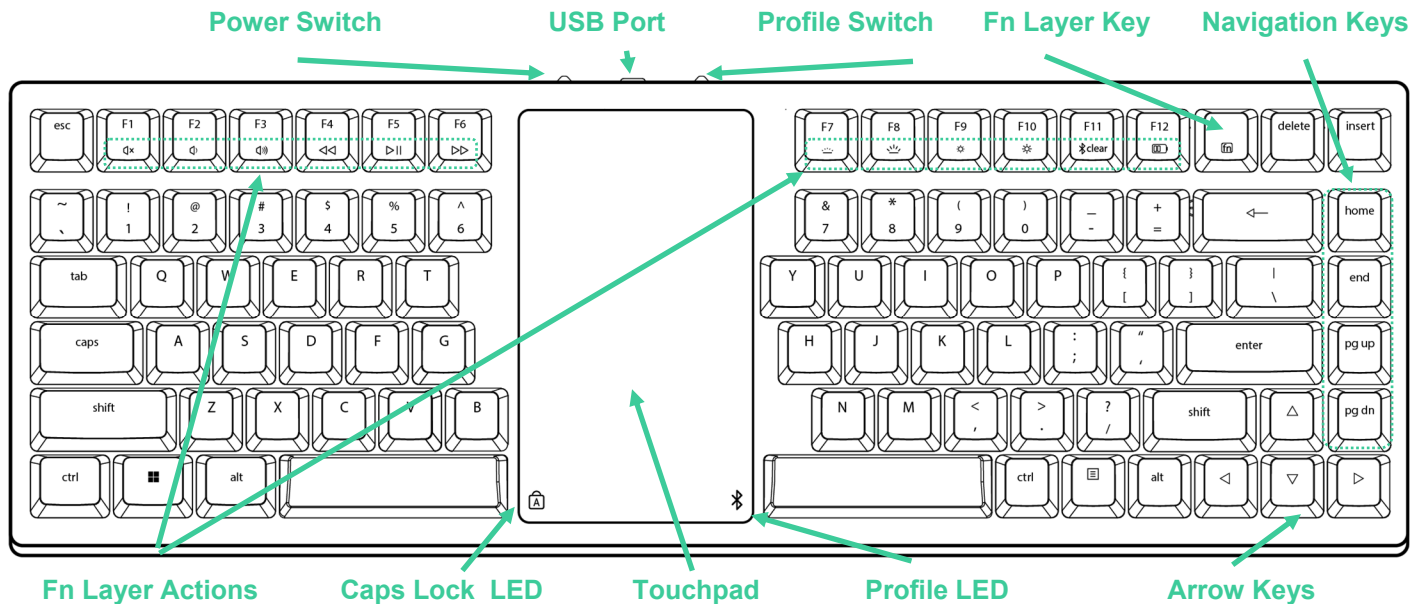
2.0 Overview



2.1 Key Layout and Ergonomics

The Form features a standard laptop style layout which is simply divided into a left and right side to place you into perfect typing “form” by positioning your hands at approximately shoulder-width. If you are new to a split keyboard, the first thing you will notice is some keys like 6, Y, B may not be on the side you expect. These keys were intentionally placed to reduce reach, but it may take several days for you to adapt. The Form was engineered to be as slim as possible for a mechanical keyboard and it features a zero-degree slope to ensure your wrists are straight. If you prefer palm support, there are a variety of 3rd party products on the market.

2.2 Keyboard Diagram



2.3 Low-force Mechanical Key Switches

The Form features full-travel, low-profile mechanical switches. If you are coming from a laptop keyboard or a membrane-style keyboard, the additional depth of travel (and noise) may take some getting used to.

2.4 Profile LED

The color and flash speed of the Profile LED display the Active Profile and current Pairing Status respectively.

- Rapid Flash: Form is “discoverable” and ready to be paired in Profile 1 (White) or Profile 2 (Blue)
- Solid: Form has *just* been successfully “paired and connected” in Profile 1 (White) or Profile 2 (Blue).
Note: To conserve battery, LED will only illuminate Solid White/Blue for 5 seconds and then turn off
- Slow Flash: Form was successfully “paired” in Profile 1 (White) or Profile 2 (Blue) but is NOT currently “connected” to that device. *Note: The keyboard cannot be paired to a new device in this state.*
- Off: The Form is currently paired and connected to the device corresponding to the Active Profile.
- Solid Green: The USB Profile is active and all keystrokes over USB and the Form is charging.

