

FLipPad - Finger Trackpad

User Manual v3.1, AsTeRICS Foundation

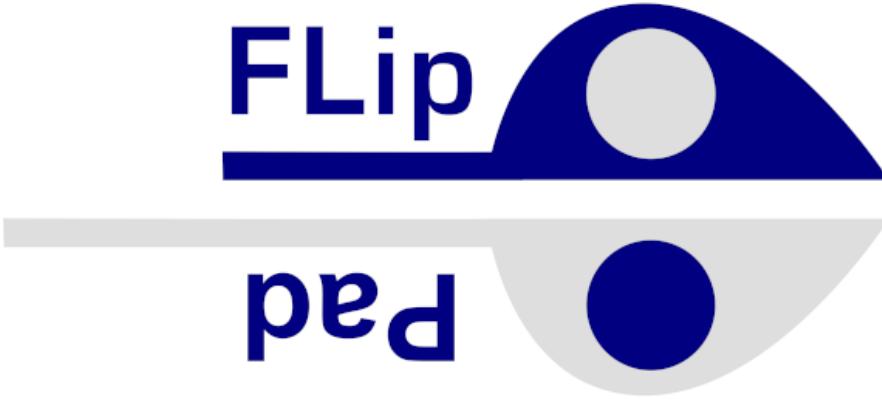


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Preface

The FLipPad is an open source Assistive Technology module which is developed at the [University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien](#) and delivered as a DIY-construction kit by the [AsTeRICS Foundation](#). The FLipPad allows people who cannot use standard computer input devices to control a computer mouse cursor or a joystick as well as typing desired keyboard keys or using infrared remote controls. The FLipPad device can be actuated with minimal finger movements and/or external buttons. Sip & puff actuation is possible, but optional.

The FLipPad can be configured via a web-based configuration application which is called *configuration manager* from now on. It can be found at the website flippad.asterics.eu. This user manual includes a description of the configuration manager and explains how to use the different functions and features of the FLipPad. The FLipPad can be used on any Windows-, Mac- or Linux-computer without installation of special software, because it behaves like a standard mouse / joystick / keyboard device. By using the optional Bluetooth Add-On module, smart phones or tablet computers can be controlled - which will also be explained in this manual.

All design files for the electronics and the 3D-printed enclosure - as well as the software source code - are available as open source and are distributed via the AsTeRICS Foundation website and via GitHub. The construction kit for the FLipPad can be purchased from [Hackerspaceshop.com](#). Detailed instructions are provided in the [FLipPad construction manual](#). Have fun building and using your FLipPad!

The AsTeRICS Foundation

www.asterics-foundation.org

Hardware overview

The FLipPad is available with a 3D-printed enclosure. Design files for the 3D-printed case are provided in the [Github repository](#). The primary method for interacting with the FLipPad is the black trackpad, which can either be a 35mm or a 40mm type.



Figure 1: The FLipPad device

Additionally, two external momentary switches can be attached to the jack plug connectors on the left side of the FLipPad enclosure and one button is already integrated on the device ("B1", see Figure 3).

Users can interact with the FLipPad in several ways:

1. by touching the trackpad and moving the finger
2. by tapping the trackpad once or more
3. by actuating (up to) 3 momentary switches / pushbuttons

The hardware features of the FLipPad: (see pictures at the bottom of this list)

- (a) One built-in switch ("Button 1 / B1") on the device, e.g. to change the active configuration ("slot")
- (b) Two 3.5 mm jack plug sockets for attaching external switches to trigger additional functions ("Button 2 / B2" and "Button 3 / B3")
- (c) 3 Indicator Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) for showing the active configuration, calibration procedure etc.
- (d) Universal infrared remote control receiver and transmitter
- (e) "Hot Shoe" Adapter for mounting to a Manfrotto Magic Arm or similar mounting system (3/8" screw)
- (f) Firmware upgrade via FLipPad web application on FLipPad.asterics.eu
- (g) Optional add-on board for Bluetooth (e.g. to control smartphones or iOS devices)

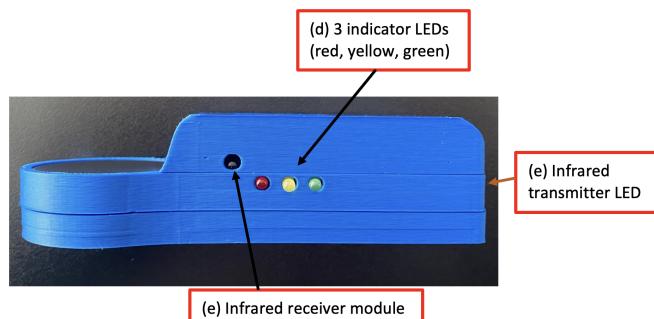


Figure 2: FLipPad right side

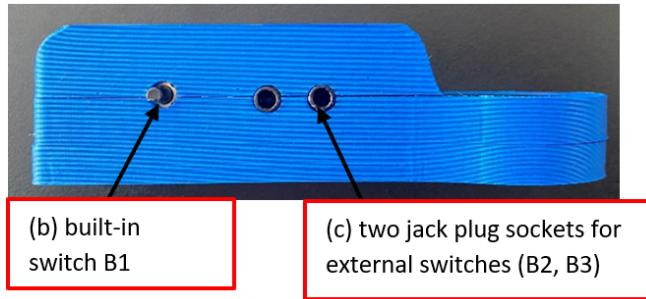


Figure 3: FLipPad left side

On the right side of the FLipPad enclosure, 3 LEDs indicate the current mode of operation (which can be changed to activate different speed settings or functional options). Furthermore, the Infrared (IR-) receiver module is accessible here. This modules can be used for recording arbitrary infrared remote control commands (for example to change volume or channel settings of a TV-set). The IR-signals can then be replayed from the IR-emitting diode at the rear side of the FLipPad.

The left side of the FLipPad gives access to a button (B1) which offers a configurable function (for example changing the operational mode).

Two 3,5mm Jack Plug sockets marked (B2) and (B3) allow the connection of external momentary switches. Standard switches with 3,5 mm mono jack plugs can be used.

Bluetooth – Add-On Module

The optional Bluetooth Add-On module allows connection of the FLipPad as a Bluetooth mouse/keyboard to various mobile devices (smartphones, tablets, IOs devices). If this module is not contained in the DIY-Kit, it can be ordered individually from the AsTeRICS Foundation or built from the hardware design files available on Github (parts must be ordered individually). If you are interested in this feature, have a look at the [esp32 mouse keyboard](#) repository where construction of the Add-On module is explained.

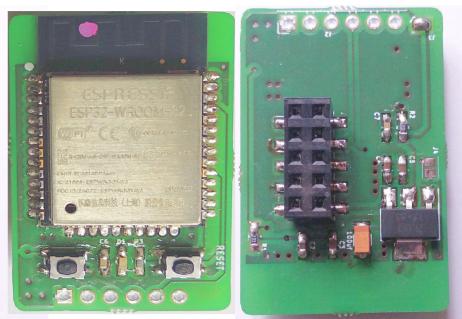


Figure 5: Bluetooth Add-on Module

Instructions for proper mounting and use

1. Mount the FLipPad device appropriately for the user

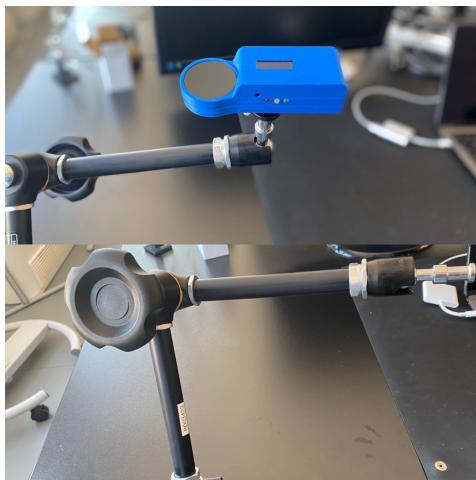


Figure 7: Mounting the FLipPad

The picture shows a "[Manfrotto Magic Arm](#)" + "[SuperClamp](#)" mount combination. You could also use the [Manfrotto Gelenkarm](#) or any other kind of mounting solution which fits to the HotShoe-Adapter of the FLipPad. Be careful when attaching the mount to the 3/8" screw of the HotShoe-Adapter: hard forces might break the enclosure of the device.



