

Keyboard layout

For this project we need some custom Cherry MX keycaps. One option is to use empty keycaps (e.g. from X-Keys) and print your own legends. I opted to order custom keycaps from a service provider (WASD Keyboards).

I came up with the keyboard layout and keycap types (R1-R4) as shown in the picture. All keycaps are 1x1.



I've used Inkscape to modify the 104-key template file (V6.0) provided by the service provider. I cannot make the template available but I uploaded a SVG file with the legends layer I have designed for my keyboard. The design allows to populate two keyboards, one as shown in the picture (R1-R1-R2-R3-R4) and the other one with the same legends but with R2-R3-R4-R4-R4 keycaps. See also the pictures in "Images/Keyboard"

If you decide to use my design as a starting point, you can try this:

- Download the 104-key template file for Inkscape from the support area of the service provider
- Open the template with Inkscape and hide the "message" layer
- Add a new layer called "Nixie Calculator" and make sure it's selected, visible and unlocked
- Open another instance of Inkscape
- Open the "Keycaps/Nixie_Calculator_Extended_Keyboard_maroon_legend_layer_V6.0.svg" file
- Select all legends (ctrl-a). Make a note of the X and Y coordinates of the selection
- Copy the legends (ctrl-c)
- Go to the instance with the template file and click inside the template
- Paste the legends (ctrl-v)
- Bring the legends into position by setting the X and Y coordinates to the previously noted values.
- Make sure the pasted text elements have been added to the Nixie Calculator layer
- Now you can modify the legends as you wish. Check that everything is correctly aligned.
- **Unhide the "message" layer. Carefully read and follow the instructions shown in the template and on the website before placing your order. Pay particular attention to where to set the colors for the legends and where for the keycaps.**