2.5 Caps Lock LED

If supported by your operating system, the Caps Lock LED will illuminate in the color corresponding to the current Profile (Green = USB, White = Profile 1, Blue = Profile 2).

2.6 Power Switch

Slide to the right to turn on the battery on to enable wireless use, slide to the left to turn the battery off.

2.7 Profile Switch

When the keyboard is NOT connected via USB, you can slide the switch to the left position to activate Profile 1 (White) and to the right position to activate Profile 2 (Blue) to toggle between two paired devices.

3.0 Initial Setup



3.1 In the Box

Form Keyboard, USB A-to-C Cable, six Mac modifier keycaps and keycap puller.

3.2 Compatibility

The Form is a multimedia USB keyboard that uses generic drivers provided by the operating system so no special drivers or software are required to operate the keyboard or touchpad. While the keyboard is generally compatible with all major operating systems that support USB input devices, the Touchpad has been optimized for Windows 11 PCs. *Note: Not all operating systems support mouse or touchpad inputs from a keyboard, and sadly Apple does not offer any support for 3+ finger gestures on 3rd party touchpads.*

3.3 Rechargeable Battery

The Form is powered by a rechargeable Lithium-Ion battery for wireless use. The battery is designed to last for several months with the LED backlighting off and several weeks with backlighting on. If you use the keyboard wirelessly you will need to periodically connect it to your PC to re-charge the battery. *Important Note: The keyboard should always be connected directly to your PC, not the wall, for charging.*

3.4 USB Wired Mode

Connect the keyboard to a full-size USB port on your device. The Profile LED will illuminate Green. The Power and Profile Switches can be disregarded when using the Form with a wired USB connection. *Note: Any time the keyboard is connected via USB, the Bluetooth pairing status, Profile and Power Switch positions will be ignored, and keystrokes will be sent exclusively to the PC via the wired connection.*

3.5 Wireless Bluetooth Pairing

The Form connects directly to your Bluetooth-enabled device, there is no Kinesis dedicated “dongle”. The Form can be paired with 2 different Bluetooth devices and the Profile Switch manages which is “active” .

Follow these steps to Pair the Form wirelessly with a Bluetooth-enabled device:

1. Disconnect the keyboard from any USB connection and slide the Power Switch to the right.
2. The Profile LED will flash white RAPIDLY to signal Profile 1 is ready to pair (and blue rapidly for Profile 2). *Note: If the Profile LED is flashing slowly use the Bluetooth Clear command (Fn+F11 to erase the previously paired device in that Profile)*
3. Navigate to your device’s Bluetooth menu and select “FORM” from the list, and follow the prompts on the PC to pair the keyboard. The Profile LED will change to “solid” white (or blue) for 5 seconds when the keyboard has successfully paired Profile 1, and then turn off to conserve battery.
4. To pair the Form with a second device, slide the Profile switch to the right to access the Blue Profile. The Profile LED will flash blue rapidly to signal Profile 2 is ready to pair.
5. Navigate to the *other* PC’s Bluetooth menu and select “FORM” to pair this Profile.
6. Once the Form has been paired with both devices, you can quickly toggle between them by sliding the Profile switch left or right.

Note: If you run into connectivity problems as indicated by the Profile LED flashing SLOWLY, consult Section 6.1 for basic troubleshooting tips.

3.6 Conserving Power

The Form is equipped with a 30-second sleep timer to conserve power when used in either wired or wireless mode. If no keystroke or touchpad activity is registered after 30 seconds, the backlighting will shut off and the keyboard will enter a low power “sleep” state. Simply press a key or tap the touchpad to wake the keyboard and resume where you left off. If you use the Form wirelessly and do not plan to use it for an extended period of time (say overnight or longer), we recommend turning sliding the Power Switch to the left position to conserve the further conserve charge. Simply slide the Power Switch to the right position to turn it back on.

4.0 Adapting to a Split Keyboard



4.1 Hand Positioning for Typing

Position your index fingers on the F and J keys as indicated by the small raised nubs, and relax your thumbs over the dual spacebars. The Form is low-profile enough that you should be able to raise your palms above the keyboard or rest your arms on the desk while typing. If neither position is comfortable you should consider a 3rd party palm support.

Read More About Ergonomics: www.kinesisis.com/solutions/ergonomic-resources/

4.2 Adaptation Guidelines

Following these guidelines to make adaption fast and easy, regardless of your age or experience.