Figure 9: Using the FLipPad with fingers

If the user desires to actuate the FLipPad with a finger or the thumb the system appropriately so that the hand is in a resting position and the finger can touch the joystick without stress. Attach one or two additional external switches if desired, and mount the switches at suitable locations.

2. Attaching the FLipPad to a Computer, Tablet or Smart Phone

When connecting the FLipPad via the provided USB-micro cable, do not touch the mouthpiece as long as the LEDs are blinking (the initial blinking indicates the zero point calibration phase). Wait until the device is recognized by the computer, then touch the trackpad and move your finger to see if the device is working.



Figure 11: Connecting the FLipPad with the computer

Please note that every time you apply power to the FLipPad device (respectively when you plug it in) the **zero-calibration is performed which is indicated by blinking all 3 LEDs**. It is important that you do not touch the trackpad until the LEDs stopped blinking.

Using the FLipPad with Smart Phones or Tablets that provide USB-OTG

The FLipPad should work with any operating system which supports USB HID (Mouse/Keyboard/Joystick) devices, such as Windows, Linux or MacOS. Several Android devices provide an USB port with USB-OTG ("on-the-go") functionality. If your device supports "OTG" you can attach the FLipPad using an USB-OTG-adapter (see picture below) and it should work as a normal mouse (you will get a mouse cursor) or keyboard. You can test if your Android phone or tablet features the USB-OTG function with the "OTG checker" app.



Figure 12: Using the FLipPad with the Smart Phone

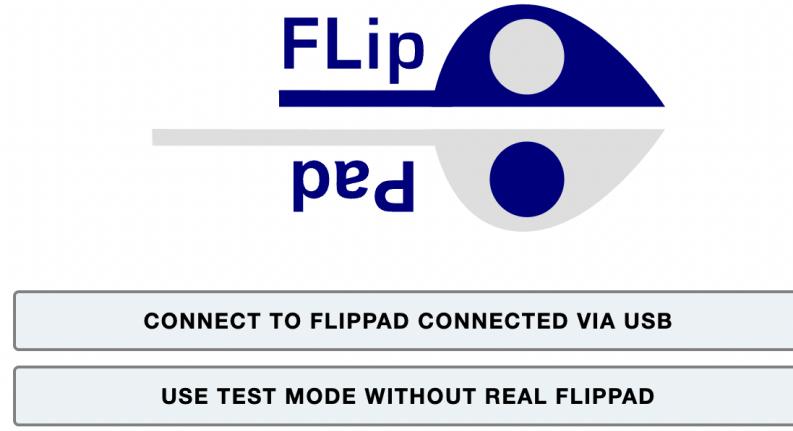
Using the FLipPad via Bluetooth

The Bluetooth – Add-On-module for the FLipPad allows wireless mouse/keyboard control of computers, tablets and smart phones. Furthermore, iPhones or iPads can be used via VoiceOver & assistive switch support. For more information see chapter [Using the Bluetooth Module](#).

The FLipPad Configuration Manager

The [FLipPad Configuration Manager](#) offers a Graphical User Interface (GUI) to change and store settings of the FLipPad device so that all features and functions can be adapted to personal preferences and needs. **Currently, the Google Chrome browser (or a Chromium-based browser) must be used.** The Configuration Manager is accessible by entering the following website: <https://flippad.asterics.eu>. The FLipPad Configuration Manager sends and receives information from/to the FLipPad. This information transfer occurs through a communication port (COM port).

The following figure shows the welcome page of the FLipPad Configuration Manager:



[Ask as question](#)

[Licensing](#)

[Legal Notice](#)

[Device initialization](#)

Figure 13: Welcome page of the FLipPad Configuration Manager

Connecting the FLipPad Device

To connect the device, follow these steps:

1. Make sure your device is connected to your computer via an USB port (see page "Instructions for proper mounting and use").
2. Click CONNECT TO FLIPPAD CONNECTED VIA USB and select the appropriate COM port (communication port) in the selection box. If the selection box appears empty, this means that no communication port has been detected. In this case, please reconnect the FLipPad device and wait for the COM port to be updated.
3. Once the COM port is selected, click the "Connect" button at the bottom of the selection box.
4. After successful connection of the COM port, the main window (see Figure 14) will be displayed and you should see live feedback of the stick movement. The port status at the top right corner of the window will show "connected".

FFlipPad Configuration

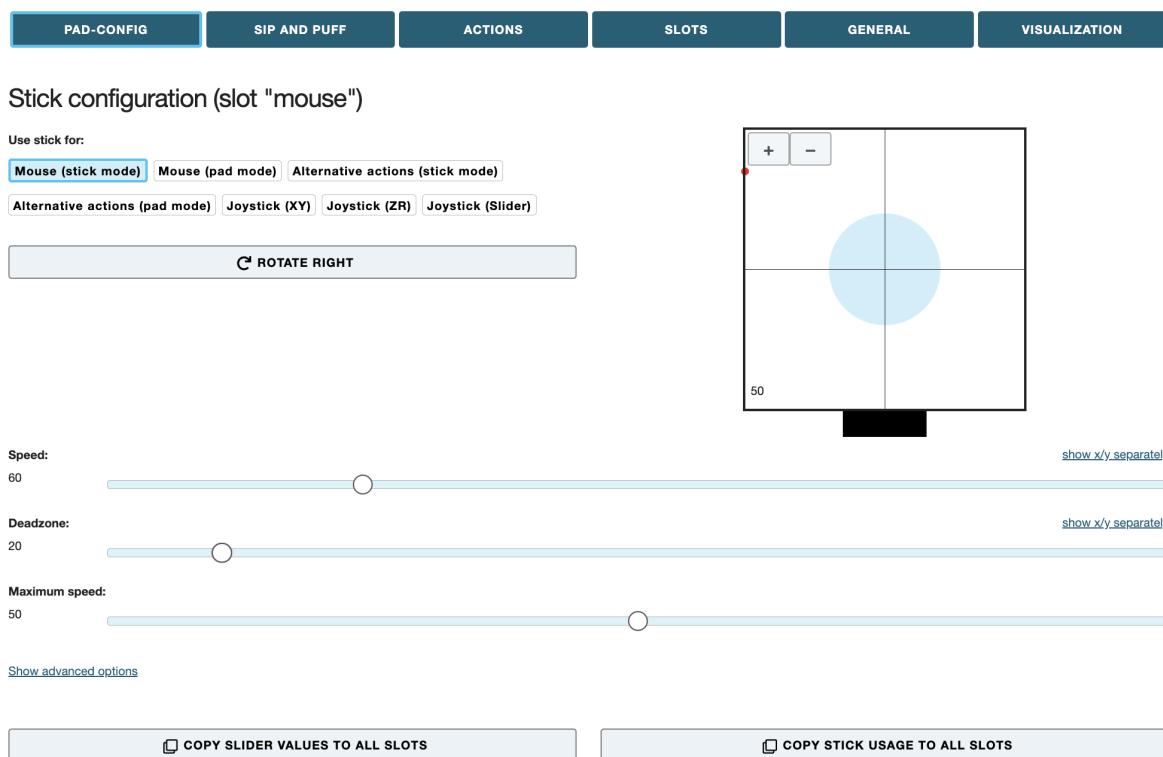


Figure 14: FFlipPad Configuration Manager

Changing Settings and Features

Operational modes – “memory slots”

The FFlipPad Configuration Manager allows adjustment of all important settings (operational modes). The settings are stored in individual **memory slots** (for example one slot for fast mouse operation, one slot for slow mouse operation, one slot for keyboard key generation etc.). All settings can be stored into (or loaded from) the FFlipPad device. The settings can also be saved to (or loaded from) a file on your computer.

Settings which were stored into the FFlipPad stay valid also if the power supply / USB cable is removed. When the FFlipPad is plugged in the next time, the settings will be available – also if you use another computer or operating system!

