



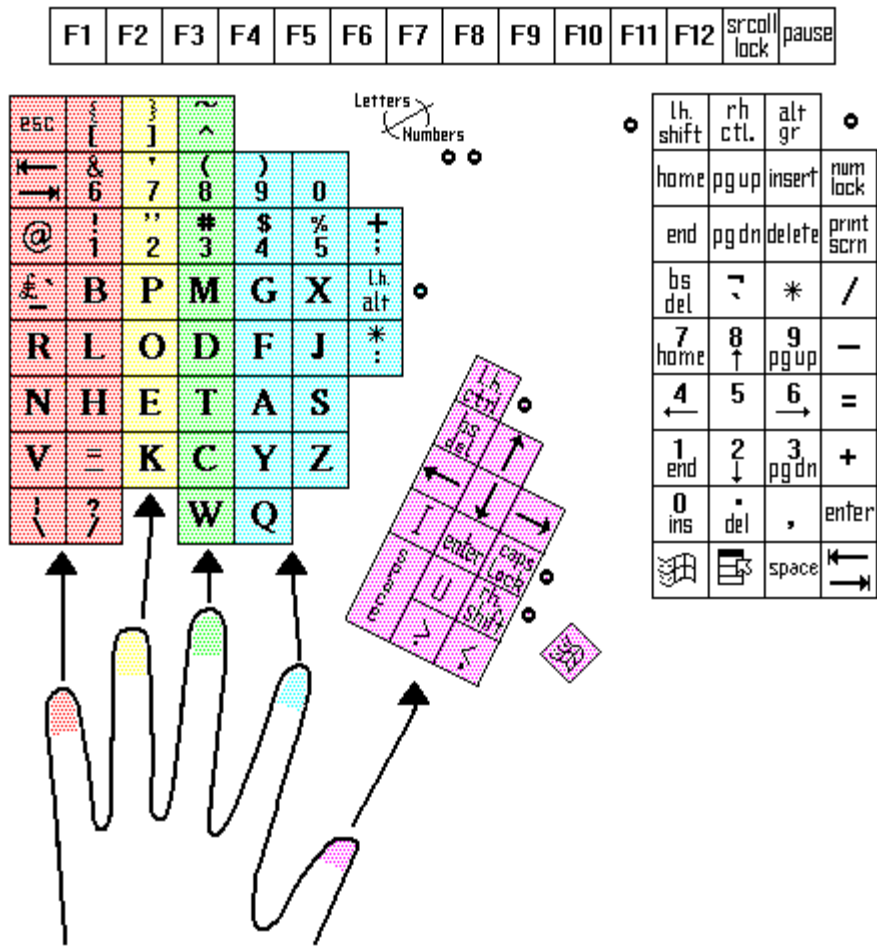
Introduction From Lillian Malt (1 of 2)

Dear Maltron User,

Congratulations on your choice of the single handed MALTRON keyboard!

It has been designed for users with special needs. Those who have only one hand which can be used for keying. This may be because one hand is not usable at all, or because it has to be used for something other than keying. Whatever the reason, you will find that this keyboard is easy to learn and that it will make it possible for you to achieve a good speed with accuracy.


The reasons for ease of learning and speed of keying may be of interest to you. Because of its ergonomic shape, your fingers will very quickly learn to feel when they are on the 'home' row, that is the row on which they should rest. This row is the Space key for the thumb, and A T E H for the other fingers. Why not put your fingers on those keys now? Carefully ensure all your fingers are on these keys, thumb on the Space, index finger on the A etc.. Then they will also very quickly feel when they are not on those keys. The shape of the keyboard tells them. Try moving your fingers about. Could you feel that they were away from the 'home' row? Relax your hand.



The most commonly used letters are right on that home row, and the letters of the alphabet have been so placed that finger movements to and from the home row are the easiest that could be arranged. That makes keying easy and fast and helps with learning where each key is located. The exercises in the manual have also been especially designed to imprint the letter positions. Do them carefully. Follow the instructions exactly. The phrases and sentences have not been designed for ease of keying. They use the letters which are introduced for each unit frequently. That way you will learn to use all the letters of the alphabet equally easily.

The keys in each column are allocated to a finger. The thumb, index finger and little finger all have more than one column. See the keyboard figure above. The vertical lines in this layout are better for your hand but they are new! Keeping your fingers in their columns will take concentration at first. The normal flat qwerty keyboard has keys that are slightly skewed to the side as your finger goes from one row to the one above or below.

(You can use the Tab, Shift Tab and Control Tab and Return key to get to the Next link below - but beware! - the way the Tab key works depends on which windows and side panels and toolbars are open. The Shift key with the Tab key moves your keyboard cursor in the opposite direction, the Control key with the Tab key moves your keyboard cursor around the different 'forms' or 'panels'. Now we know why the mouse is popular!)

Note: You may print any of the training pages for offline practise. If you look near the top right-hand corner of any page, you will see three little symbols:  Just click the centre (print) icon and your usual print dialogue box will open allowing you to print the page.

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