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Guide to creating a layout in QMK for the TADA68

Step 1: setup QMK

Follow the instructions in the QMK docs to setup your QMK environment, by the end of this step you should have all the dependencies installed and a folder with all the QMK stuff.

Step 2: create/edit a layout

QMK layouts are found in keyboards/<keyboard>/keymaps/<keymap_name>/. For example, the default layout for the TADA68 is keyboards/tada68/keymaps/default/.

To make your own layout, copy the default folder and rename it to something else, clack for example which would give us keyboards/tada68/keymaps/clack/ which will have 3 files in it:

- 1. keymap.c
- 2. readme.md
- 3. rules.mk

Out of those 3, the readme.md file is not required but is present by default, the rules.mk file contains advanced build options for QMK and for most users can be left alone. The keymap.c file is where the magic happens and in here you can edit the default layout to your own liking. Thorough instructions for editing this can also be found in the QMK docs..

Step 3: build the firmware

The TADA68 is unique to most other mechanical keyboards in terms of putting your own layout on it as you drop a .bin file on the keyboard as if it was a regular mass storage device rather than flashing a .hex file to the controller.

To generate the .bin file, just run the following command within the QMK root directory:

make tada68:<name>:flashbin

Where <name> is the name of the directory you created in step 2, following from our example where the name of the foler was clack you would run make tada68:clack:flashbin.

If there is an issue with your layout you'll get an error after the make command. If there are no errors, you'll find a shiny new .bin file in the QMK root directory, following our example again we'll find tada68_clack.bin in the root directory. This is the file you'll need to put onto your board.

Step 4: loading your layout onto your keyboard

To get your layout onto your keyboard, plug it in and press the reset switch, it should show up as a removable device and you'll find a .bin file already on it with the default layout, the board only has enough storage for one layout os backup this file somewhere on your computer and replave it with the .bin file created in step 3.

When the new layout file is on the board, press escape to get the board out of the bootloader mode and it should be working on the new layout.