PAD Configuration (Tab PAD-CONFIG)

Using the PAD-CONFIG tab of the FFlipPad Configuration Manager, you will be able to change the *Speed*, *Deadzone* and *MaximumSpeed* of the FFlipPad pad. Furthermore, you can change *Acceleration*, *Trackpad sensitivity*, *Maximum tap duration* and *Maximum duration of Tap + Slide gestures* - these settings are visible only if you activate “*Show advanced options*”.

Define pad usage (“Use pad for”)

On the top of the PAD-CONFIG tab, the primary function of the pad can be chosen. By default, the pad is creating mouse cursor movements. However, the pad can also be used for alternative actions (such as pressing the key ‘A’ when the pad is pushed up), which can be specified in the ACTIONS tab (see section [Assignment of different actions](#)). Furthermore, the pad can emulate a real joystick or gamepad (see section [Using the stick for joystick movement](#)).

Pad Orientation (Change with click on “ROTATE RIGHT”)

The FLipPad is mounted using a HotShoe 3/8" mounting screw which is located on the button of the FLipPad case. The orientation can be changed according to the user's preferences. If the FLipPad is mounted e.g. upside-down, the stick orientation can be selected accordingly so that the up/down/left/right movements are still interpreted correctly. A click on “ROTATE RIGHT” changes the orientation by 90°. Orientation settings for 0 / 90 / 180 and 270 degrees are possible, so that any mounting orientation is possible.

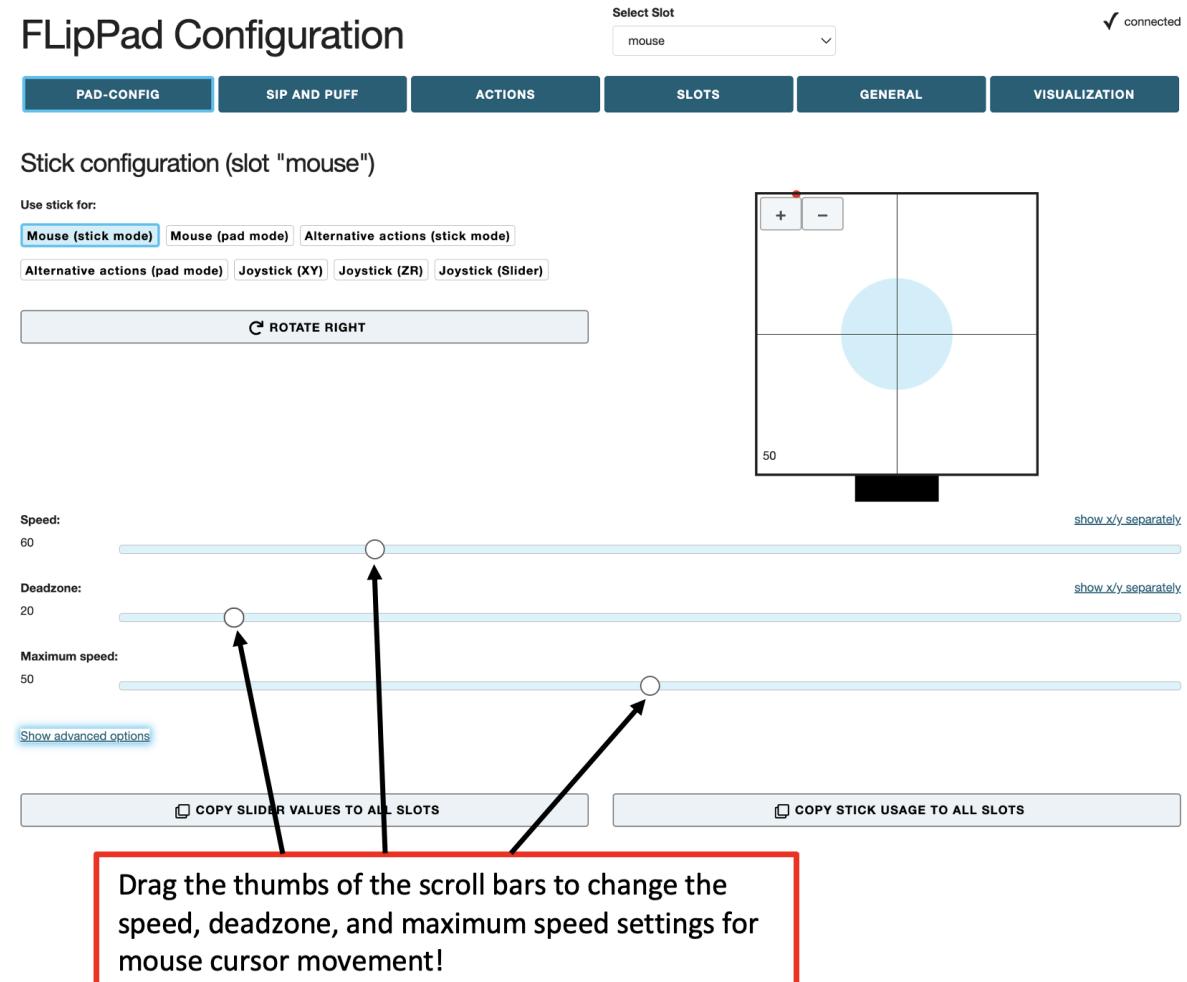


Figure 15: FLipPad Configuration Manager: Tab PAD-CONFIG, Scroll bars

The scroll bars allow changing the parameters of the stick and the behavior of the mouse cursor according to the preferences of the user. The behavior of the following characteristics can be changed:

Sensitivity

When using the stick for cursor movement, the sensitivity of the stick can be adjusted via the *Sensitivity* scroll bar. A smaller value results in slower cursor movement. To change the value, click and drag the scroll bar knob or click the bar next to the knob.

Deadzone

The *deadzone* setting defines a passive zone for the stick movements: when the deadzone value is low, very slight stick movements will already cause cursor movement (or execute the assigned alternative function – see chapter *Assignment of different actions*). If the deadzone setting is too low, the cursor starts unintended drifting. In this case, increase the deadzone value so that cursor drifting does not occur under normal operating conditions for a given user. (However, for some users it could be desired to use a very small deadzone in order to allow cursor movements with minimal finger movement). For alternative actions (such as key presses), it makes sense to use a bigger deadzone value in order to avoid unintended actions.

Split axis control for sensitivity and deadzone

If desired, the sensitivity- and deadzone-values for horizontal or vertical movements can be changed individually. In order to do that, select “*show x/y separately*”, as shown below:

