

Production Note Feb 14, 2018: v-drive has switched from 2MB to 4MB

Starting in early 2018 all Advantage2 keyboards were built with a 4MB v-Drive for supply chain reasons. However, we are still shipping new 2MB Advantage2 keyboards until they are gone. The 4MB models do not have any new features, but they do need to run a 4MB-specific version of the Advantage2 firmware. When updating your firmware, be sure to first determine your v-Drive size and then install the appropriate 2MB or 4MB version.

Firmware Update History

If you feel you would benefit from using an older firmware version, please contact Kinesis Technical Support (tech@kinesis.com).

Version 1.0.431_2MB.xx. Release date 11/14/17.

Version 1.0.431_2MB.us is for US keyboards with 2MB v-drives.

Version 1.0.431_2MB.uk is for UK keyboards with 2MB v-drives.

Version 1.0.431_2MB.de is for German and Swedish keyboards with 2MB v-drives.

New features vs 1.0.416us which was previously posted here:

1. There are now 2MB and 4MB firmware versions for each language model (US, UK, and DE, which is used for German and Swedish models). New production is using exclusively the 4MB firmware version and there are no 4MB updates listed here yet. The bootloaders on 2MB and 4MB keyboards will only work with the correct firmware version, but the user still needs to select the correct version to achieve a successful update.
2. Other than the bootloader change, 2MB and 4MB firmware have identical features.
3. The new 1.0.431 version firmware primarily affects non-US firmware. It fixes wrong keypad-layer actions in UK and DE version for F2 and Win keys when using Win & Mac thumb key modes.

Version 1.0.416.us (for US keyboards). Release date 11/09/17.

New features versus 1.0.408.us: Fixed bug where changing to dvorak wasn't remembered (the state.txt file was not being updated)

Version 1.0.408.us (for US keyboards). Release date 09/22/17.

New features versus 1.0.291.us:

1. User can use direct editing of qwerty.txt or dvorak.txt to manually add mouse button actions as remaps or in macros. Tokens are Lmouse, rmouse, mmouse. Double click is accomplished using Lmouse in a macro as shown below. A delay may be needed to create a double click in some systems, depending on the setting for mouse double click speed.

Example for macros performing doubleclick:

```
{caps}>{lmouse}{d250}{lmouse}
```

```
{tab}>{lmouse}{lmouse}.
```

2. Fixed minor bug for {numlk} to allow it to work within a macro. This is needed for some KVM switches to trigger channel switching. Also {menu} now works in macros.

Version 1.0.291.us (for US keyboards). Release date 08/15/17.

New features versus 1.0.210.us:

1. Allows users to have a modifier pressed while shifting or toggling the keypad on or off.
2. Includes the "rescue" command, Progm-F12 on plugin that allows a keyboard with a corrupt v-drive to boot so the v-drive can be opened and reformatted.

Version 1.0.210.us (for US keyboards). Release date 07/26/17.

New feature versus 1.0.201: Macro speed mechanism change. progm-F10 is now used to both set macro speed and to turn off macro playback. (Speed 0 turns off macro playback, 1-9 change from lowest to highest speeds).

Version 1.0.201. Release date 07/17/17.

New features and bugs fixed versus 1.0.168

1. To do hard reset, now use progmn-F9 on plug in. Eliminates occasional stuck control key when reset was Ctrl-F9 on plug in.
2. To force v-drive open, use progmn-print screen on plug in instead of Ctrl-F8. Eliminates occasional stuck control key when force v-drive open was Ctrl-pause on plug in.
3. Fixes problem in accessing bios during boot-up or restart with some computers
4. Fixes need to re-plug after changing status report playback speed.

Version 1.0.168. Release date 09/26/16.

New features and bugs fixed in 1.0.168:

1. Keypad LED now behaves properly when using Program Remap Mode to remap keys across layers.
2. Status Report was sometimes delayed in correctly tabulating the number of keys remapped in the active layout.
3. Custom programming of either of the two “Keypad Enter” positions in the Keypad layer was malfunctioning. For direct editing now use the tokens [kpcnter1] and [kpcnter2] (see User’s Manual Section 13.1).
4. Any key position can be disabled via direct editing using the [null] token.

