

Typing in the Masaba script

The Masaba script is used to write Bambara (Bamanankan). This Masaba script keyboard (ꞙꞙ) is an experimental keyboard that uses a Latin-based input method. The keyboard requires the included “MasabaFont01” font which in turn encodes the script in the Unicode Private Use Area. The script is a syllabary, so to produce the letter ꞙ (pi) you must type <pi>; or to produce the letter ꞙ /ku/, type <ku>.

The key <e> is set for the vowel /ɛ/ (the letter ‘ɛ’ in the Latin orthography). And the key <o> is set for the vowel /ɔ/ (the letter ‘ɔ’ in the Latin orthography). The vowels /e/ and /o/ are on the capitalized/uppercase <E> and <O> keys. So, to produce the following letters, type the letters in <brackets>:

- type <ke> → ꞙ /kɛ/ type <kE> → ꞙ /kɛ/
- type <ko> → ꞙ /kɔ/ type <kO> → ꞙ /kɔ/

Typing a single consonant will produce a syllable with a default vowel of /a/. So, typing <p> will produce /pa/ ꞙ and typing <m> will produce /ma/ ꞙ.

Unshifted



Shifted



The letter /ɲ/ is the only consonant you need to click to access (Shift + N).

Basic typing:

| | Latin Bambara orthography → | i | e | ε | a | ɔ | o | u |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| | Key | i | E | e | a | o | O | u |
| Latin Bambara orthography ↓ | vowel | ⊖ | ⋮ | ⚡ | Υ | ↪ | ↪ | |
| p | p | ⊗ | | ⚡ | ⋮ | ⋮ | | ⊖ |
| t | t | ⊗ | Υ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⚡ | ⚡ | ⋮ |
| c | c | ⊖ | ⋮ | ⚡ | ⚡ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| k | k | ⊖ | ↪ | ⋮ | ⚡ | ⚡ | ↪ | ⊖ |
| b | b | ⚡ | ⋮ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖↪ | ⊖ |
| d | d | ⚡ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⊖ | ⚡ | ⚡ | ⋮ |
| j | j | ⊖ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⚡ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| g | g | ⊖ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⚡ | ↪ | ↪ | ⋮ |
| f | f | ⊖ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| s | s | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| z | z | | | ⋮ | ⋮ | | | |
| m | m | ⋮ | | ⚡ | ⊖ | ⋮ | | ⋮ |
| n | n | ⋮ | | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | | ⋮ |
| ɲ | N | ⋮ | | ⊖ | ⋮ | ⚡ | | ⋮ |
| ŋ | x | | | | ⚡ | ⋮ | | ⋮ |
| y | y | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| w | w | ⋮ | | ⚡ | ⋮ | ⊖ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| h | h | ⊖ | | ⚡ | ⚡ | | | ⚡ |
| l | l | ⋮ | ↪ | ⚡ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| r | r | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ | ⚡ | ⋮ | ⚡ | ⚡ |

Unshifted



There are 5 nasality diacritics in the Masaba script. Each is used depending on the vowel of the letter:

- /i/ vowel – [˘] Example: ɔɔ' (fin)
- /e/ or /ɛ/ vowel – ^ɔ Example: ɔ' (bɛn)
- /a/ vowel – ^ˈ Example: ʷ (kan)
- /ɔ/ or /o/ vowel – [˚] Example: ɛ' (pɔn)
- /u/ vowel – [˜] Example: ʷ (mun)

All nasality diacritics are on the <v> key on the keyboard. Simply press <v> after a letter to add nasality. The correct nasality diacritic will appear.

There is 1 full modulation diacritic in the Masaba script used for letters with an /a/ vowel. Type a capital/uppercase letter <A> after a consonant to add the modulation diacritic. Example:

- ɔ (ma) + ^ˈ (full modulation diacritic) = ɔ̃ (mă)
- Type <m> then <A> to produce ɔ̃

There is 1 high-tone diacritic in the Masaba script used for letters with an /ɔ/ or /o/ vowel. Type the letter <q> after the Masaba letter to add the high-tone diacritic. Example:

- ɔ (so) + [˙] (high-tone diacritic) = ɔ̣ (só)
- Type <sO> then <q> to produce ɔ̣

If you want to type the diacritics by themselves, type the following:

- $i^* = ^\text{'} /i/$ nasality diacritic
- $E^* = ^\alpha /e/$ and $/\epsilon/$ nasality diacritic
- $a^* = ^\text{' } /a/$ nasality diacritic
- $A^* = ^\text{--} /a/$ full modulation diacritic
- $O^* = ^\circ /o/$ and $/\text{ɔ}/$ nasality diacritic
- $o^* = ^\text{^ } /o/$ and $/\text{ɔ}/$ high tone diacritic
- $u^* = ^\text{^ } /u/$ nasality diacritic