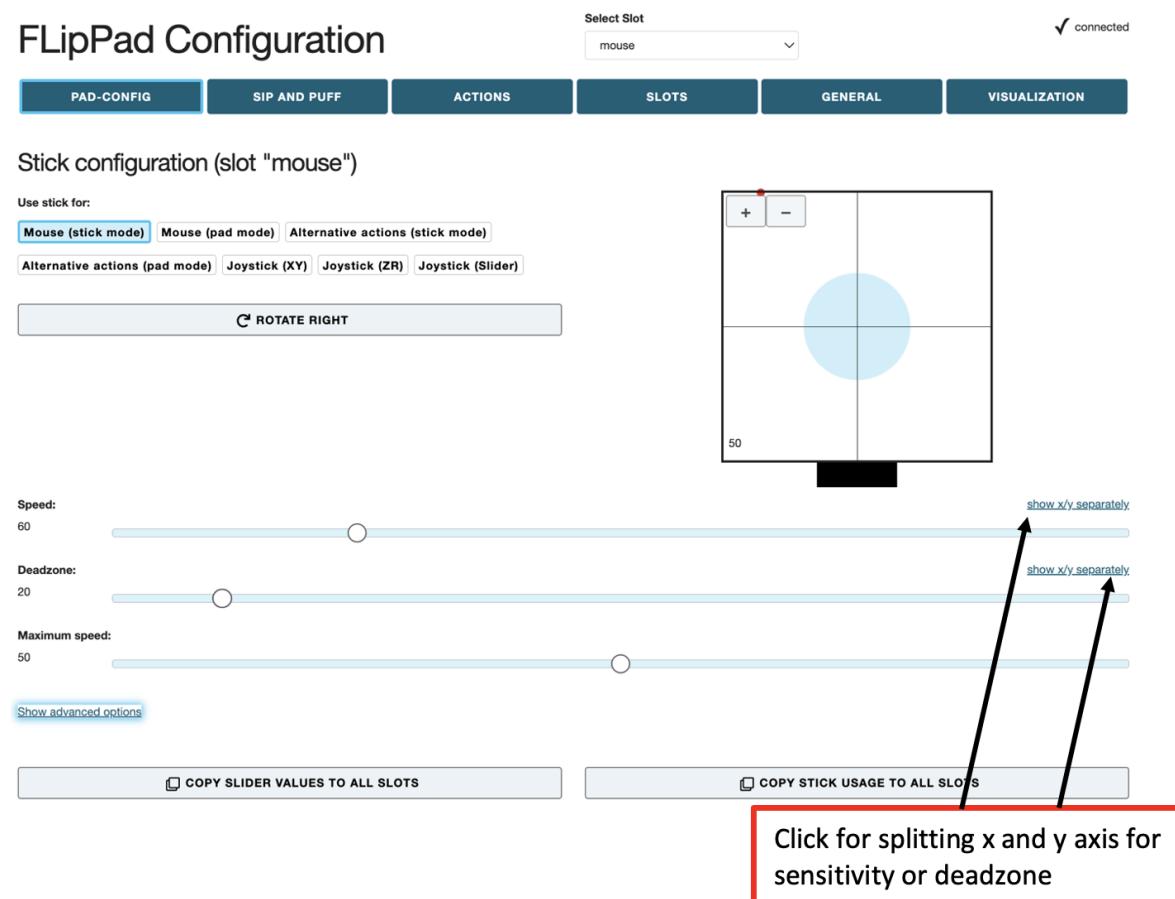


Figure 16: FLiPPad Configuration Manager: Tab PAD-CONFIG, splitting x/y

Maximum Speed

Turning the maximum speed setting to a low level is useful if a user desires to limit the cursor speed, keeping high sensitivity / acceleration.

“**Show advanced options**”:

Acceleration

This setting is enabled by clicking "Show advanced options". The acceleration setting allows influencing the acceleration behavior of the mouse cursor: if acceleration is set to a low level, even a strong finger movement will start a slow (but progressing) cursor movement which makes it easier to reach small targets precisely.

Using the Pad for Joystick Movement

If you select one of the joystick modes in the PAD-CONFIG tab, moving the FLipPad up / down / left / right will result in joystick activities. The FLipPad will behave like a gamepad with 6 axes (X/Y, Z/Z-Turn and Slider1/Slider2). As the FLipPad can only deliver 2 axes of information at a time, the desired joystick axis must be selected.

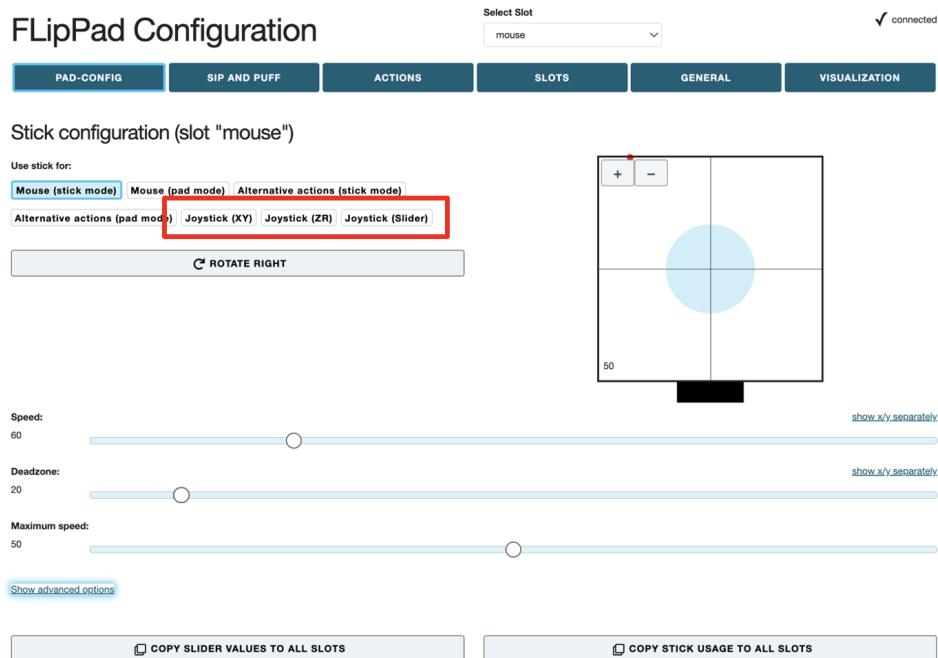


Figure 18: Set pad configuration for joystick movement

Please note that the joystick function must be supported by software applications running on the computer (for example computer games). Microsoft Windows offers a test software called "joy.cpl" – you can start this utility by entering "joy.cpl" into the search dialog.

The joystick controller provided by the FLipPad is called "Serial+Keyboard+Mouse+Joystick". When you select this device in the "joy.cpl" utility, click on the properties to display its preferences. The live values of the joystick axis and button activities will be displayed in a window similar to the one shown here:

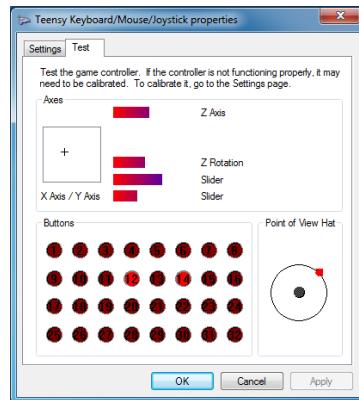


Figure 19: Joy.cpl Properties

Desired joystick button activities can be created using sip/puff or other interaction events by choosing "Press Joystick Button" from the action menu as described in the section [Assignment of different actions](#).

Sip/Puff Actions and Levels (Tab SIP AND PUFF) - OPTIONAL

If a pressure sensor is mounted (optional), it is possible to connect a tube this sensor, which outputs a value that corresponds to the detected pressure. When the user sips, the sensor value decreases, and when the user puffs, the value increases.

You may assign actions for sipping or puffing using the tab "ACTIONS", as will be explained in the next section. You can select the thresholds for sipping and puffing as desired, using the tab "SIP AND PUFF". When the FLipPad is connected, you can also monitor the current pressure values and the triggering of sip/puff actions in this tab:

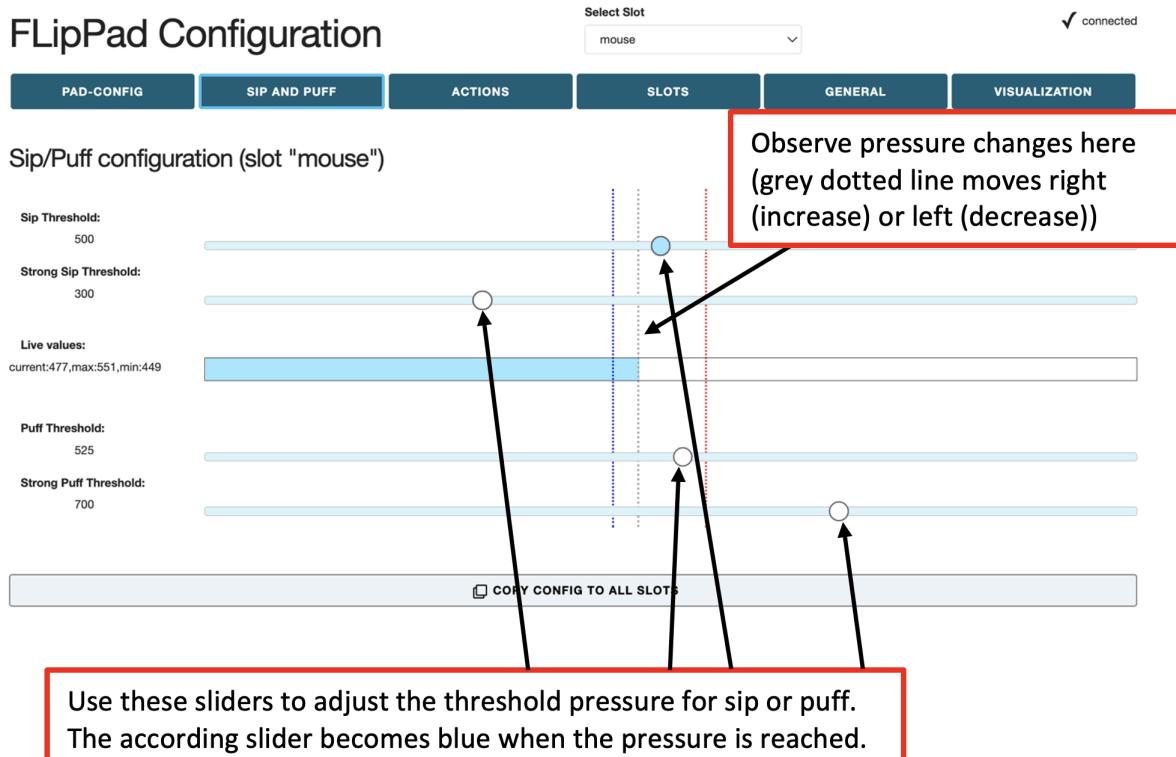


Figure 20: Tab SIP AND PUFF

Note that the idle pressure level (without sip or puff) is around 512, and the level increases when you puff into the tube, indicating increased pressure. With the sliders, the threshold pressure for sip and puff can be regulated. The grey dotted line represents the actual pressure. The blue and red dotted lines represent the limits reached in this session.

StrongSip and StrongPuff

The SIP AND PUFF tab allows to define additional threshold values for StrongSip or StrongPuff activities, which can then trigger distinct actions. For example, the next configuration slot could be activated by a strong puff. To enrich the functionality of the FLipPad especially for persons who cannot access external switches, additional StrongSip and StrongPuff gestures are available. These gestures allow to trigger actions via a strong sip or a strong puff followed by a stick movement (up / down / left / right). A strong sip or puff is indicated via an acoustic signal (high tone). If the trackpad is touched and moved within one second, the corresponding action (for example "StrongSip+Up" is triggered). If the pad is not touched within one second, the single StrongSip or StrongPuff action will be triggered. Thus, a total of 10 additional actions can be performed.

Assignment of different actions (Tab ACTIONS)

The ACTIONS tab allows the mapping of user activities to desired FLipPad functions (actions). The user activities are:

- pressing or releasing the 3 buttons (built-in button 1 or external button 2 or 3)
- pad gestures (tap, double tap, ...; tap + move into one direction)
- pad movements (up/down/left/right) which exceed the deadzone threshold value
- sip and puff activities (see section StrongSip and StrongPuff).

The actions can be changed via clicking the entry in the action configuration table (see the blue box in figure 21). The table shows the actions for all user activities, either only for the currently active slot, or for all slots (which gives an overview of all actions). When clicking one particular action, a window pops up where you can change the action category (here for Button 1: Device) and the action itself (here: Load next slot), see Figure 22.

FLipPad Configuration

Select Slot: mouse ✓ connected

ACTIONS

Show slots: Current slot All slots

Bezeichnung	Slot "mouse"
Button 1	<u>Load next slot</u>
Button 2	(empty)
Button 3	(empty)
Slide Up	Mouse (stick mode)
Slide Down	Mouse (stick mode)
Slide Left	Mouse (stick mode)
Slide Right	Mouse (stick mode)
Sip	AT PL
Strong sip	(empty)
Puff	Click right mouse button
Strong Puff	AT CA
Tap	(empty)
2x Tap	(empty)
3x Tap	(empty)
4x Tap	(empty)
Tap + Slide Up	(empty)
Tap + Slide Down	(empty)
Tap + Slide Left	(empty)
Tap + Slide Right	(empty)

Figure 21: Assign different actions to user activities

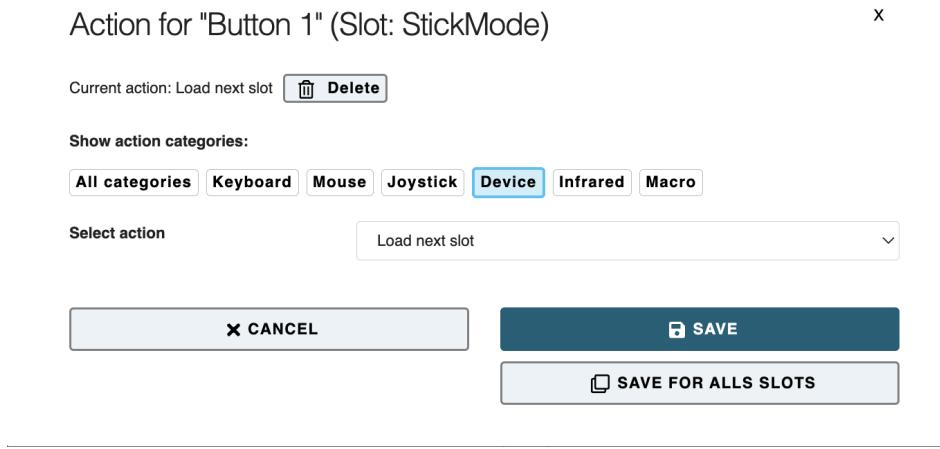


Figure 22: Pop-up window for choice of desired action

In the following, the individual action categories and different actions will be briefly described.

Action category “Mouse”

Hold Left / Middle / Right Mouse Button

The *hold* action presses a particular mouse button continuously (for example for dragging an item across the screen). The mouse button is released when the assigned user activity ends (for example when the sip/puff activity ends, when the pad is moved back to middle position or when an external button is released).

Click Left / Middle / Right Mouse Button

Creates mouse button clicks. (The left/right or middle mouse button is pressed and released again after a short time).

Double Click Left Mouse Button

Creates a double click with the left mouse button.

Toggle Left / Middle / Right Mouse Button

The *toggle* action changes the state of a mouse button from pressed to not pressed and vice versa. This is useful e.g. if keeping a user activity up for a longer time (e.g. for dragging an item or for keeping a key pressed while other keys are pressed/released).

Wheel Up / Down

The actions *Wheel up* or *Wheel down* emulate the mouse scroll wheel. Triggering the *Wheel up* action results in upwards scrolling, while *wheel down* results in downward scrolling. This action is useful for example for reading documents or web sites.

Move Mouse horizontally / vertically (x-axis / y-axis)

The *Move mouse horizontally (x-axis)* and *Move mouse vertically (y-axis)* functions generate computer mouse movements along the selected axes. Speed parameters can be set for these functions in the field that appears below. As long as the user activity is present, the mouse pointer is accelerated up to this maximum speed. Please note that:

A positive value for the X direction moves the mouse pointer to the right.

A negative value for the X direction moves the mouse pointer to the left.

A positive value for the Y direction moves the mouse pointer down.

A negative value for the Y direction moves the mouse pointer up.

Action category: Joystick

Joystick set x-/y-/z-axis/slider

These actions can be used to send a desired value to the joystick axis. The selectable joystick axes are: *X / Y / Z / Turn / slider*. The joystick is moved back to middle position when the associated user activity ends.

Press Joystick Button

This action can be used to press a desired joystick button. The FLipPad device supports 32 buttons, so any value from 1 to 32 is allowed. The joystick button is released when the associated user activity ends.

Joystick hat position

This action sets the orientation of the joystick "hat" (in degrees). Allowed values are: -1, 0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315. The value of -1 sets the hat to the middle (idle) position. The joystick hat is moved back to middle position when the associated user activity ends.

Action category: Keyboard

Press / Hold / Toggle Keys

The *Press Keys* action allows pressing one or multiple keyboard keys. A second drop-down menu with possible key identifiers is displayed (**Add keys**). **When a key is selected from this menu, it has to be added (Click ADD)** to the *Insert keys* text field. Thus, multiple keyboard keys can be pressed simultaneously. The keys are released when the associated user activity ends. If you would like to remove or change the assigned keys, you must clear the currently assigned keys by pressing the "CLEAR" button next to the *Insert keys* field.

Common key combinations include:

KEY_CTRL + Z: triggers undo function
KEY_CTRL + C: triggers copy function
KEY_CTRL + V: triggers paste function
KEY_CTRL + KEY_ALT + KEY_DELETE

The *Hold Key* action keeps the key pressed until the user activity ends.