Adapting your “kinesthetic sense”

If you are already a touch typist, adapting to the Form does not require “re-learning” to type in the traditional sense. You just need to adapt your existing muscle memory or kinesthetic sense.

Typical adaptation period

You will need a little time to adjust to the new Form keyboard. Real-world testing shows that most new users are productive (i.e., 80% of full speed) within the first few hours of starting to use the Form keyboard. Full speed is typically achieved gradually within 3-5 days but can take up to 2-4 weeks with some users for a few keys. We recommend not switching back to a traditional keyboard during this initial adaptation period as that can slow your adaptation.

After Adaptation

Once you have adapted to the Form, you should have no problem switching back to a traditional keyboard, though you may feel slow. Many users report an increase in typing speed because of the efficiencies inherent in the split design and the fact that it encourages you to use proper typing form.

If You Are Injured

The Form keyboard is an entry-level keyboard designed to reduce *some* of physical stress that all keyboard users experience— whether or not they are injured. Ergonomic keyboards are not medical treatments, and no keyboard can be guaranteed to cure injuries or prevent the occurrence of injuries. Always consult your health care professional if you notice discomfort or other physical problems when you use your computer. If any information in this Manual contradicts the advice you have received from a health care professional, please follow your health care professional’s instructions.

Have you been diagnosed with RSI or CTD?

Have you ever been diagnosed with tendinitis, carpal tunnel syndromes, or some other form of repetitive strain injury (“RSI”), or cumulative trauma disorder (“CTD”)? If so, you should use special care when using a computer, regardless of your keyboard. Even if you simply experience modest discomfort when using a traditional keyboard you should use reasonable care when typing. To achieve the maximum ergonomic benefits when using the Advantage360 keyboard, it is important that you arrange your workstation in accordance with generally accepted ergonomic standards and take frequent “micro” breaks. For individuals with existing RSI conditions it may be advisable work with your health care provider to develop an adaptation schedule.

Establish realistic expectations

If you currently have an injury to your hands or arms, or have had such an injury in the past, it is important that you have realistic expectations. You should not expect an immediate improvement in your physical condition simply by switching to the Form, or any ergonomic keyboard for that matter. Your physical trauma has built up over months or years, and it may take a number of weeks before you notice a difference. At first, you may feel some new fatigue or discomfort as you adapt to the Form.

5.0 Basic Keyboard Use



5.1 Special commands accessed via the Fn Key

Each of the 12 F-Keys feature a special secondary function which is legended on the lower half of the key. These functions can be accessed by PRESSING AND HOLDING the Fn Key and then tapping the desired key. Release the Fn key to resume normal use. *Note: Not all operating systems support all special actions.*

- F1:** Volume Mute
- F2:** Volume Down
- F3:** Volume Up
- F4:** Previous Track
- F5:** Play/Pause
- F6:** Next Track
- F7:** Keyboard Brightness Down and Off (See Section 5.2)
- F8:** Keyboard Brightness Up (See Section 5.2)
- F9:** Laptop Screen Brightness Down
- F10:** Laptop Screen Brightness Up
- F11:** Clear the Bluetooth connection for the Active Profile
- F12:** Display Battery Level (See Section 5.4)

5.2 Adjusting Backlighting

The Form is equipped with white backlighting to for use in low-light environments. Use the commands Fn + F7 and Fn + F8 to adjust the backlight down or up respectively. There are 4 levels choose from and Off. The backlight consumes a significant amount of power so use it only when necessary to maximize battery life.

5.3 Profile Switching

When not connected via USB, you can use the Profile Switch to quickly toggle between two previously paired Bluetooth devices. Slide the Profile Switch left for Profile 1 (White) and slide it right for Profile 2 (Blue).

5.4 Checking Battery Level

The keyboard can report the approximate real-time battery level on the indicator LEDs. Hold the Fn key down and then tap or hold F12 to temporarily display the charge level.

- Green: More than 80%
- Yellow: 51-79%
- Orange: 21-50%
- Red: Less than 20% (Charge soon!)

5.5 Re-Pairing a Bluetooth Connection

If you wish to re-pair either of the 2 Bluetooth Profiles with a new device or are having trouble re-connecting to a previously paired device, use the Bluetooth Clear command (Fn + F11) to erase the connection with PC for the current Profile on the keyboard-side. To re-pair the keyboard with the same computer you will also need to erase the connection on that PC by “Forgetting” or “Erasing” the Form on the device-side (exact terminology and process will depend on your PC operating system and hardware).