Known bugs remaining in 1.0.168

1. A modifier key cannot be remapped as a non-modifier in order for it to serve as a macro trigger.
2. Macros triggered with the Windows key as the only modifier may still require special attention to playback speed, but more work-arounds are reported here. On some computers, you may notice the start menu flashing open and closed when you program and play such a macro. If you use “onboard programming” (Program + F11) to create a Win-triggered macro, you may find the start menu stays open after releasing the trigger keys. In this case, tap “Esc” to close the start menu before typing the macro contents. If you use a playback speed faster than the default (Speed3) and it doesn’t play correctly, you may have to re-program that macro and tap Esc twice before typing the macro contents. To be able to play the macro at speed7 or speed8, you will probably need to direct-edit the macro (see User’s Manual) and start the macro with a delay and an “Escape action such as {d500}{escape}, or {d500}{-win}{+win}{escape}.

Version 1.0.119 (test version; new features not necessarily continued in future vesions). Release date 9/20/16.

New features and bugs fixed in 1.0.119: This firmware corrects several bugs in prior versions of the firmware and adds several new features. This is a test version of the firmware only, and Kinesis only recommends installing it if willing to experiment with the firmware and provide feedback to tech@kinesis.com.

1. Macros that use the Windows Key as a co-trigger now work as long as the global playback is Speed3 or slower. The Start menu will flicker open and close rapidly before the macro plays. If you would like other macros to play back faster than Speed3, set those speeds individually (see Section 7.10 of the User’s Manual).
2. Embedded key position of F1 can now be remapped.
3. An occasional stuck Ctrl key that occurs after a Hard Reset has been fixed.
4. Multimedia keys can now be part of a macro.

Version 1.0.58. Release date 8/30/16.

This firmware version fixes a minor bug from remapping the Windows key in Dvorak.

Version 1.0.46. Release date 8/25/16.

Bugs fixed and new features in 1.0.46

1. Custom thumb key remaps are no longer overwritten when switching between layouts
2. Dvorak hotkey layouts no longer list QWERTY source keys in the layout files
3. Disabling Tones no longer resets after unplugging the keyboard
4. New actions embedded in the function key row for more versatile onboard programming. (Download pdf to see new actions from the Advantage2 Resource Page)
5. Enhanced Status Report playback speed control. Speed 1 is even slower and Speed 0 disables playback of the Status Report altogether. (See Chapter 7.10 in the User’s Manual for instructions)
6. Tokens added for F13-F16 for direct editing
7. Basic Onboard Programming Actions (e.g., Status Report, Layout Switching, Thumb Key Mode switching etc) can now be

triggered with the Program Key directly from the Keypad Layer and even if the function keys have been remapped.

8. Known bug: emapping a top row thumb key as non-modifier in order to assign a macro to it may not work correctly.

9. Known bug: Remapping a win key while in Dvorak may not work until the keyboard is replugged.

Version 1.0.18. Release date 9/16/16

Bugs fixed and new features:

1. Adds a new feature which allows adjusting the speed of Status Report playback or disabling it totally. See Chapter 8 of the User's Manual for instructions on updating firmware. Some users may find that with the default speed (2), their Status Report doesn't play reliably, skipping letters or words. Others may want to have it play faster. And still others may wish to disable the status report so it isn't accidentally playing when a text editing screen is not the focus.

In order to adjust Status Report play speed, you must edit the state.txt file in the active folder. Normally this file is not editable, but in version 1.0.18 the line that says "Status report play speed>2" can be edited by the user by changing the number after speed>. The default speed is (2), and the options are (0) for disable report, (1) for slower and (3) for faster. Save the file as simple text after editing and close the v-drive, unplug the keyboard and reconnect before testing the new play speed.

2. Another new feature is a group of embedded (keypad layer) actions for the left side function keys (see function key drawing). These actions can be remapped to any convenient location. If you want your function keys to perform the normal actions with keypad layer active, you can remap the top layer to the embedded layer.

3. Known bug. If you change from "win" thumb key mode to "pc" or "mac" mode, an extra remap will show in the status report. This doesn't cause any problems as far as we know but it will be fixed in the next version.