The *Toggle Key* action changes the key state from pressed to not pressed and vice versa with each user activity.

For a list of all supported key identifiers, see the [appendix](#).

Action for "Button 1" (Slot: StickMode)

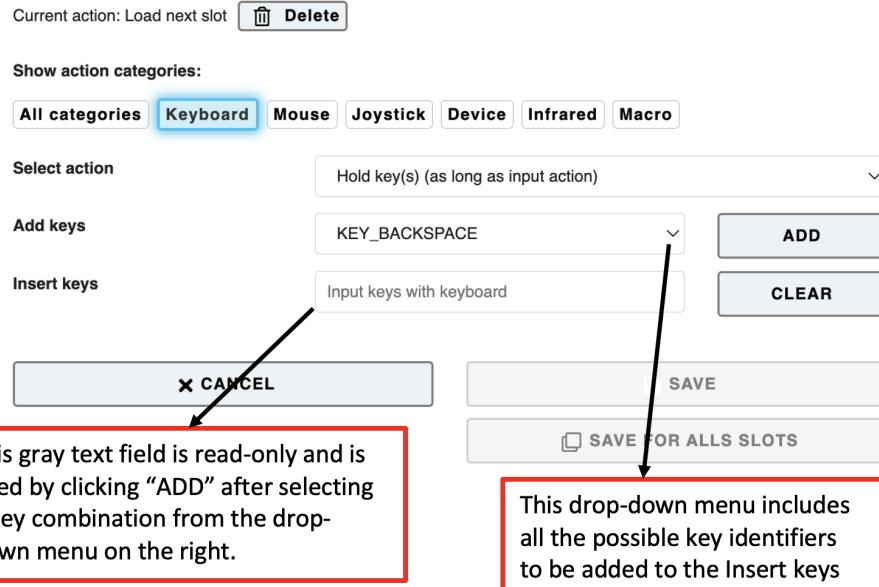


Figure 23: Add keys for the action press / hold / toggle keys

Write Word

The *Write word* action allows typing a particular text/phrase whenever a user activity occurs (for example: write "Hello" whenever you tap the pad). Selecting this action displays a blank text box under the drop-down menu where the text can be entered, as shown below:

Action for "Button 2" (Slot: PadMode)

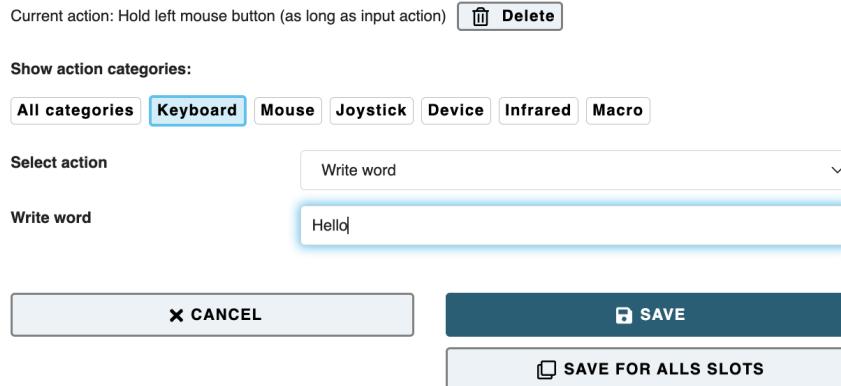


Figure 24: Write word function

In this example, "Hello" will be written each time button 2 of the FLPad is pressed.

Action category: Device

No Command

If the action *No Command* is selected, no action will be assigned to the respective user activity.

Load Next Slot

This action is only relevant if you have stored multiple FLIPPad configuration slots. This action switches to the next slot. If the last slot is already reached, triggering this action will switch to the first slot. When you switch the slot, the built-in LED bulbs will change accordingly, showing the active slot.

There are three built in LEDs (red, yellow-orange, green), which will display the binary number for the slot position of the configuration that you have selected. In other words, if you saved two configurations, e.g. "Game settings" and "Mouse", "Game settings" will be slot 1 and "Mouse" will be slot 2.

Additionally to the LEDs, an acoustic signal will indicate the change of the slot.

The following list shows the color codes and the acoustic signals of the LEDs for each slot position:

Active Slot	Acoustic Signal	Shining LEDs
Slot 1	one beep tone	red
Slot 2	two beep tones	yellow
Slot 3	three beep tones	red, yellow
Slot 4	four beep tones	green
Slot 5	five beep tones	red, green
Slot 6	six beep tones	yellow, green
Slot 7	seven beep tones	red, yellow, green

The next figure (Figure 25) shows a similar list but the shining bulbs in the according colors for the visual people. The different slots are called "Position" in this figure.

Position 1 will be displayed as 1 shining bulb:



Position 2 will be displayed as 1 shining bulb:



Position 3 will be displayed as 2 shining bulbs:



Position 4 will be displayed as 1 shining bulb:



Position 5 will be displayed as 2 shining bulbs:



Position 6 will be displayed as 2 shining bulbs:



Position 7 will be displayed as 3 shining bulbs:



Figure 25: Color codes of the LEDs

Load Slot by Name

This action activates the configuration slot with the given name (if it exists). The name can be specified in the text field. This action is only relevant if you have stored multiple FLIPPad configuration slots. The LEDs indicate the slot number as described above.

Action category: Infrared

Play / Hold / Stop Infrared Command

This action replays the infrared (IR)-code with the given command name. The existing (recorded) IR-commands can be selected from the drop-down menu. The *play* action sends the recorded code once, whereas the *hold* action repeats the code until the user activity ends. For more information about infrared codes please refer to section "[Infrared Code Recording and Replay](#)".

Action category: Macro

Execute Command Macro

This action allows running a so-called command macro which consists of several individual actions. Thus, a desired sequence of actions can be performed which consists for example of a number of mouse moves, mouse clicks, text inputs or key presses. This action is powerful, but also a bit more complicated because the individual actions must be specified in form of so-called AT-commands which are separated by semicolons. For example: the following command macro will move the mouse cursor 100 steps to the left, 20 steps up, then wait 100 milliseconds and then perform a left mouse click: "MX 100; MY -20; WA 100; CL". For a list and detailed explanation of all supported AT-commands see [appendix](#).

Using Configuration Slots (Tab SLOTS)

In the SLOTS tab you can create new slots, delete existing slots, download a single or all slots and upload a file containing a complete configuration with multiple slots. After starting the FLipPad Configuration Manager, only one default slot named "mouse" exists. When you create a slot using the "CREATE SLOT" button, **the current slot is copied and appended** after the last existing slot. Before creating the new slot, assign a name in the corresponding field ("insert name for new slot") that will help you remember the slot's purpose:

Anzeigen des aktuellen Slotnamens, Auswahl eines anderen Slots

FLipPad Configuration

SLOTSCONFIG

SIP AND PUFF

ACTIONS

SLOTS

GENERAL

VISUALIZATION

Slot configuration

Current slots

StickMode	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
PadMode	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
Phone	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
GameKey	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>

Create new slot

Insert name for new slot

Upload slots from file

Selected file: (none)

Download all slots

Predefined settings

Select settings

(select setting preset)

Figure 26: FLipPad Configuration Manager: Tab SLOTS

At the top center of the Configuration Manager window (blue box in Figure 26) the current slot is shown and can be changed.

The settings of the current slot will be stored and remembered when changing to another slot. The maximum number of slots is 10.

Delete a slot

A slot can be removed using the *Delete* button next to the according slot.

Loading and saving the configuration to/from file

The button *Download all slots* allows transferring all current slots to a setting file (.set) which is stored on your computer. All settings can thus be transferred to the same or to another FLipPad device. Multiple setups (for example for individual users or use-cases) can be kept on a computer and applied with a single click. A file chooser window will be opened which allows selection of the desired filename for saving or loading the configuration.

