

Tibetan “Direct Input” Keyboard Version 2.0

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Basic philosophy: Mnemonic layout; as to avoid Alt- or Alt-Shift combinations during typing, a modifier key (asterisk) is used to output glyphs with certain similarities; escape keys (Esc, backslash, pipe) are used for special purposes.

ཀ	k	ཁ	v	ང	D	ལ	L
ཁ	[	ཁ	w	ཅ	N	ལ	Q
ག	g	ཇ	z	ཇ	T*	ལ	Q* ²⁾
ཀ	,	ང	'	ཇ	}*	ལ	S
ཅ	c	ཇ	y	ཇ	D*	ལ	H ³⁾
ཅ	x	ཀ	r	ཇ	N*	ལ	A
ཇ	j	ཀ	r*	ཇ	P	ལ	
ཇ	.	ཇ	l	ཇ	F	ལ	i
ཇ	t	ཇ	q	ཇ	B	ལ	u
ཇ	]	ཇ	q*	ཇ	M	ལ	e
ཇ	d	ཇ	s	ཇ	C*	ལ	E
ཇ	n	ཇ	h	ཇ	X*	ལ	o
ཇ	t*	ཇ	a	ཇ	J*	ལ	O
ཇ	]*	ཇ	K	ཇ	V	ལ	~
ཇ	d*	ཇ	{	ཇ	V*	ལ	~*
ཇ	n*	ཇ	G	ཇ	W	ལ	~**
ཇ	p	ཇ	<	ཇ	Z	ལ	:
ཇ	f	ཇ	C	ཇ	" ¹⁾	ལ	I
ཇ	b	ཇ	X	ཇ	"*	ལ	,
ཇ	m	ཇ	J	ཇ	Y	ལ	&
ཇ	c*	ཇ	>	ཇ	Y*	ལ	ao~
ཇ	x*	ཇ	T	ཇ	R	ལ	a*
ཇ	j*	ཇ	}	ཇ	R*	ལ	a** or U

¹⁾ Input rules for (small) subjoined 'a-chung: " = ག, " i = ག, " u = ག, " I = ག; a = ག, a " i = ག, a " u = ག, a " I = ག. ²⁾ For example: kQ* = ག, KQ* = ག. ³⁾ For example: gH = ག, dH = ག, d*H = ག, bH = ག, j*H = ག; GH = ག, DH = ག, D*H = ག, BH = ག, J*H = ག.

➡ Following Chris Fynn's suggestion, all compound glyphs shown in FN 1~3 are outputted as two (or three) Unicodes.

Tibetan numbers and punctuation

༠	0	ཐ	0*	(space) — ⁴⁾	༠༠	;	☸
༡	1	ཏ	1*	˙ space or – ⁵⁾	༠༡	@	
༢	2	ཨ	2*	| /	༠༢	#	
༣	3	ཉ	3*	|| // ☸	༠༣	\$	
༤	4	ཏ	4*	˙ ? or / * * * ☸	༠༤	%	
༥	5	ཉ	5*	˙ / * ☸	༠༥	=	
༦	6	ཏ	6*	˙ / * * ☸	༠༦	^	☸
༧	7	ཨ	7*	ཨ !	༠༧	^ *	☸
༨	8	ཉ	8*	ཨ + ☸	༠༨	(
༩	9	ཏ	9*	ཨ * ☸	༠༩)	

⁴⁾ Type " _ " (underline) when white space is needed in Tibetan context.

⁵⁾ Type " " (space) for intersyllabic tsheg, but "–" (hyphen) for delimiter tsheg bstar.

☸ = Differing from keys suggested in *Extended Wylie Transliteration Scheme*, by Nathaniel Garson & David Germano
<iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/tools/ewts.pdf>

* * *

NEW FEATURES IN VERSION 2:

- (1) **Unicode direct input:** Press backslash (\) plus Unicode hexadecimal values.

For example, \0FCA or \0fca outputs a ཨྵ symbol; \200C or \200c inserts a ZWNJ (zero width non-joiner).

- There is a plan to add a feature to allow input of Tibetan characters and symbols that are not in Unicode 3.0 (cf. page 14 of *Extended Wylie Transliteration Scheme*, by Nathaniel Garson & David Germano, *loc.cit.*) provided that a font becomes available that contains all these characters and symbols.

- (2) **Menus for special symbols** using backslash (\). As an alternative to Unicode direct input, the following menus can be called and individual symbols selected using numeric keys (press Backspace to delete menu):

\MENU	(all available menus)
\LOGO	(logotypes)
\ASTR	(astrological signs)
\CANT	(cantillation signs)
\SYMB	(religious symbols)
\HALF	("digits minus half")

- The menu feature can also be used in future for inputting Tibetan characters and symbols that are not in Unicode 3.0.

- (3) **Help routine** using pipe (|). At this stage, only a single lookup rule has been implemented (as a sample):

བཀྲེས་ | → abbr. of བཀྲ་ཤིས་ /!tashi/

- This routine can be used in future for dictionary lookups, etc., for example, to translate English terms (input) into Tibetan terms (output).

- (4) **Toggle between Tibetan and Latin mode:** Press Esc. Change into Latin mode is marked by (>) which disappears after starting to type Latin text. Press Esc again to return to Tibetan mode (a space is inserted automatically).

- This routine is also helpful to enter Latin text into application menus, without having to switch keyboards.

- (4a) **Toggle between Tibetan and Cyrillic mode:** Press Esc twice. Change into Cyrillic mode is marked by (>>) which disappears after starting to type Cyrillic text. Press Esc again to return to Tibetan mode (a space is inserted automatically).

Special rules for input of Mongolian characters in Cyrillic script:

Alt-J (= Cyrillic O) → Θ	Alt-j (= Cyrillic o) → ɵ
Alt-E (= Cyrillic Y) → Υ	Alt-e (= Cyrillic y) → υ

- There is a plan to add more toggle modes for languages that are likely to be used in context with Tibetan, e.g. Sanskrit (both Devanagari script & Transliteration) or Traditional Mongolian. Users who are interested in additional features of this kind, or have any other suggestions, may contact the author at <linguasoft@surfeu.at>.

ཨྵ རྒྱུ་འགྲོ་ཐམས་ཅད་དག་བར་བྱེད་པར་གྱུར་ཅིག །