5.6 Indicator LED Feedback

- *Profile LED Solid Green:* Keyboard is sending keystrokes over USB
- *Profile LED Off:* Keyboard is currently connected to the device in the active Profile
- *Profile LED Flashing Rapidly:* The active Profile is ready to be paired with a new Bluetooth device.
- *Profile LED Flashing Slowly:* The active Profile is currently paired BUT the Bluetooth device is not in range. If that device is on and in range, “try clearing” the pairing connection and starting again.

5.7 Using the Windows Precision Touchpad

Your Form features an integrated Windows Precision Touchpad which supports pointing, clicking, scrolling and gestures on Windows 11. Non-Windows devices should support basic pointing, clicking and scrolling.

Point

Slide your finger across the touchpad surface to move your cursor. If you find the cursor speed inadequate you can adjust the settings via the connected device. Depending on the operating system, the cursor speed is either adjusted through Touchpad settings (if applicable) or Mouse Settings.

- Adjusting Speed on Windows 10/11: Settings > Devices > Touchpad > Change Cursor Speed
- Adjusting Speed on macOS: System Settings > Mouse

Tap-to-Click

- Single Click: Tap anywhere on the touchpad to click. *Note: The touchpad does not have a physical click mechanism or haptic feedback.*
- Double Click: Tap the touchpad twice in rapid succession to double-click. Double click sensitivity can be adjusted in your Touchpad or Mouse settings
- Right Click: Tap two adjacent fingers at the same time to right-click.

Scroll

Place two adjacent fingers on the touchpad and move them up, down, left or right to scroll. Depending on the operating system, the scroll direction is either adjusted through Touchpad settings (if applicable) or Mouse Settings. *Note: Not all operating systems and/or applications support horizontal scrolling.*

Multi-Finger Gestures

Windows supports a large suite of 3 and 4 finger swipes and taps which can be customized to perform a variety of actions like Volume Control, App Switching, Desktop Switching, Search, Action Center etc.

- Windows Settings > Devices > Touchpad

Important Note for our Mac Customers: Apple has chosen not to support gestures on 3rd party touchpads.

5.8 Mac Users

Mac users who wish to convert the bottom row “modifier” keys to the conventional Mac arrangement should download the Mac-Layout firmware file at the link below and follow the instructions in 5.10 to install the file.

Download Firmware Here: www.kinesis-ergo.com/support/form/#firmware

5.9 Using the keyboard with a SmartTV

The Form can be paired with most Bluetooth-enabled Smart TVs, but note that not all TV’s support a touchpad or mouse. Please consult your TV’s user manual. The Form features several un-legended Fn layer commands to make navigating your TV’s menus easier. *Note: Not all TV’s support all commands.*

Fn+B: Back

Fn+H: Home

Fn+T: Launch TV

Fn+W: Launch Browser

If your TV does not support the touchpad you can download a TV-optimized firmware file that converts the touchpad into a basic mouse at the link below and follow the instructions in 5.10 to install file .

Download Firmware Here: www.kinesis-ergo.com/support/form/#firmware

5.10 Firmware Installation

Installing new firmware on the Form is fast and easy.

- 1) Download the desired file from the Kinesis website: www.kinesis-ergo.com/support/form/#firmware
- 2) Connect the keyboard to your PC over USB, and double-click the Reset button on the underside of the keyboard to mount a removable drive called “FORM”.
- 3) Unzip and copy/paste the downloaded firmware file on to the “FORM” drive. The indicator LEDs will flash blue while the firmware is installed. When the indicators stop flashing the keyboard is ready to use.

Important Note: Most versions of macOS will report a “file transfer” error but the update will still take place.

6.0 Troubleshooting, Support, Warranty, Care & Customization

6.1 Troubleshooting Tips

If the keyboard behaves in unexpected ways, there are a variety of easy “DIY” fixes you can try.

Most issues can be fixed with a simple power or profile cycle

Disconnect the keyboard from any wired connection and slide the Power Switch to the left. Wait 30 seconds and then power back on. You can also toggle the Profile Switch to refresh the Bluetooth connection.

Charge the battery

If you are using the keyboard wirelessly, the battery will need to be charged periodically. Connect the keyboard to your PC using the included cable. After 12+ hours, use the command Fn + F12 to check the battery status. If the Indicator LEDs do not illuminate Green, contact Kinesis as there may be a problem.