General Settings (Tab GENERAL)

The GENERAL tab allows changing the USB/Bluetooth mode and apply firmware updates of the FLipPad device and the Bluetooth Add-On module (if installed):

The screenshot shows the FLipPad Configuration Manager interface with the "GENERAL" tab selected. At the top, there's a "Select Slot" dropdown set to "PadMode" and a status indicator "✓ connected". Below the tabs, there are several sections:

- General settings:** Includes dropdowns for "Mode for Slot" (StickMode, PadMode, Phone, GameKey) set to "USB".
- Firmware versions:** Shows "FLipPad Firmware" with an installed version of 2.12.0 and an available version of (unknown), and a "OVERWRITE FIRMWARE" button. It also shows "Firmware Bluetooth-Addon" with an installed version of 0.3.2 and an available version of 0.3.2, and a "OVERWRITE BLUETOOTH FIRMWARE" button.
- Reset to default configuration:** Contains a "RESET DEVICE" button.
- Keyboard shortcuts:** A section listing keyboard shortcuts:

The following keyboard shortcuts can be used on this page:

- Ctrl + C: Calibrate FLipMouse middle position
- F1: Open manual section for the currently active tab
- Ctrl + [1-8]: Jump to tab with the chosen number
- Ctrl + Space: Jump to last tab
- Ctrl + B: Show / hide analog values in visualization

Figure 27: General Settings

USB/Bluetooth mode

This setting is only relevant if a Bluetooth Add-On module is attached (it is attached, if there is a version number for the Bluetooth-Addon on this page). Using this combo box selection, it is possible to decide if mouse / keyboard actions of a particular slot are sent via USB cable, via Bluetooth connection, or both. Thus, dedicated slots for USB and Bluetooth can be created, so that a user can switch e.g. from a laptop computer (where the FLipPad is connected via cable) to a wireless connection (phone / tablet) and back.

FLipPad Firmware (“UPDATE FIRMWARE”)

Here you can see the installed version and the available version of the FLipPad software (firmware). If the installed version is older than the version which is available online in the FLipPad Github repository, the button caption shows “UPDATE FIRMWARE”. Clicking the button will attempt to download the latest firmware and install it. If the installed version is newer or the same as the available version, the button caption shows “OVERWRITE FIRMWARE” - clicking the button will also download and install the version which is available online.

Firmware Bluetooth-Add-on (“UPDATE BLUETOOTH FIRMWARE”)

Here you can see the installed version and the available version of the Bluetooth Add-On module’s firmware. Similar to the FLipPad firmware update you can click the button “UPDATE / OVERWRITE BLUETOOTH FIRMWARE”, which will attempt to download the latest software (firmware) for the Bluetooth module and install it on the module. This process can take a few minutes and is only possible if a Bluetooth module is connected to the FLipPad. If there is no Bluetooth module connected to the FLipPad, a message will indicate that the installed version is unknown.

View Force Levels (Tab VISUALIZATION)

The FLipPad stick is attached to four force sensors – one for each movement direction (up, down, left, right). The numeric value of each of those sensors is displayed in the “VISUALIZATION” tab. The live values can be monitored when the FLipPad device is connected. Whenever the pad is touched, the sensor values change. Specifically, a movement in each direction increases the respective value.

FLipPad Configuration

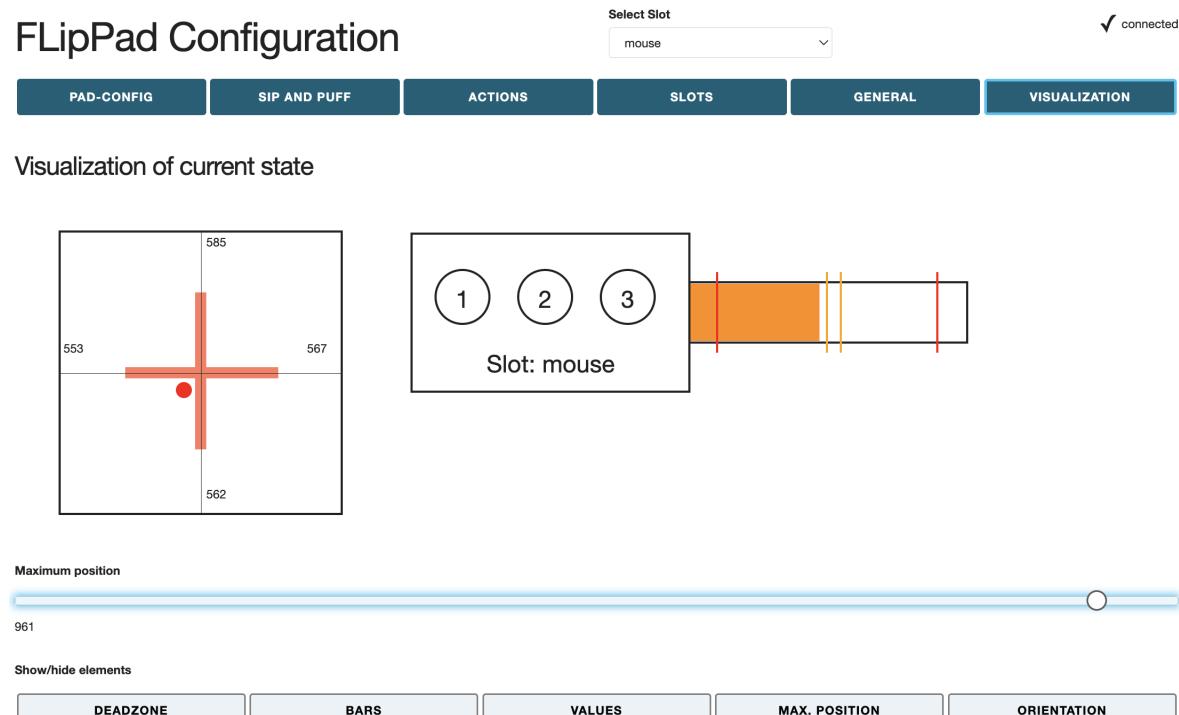


Figure 28: Left: Live display of force sensor values; Middle: current slot with the 3 buttons (if one button is pressed, the corresponding circle will get yellow; Right: Sip and Puff live value and current thresholds

Infrared Code Recording and Replay

The FLipPad device includes an infrared remote control receiver module and a high current IR LED so that it can record and replay remote control codes of many remote control devices used in consumer electronics. If you want to use this feature of the FLipPad, make sure that the IR sending LED is points towards the device you want to control.

To record a new IR code, go to the tab ACTIONS. Click the desired action and select the action category “**Infrared**” in the popup-window. There, three different types of IR-actions can be selected from the combo box:

- *Play infrared command*: sends the recorded code once
- *Hold infrared command*: repeats the code until the user activity ends
- *Stop infrared command*: stops a currently playing IR-code

The existing commands can be chosen from the drop-down menu.

In this window you can also manage IR commands. Next to *New IR Command*, you can enter a name and then click RECORD - point your IR remote to the side of the FLipPad where the LEDs stick out and send the IR command (there is a 10 seconds time limit for the recording phase). The new command is now stored in the FLipPad and can be chosen and replayed by selecting its name in the drop down menu. If the command is not correctly replayed, try to increase the IR-Code timeout – for example to 250 milliseconds. Using *Delete IR command* commands can be deleted.

Action for "Button 2" (Slot: mouse) x

Current action: Press key(s) + release automatically Delete

Show action categories:

All categories Keyboard Mouse Joystick Device Infrared Macro

Select action Play infrared command

Play infrared command play

Manage IR Commands

New IR Command Name RECORD [Show advanced options](#)

Delete IR command play DELETE

DELETE ALL

X CANCEL SAVE

Figure 30: Infrared Recording and Replay Configuration Manager

Using the Bluetooth module

The optional Bluetooth Add-on module allows connection and control of cell phones, tablets and computers with Bluetooth capability. If the FLipPad is attached to a PC or laptop via USB, users may switch to Bluetooth operation and back to USB on demand. The Bluetooth module is available separately from the AsTeRICS Foundation or included in the appropriate version of the FLipPad kit.

Installation of the Bluetooth module

The Bluetooth module is plugged onto the internal 10-pin connector of the FLipPad. To do this, open the FLipPad housing and push the module onto the pin header as far as possible:

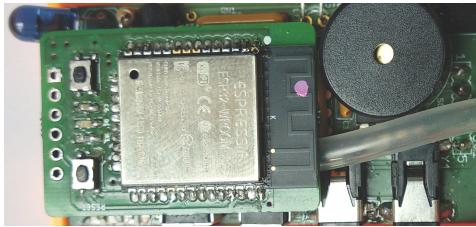


Figure 31: Bluetooth module

Connecting with a Bluetooth host device (pairing)

The host device could be a cell phone with Android or iOS operating system, for example. The FLipPad can be connected to a host device only if no device is currently connected, and thus pairing mode is active. In order to connect a device, open the Bluetooth settings of your Android or iOS device, enable BT, choose *add a new BT-device* and select the FLipPad from the list of available devices. Then, open the GENERAL tab and activate Bluetooth operation for the desired slots (see section [General Settings](#)).

Note: If the Bluetooth module is in paring mode, the module's LED flashed fast (approx twice per second). If a connection is established, the LED flashes slowly (approx. once every 2 seconds). The LED can only be seen if the enclosure of the FLipPad is opened.

Updating the Firmware via Arduino IDE

In addition to the possibility of updating the FLipPad firmware via the configuration manager, the firmware can also be updated via the Arduino IDE and the Teensyduino add-on / loader application. Find the most recent versions in the latest release package on [Github](#). Unzip the FLipPad.zip package and start the teensy.exe program (the Teensy Loader).



Figure 34: Teensy Loader Step 1

The Teensy Loader user interface should look as on the picture above (Figure 34). If there is any security warning (related to Windows User Access Control), please ensure that the Publisher is "PJRC.COM, LLC" and click on "Run".

As next step, activate the "download mode" of the FLIPad by using some pointed tool (needle, small screwdriver, ...) to press the reset button which is accessible via the small hole on the bottom side. After a few seconds (driver installation), the Teensy Loader GUI should indicate connection to the FLIPad as shown here in the following Figure:



Figure 35: Teensy Loader Step 2

Choose "File → Open HEX file" and select the file "FLIPadWare.hex" from the FLIPad folder (or location where you downloaded the release .zip file).

Select "Operation → Program". After a few seconds, you should see the notification "Download complete", as on the next picture (Figure 36). (If this step does not work in the first place, try to unplug and replug the FLIPad and restart the Teensy Loader software.)



Figure 36: Teensy Loader Step 3

To finish the firmware installation, select "Operation → Reboot".

You should read "Reboot" and the FLIPad should beep for a short time.

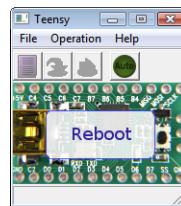


Figure 37: Teensy Loader Step 4

To update the GUI software, copy the file "FLIPadGUI.exe" from the zip package to the desired location (replacing the old FLIPadGUI.exe file).

Building the Firmware

If you want to adapt the software (firmware) of the FLipPad, please have a look at the README file of our repository: <https://github.com/asterics/FLipPad>

Further instructions and troubleshooting

For further instruction and troubleshooting please contact us: office@asterics-foundation.org

Appendix: Macro commands and Key codes

Supported Macro commands:

Abbreviation	Function	example
CL	click left mouse button	
CR	click right mouse button	
CM	click middle mouse button	
CD	click double with left mouse button	
HL	hold the left mouse button	
HR	hold the right mouse button	
HM	hold the middle mouse button	
TL	toggle left mouse button	changes the state of the mouse button
TM	toggle middle mouse button	
TR	toggle right mouse button	
RL	release the left mouse button	
RR	release the right mouse button	
RM	release the middle mouse button	
WU	move mouse wheel up	
WD	move mouse wheel down	
MX	move mouse in x direction	MX 4 -> moves cursor 4 pixels to the right
MY	move mouse in y direction	MY -10 -> moves cursor 10 pixels up
RO	rotate stick orientation	RO 180 -> flips x and y movements of stick/mouthpiece
KW	keyboard write string	KW Hello! -> writes "Hello!" on the keyboard
KP	key press: Press keyboard keys (once). Keys are identified by keyboard shortcuts (see list below)	KP KEY_UP -> presses the "Cursor-Up" key; KP KEY_CTRL KEY_ALT KEY_DELETE presses all 3 keys
KH	key hold: hold keyboard keys	sKH KEY_LEFT -> holds the "Cursor-Left" key
KT	key toggle: toggle keyboard keys; the key will remain pressed until "AT KT" command is sent again or a "AT KR" command is sent	KT KEY_DOWN -> toggles the "Cursor-Down" key
KR	key release	KR KEY_UP -> releases the "Cursor-Up" key

Abbreviation	Function	example
RA	releases all = Release all currently pressed keys and mouse buttons	
WA	wait a certain number of milliseconds	WA 100 -> waits 100 milliseconds
NE	next slot: load next slot	
LO	Load slot per name, changes to the given slot	LO mouse
NC	No command	
JX	set joystick x axis	JX 512 -> sets the x-axis to middle position
JY	set joystick y axis	JY 1023 -> sets the y-axis to full up position
JZ	set joystick z axis	JZ 0 -> sets the z-axis to lowest poistion
JT	set joystick turn axis	JT 512 -> sets the rotation to middle position
JS	set joystick slider position	JS 512 -> sets the slider to middle position
JP	press joystick button	JP 1 -> presses joystick button 1
JR	release joystick button	JR 2 -> releases joystick button 2
JH	set joystick hat position	JH 45 -> sets joystick hat to 45 degrees; possible values are: 0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315 and -1 to set center position
MM	mouse mode: cursor on (int=1) or alternative functions on (int=0)	MM1 -> switches to mouse mode
CA	Calibrate zero position	calibrates stick / mouthpiece middle position
IP	play infrared command	IP channelUp; plays infrared command "channelUp" (if this IR-command name has been recorded)

Please note that certain commands for adjusting FLipPad settings are not shown in this table (for example setting thresholds or accelerations, recording IR-commands etc.). For a full list of commands please refer to the [FLipPad wiki](#).

Supported Key Identifiers:

Supported KEY Identifiers:
Letters
KEY_A KEY_B KEY_C KEY_D KEY_E KEY_F KEY_G KEY_H KEY_I KEY_J KEY_K KEY_L KEY_M KEY_N KEY_O KEY_P KEY_Q KEY_R KEY_S KEY_T KEY_U KEY_V KEY_W KEY_X
Digits
KEY_1 KEY_2 KEY_3 KEY_4 KEY_5 KEY_6 KEY_7 KEY_8 KEY_9 KEY_0
Function keys
KEY_F1 KEY_F2 KEY_F3 KEY_F4 KEY_F5 KEY_F6 KEY_F7 KEY_F8 KEY_F9 KEY_F10 KEY_F11 KEY_F12 KEY_F13 KEY_F14 KEY_F15 KEY_F16 KEY_F17 KEY_F18 KEY_F19 KEY_F20 KEY_F21 KEY_F22 KEY_F23 KEY_F24
Navigation keys
KEY_UP KEY_DOWN KEY_LEFT KEY_RIGHT KEY_TAB KEY_PAGE_UP KEY_PAGE_DOWN KEY_HOME KEY_END
Special keys
KEY_ENTER KEY_SPACE KEY_BACKSPACE KEY_DELETE KEY_INSERT KEY_ESC KEY_NUM_LOCK KEY_SCROLL_LOCK KEY_CAPS_LOCK KEY_PAUSE
KEY_SEMICOLON KEY_COMMA KEY_PERIOD KEY_MINUS KEY_EQUAL KEY_SLASH KEY_BACKSLASH KEY_LEFT_BRACE KEY_RIGHT_BRACE KEY_QUOTE KEY_TILDE KEY_MENU
Keypad keys
KEYPAD_1 KEYPAD_2 KEYPAD_3 KEYPAD_4 KEYPAD_5 KEYPAD_6 KEYPAD_7 KEYPAD_8 KEYPAD_9 KEYPAD_0 KEYPAD_SLASH KEYPAD_ASTERIX KEYPAD_MINUS KEYPAD_PLUS KEYPAD_ENTER KEYPAD_PERIOD
Keys for alternative functions
KEY_SHIFT KEY_CTRL KEY_ALT KEY_RIGHT_ALT KEY_GUI KEY_RIGHT_GUI

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Disclaimer

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Additionally, the UAS TW is not liable for any damages to health due to the use of described hardware or software. The provided software applications and hardware modules are to be used at own risk!

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