Wireless connectivity issues

If your wireless connection is spotty or you are having trouble re-connecting to a previously paired device (ie the Profile LED is flashing slowly) it can be helpful to re-pair the keyboard. Use the Bluetooth Clear command (Fn+F11) to erase the PC from the keyboard's memory. Then you need to remove the keyboard from the corresponding PC via the computer's Bluetooth menu (Forget/Erase). Then attempt to re-pair from scratch.

6.2 Contacting Kinesis Technical Support

Kinesis offers, to the original purchaser, free technical support from trained agents based in our US headquarters. Kinesis has a commitment to deliver best-in-class customer service and we look forward to helping if you experience any problems with your Form keyboard. To better serve ALL of our customers we provide support exclusively over email. The more information you provide in your original ticket submission, the better chance we have of helping you on our first reply. We can help troubleshoot problems, answer questions and if necessary issue a Return Merchandise Authorization (“RMA”) if there is a defect.

Submit a Trouble Ticket here: kinesis.com/support/contact-a-technician.

6.3 Kinesis Limited Warranty

Visit kinesis.com/support/warranty/ for the current terms of the Kinesis Limited Warranty. Kinesis does not require any product registration to obtain warranty benefits but proof of purchase is required.

6.4 Return Merchandise Authorizations (“RMAs”)

If after exhausting all troubleshooting options we are unable to resolve your ticket over email, it may be necessary to return your device to Kinesis for a Warranty Repair or Exchange. Kinesis will issue a Return Merchandise Authorization, and provide you with an “RMA” number and return shipping instructions to Bothell, WA 98021. *Note: Packages sent to Kinesis without an RMA number may be refused.*

6.5 Cleaning

The Form is hand-assembled by trained technicians using premium components like a fully anodized aluminum case. It is designed to last for many years with proper care and maintenance, but it is not invincible. To clean your Form keyboard, use a vacuum or canned air to remove dust from underneath the keycaps. Use a lightly water-moistened cloth to wipe the surface of keycaps and touchpad to help keep it looking clean.

6.6 Customizing your keycaps

The Form uses standard “Cherry” stem style low profile keycaps. They can be replaced with compatible low profile keycaps and even some “tall-profile” keycaps. *Note: that many tall-profile keycaps will bottom out on the case before the key stroke is registered by the keyboard.* Please be delicate when removing keycaps and use the appropriate tool. Excessive force can damage a key switch and void your warranty.

7.0 Battery Specs, Charging, Care and Safety



7.1 Charging

This keyboard contains a rechargeable lithium-ion polymer battery. Like any rechargeable battery the charge capacity degrades overtime based on the number of charge cycles of the battery. The battery should only be charged using the included cable and when connected directly to your PC. Charging the battery in another way can impact performance, longevity, and/or safety, and will void your warranty. Installing a 3rd party battery will also void your warranty.

7.2 Specs

Kinesis Model # L256599)

Nominal Voltage: 3.7V

Nominal Charge Current: 500mA

Nominal Discharge Current: 300mA

Nominal Capacity: 2100mAh

Maximum Charge Voltage: 4.2V

Maximum Charge Current: 3000mA

Nominal Discharge Current: 3000mA

Cut Off Voltage: 2.75V

Max Ambient Temperature: 45 Degrees C max (charge) / 60 Degrees C max (discharge)

7.3 Care and Safety

Like all lithium-ion polymer batteries, these batteries are potentially hazardous and can present a serious risk of FIRE HAZARD, SERIOUS INJURY and/or PROPERTY DAMAGE if damaged, defective or improperly used or transported. Follow all guidelines when travelling with or shipping your keyboard. Do not disassemble or modify the battery in any way. Vibration, puncture, contact with metals, or tampering with the battery can cause it to fail. Avoid exposing the batteries to extreme heat or cold and moisture.

By purchasing the keyboard, you assume all risks associated with the batteries. Kinesis is not responsible for any damages or consequential damages by using the keyboard. Use at your own risk.

Lithium-ion polymer batteries contain elements that may pose health risks to individuals if they are allowed to leach into the ground water supply. In some countries, it may be illegal to dispose of these batteries in standard house-hold trash so research local requirements and dispose of the battery properly. NEVER DISPOSE OF THE BATTERY IN A FIRE OR INCINERATOR AS THE BATTERY MAY EXPLODE.