

How to Configure Stack Overflow The Key and The Key V2 Macropad?



Drop+MechKeys 3930
Official
SEP 27, 2021



Update: If you are here for **The Key V2**, please see [this post](#) below for information regarding flashing an updated stock configuration with hotkeys for changing LED modes and a more user-friendly Copy and Paste default action.

Hey everybody!

Thank you for purchasing your [Stack Overflow The Key Macropad](#). We hope you're enjoying it so far. If you've landed here, you probably want to take full advantage of the keyboard's custom configuration so you've come to the right place.

What Does The Key Come With?

Out of the box, The Key comes built in with three keys that act as the "ctrl", "c", and "v" keys. It also includes a USB-C to USB-A cable to connect to your computer. Users that only have USB-C ports would need to provide their own USB-A to USB-C adapter.

How do I configure The Key?

Creating a New Custom Configuration

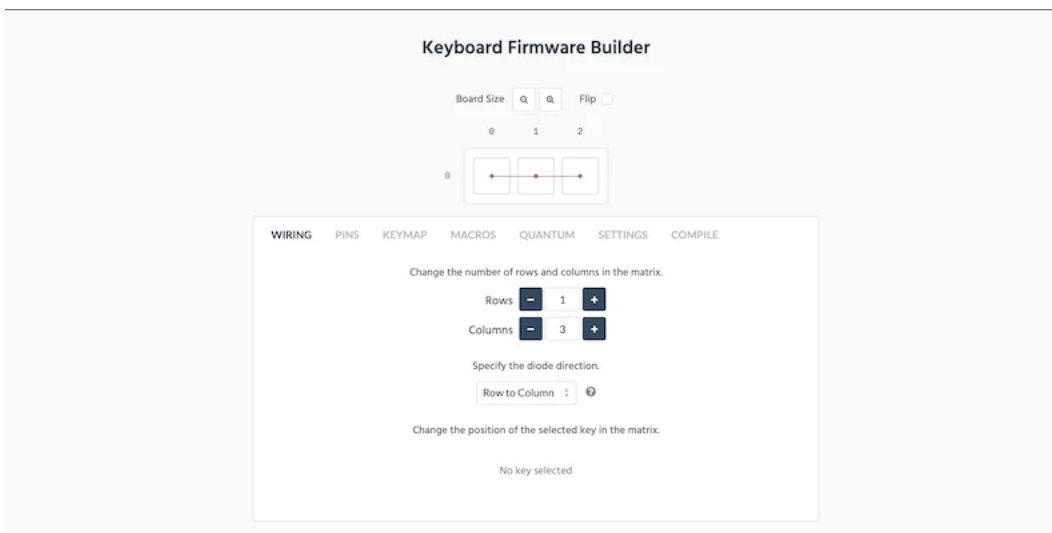
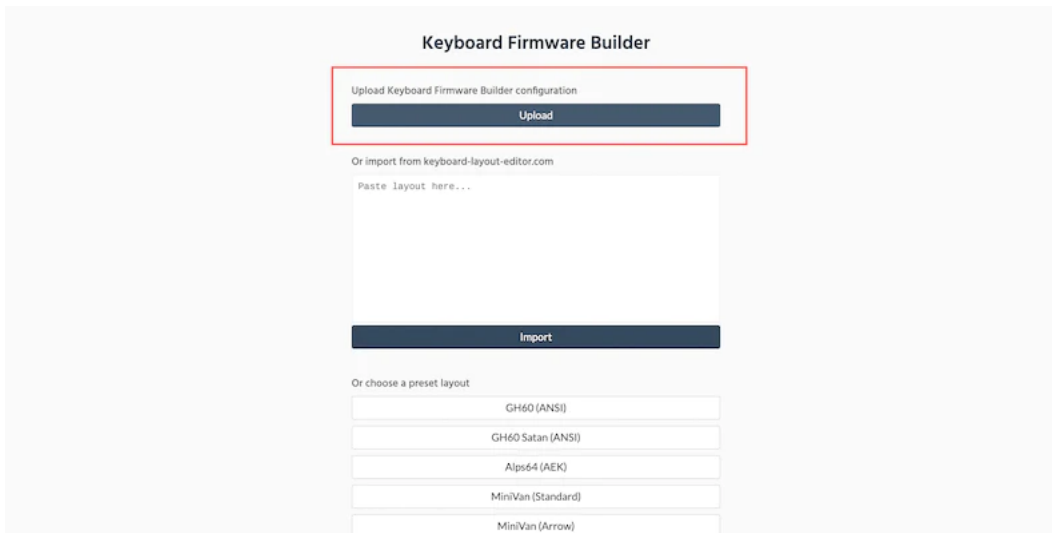
↑ 34 ↓ 120 👁 36.8K

🔗 SHARE

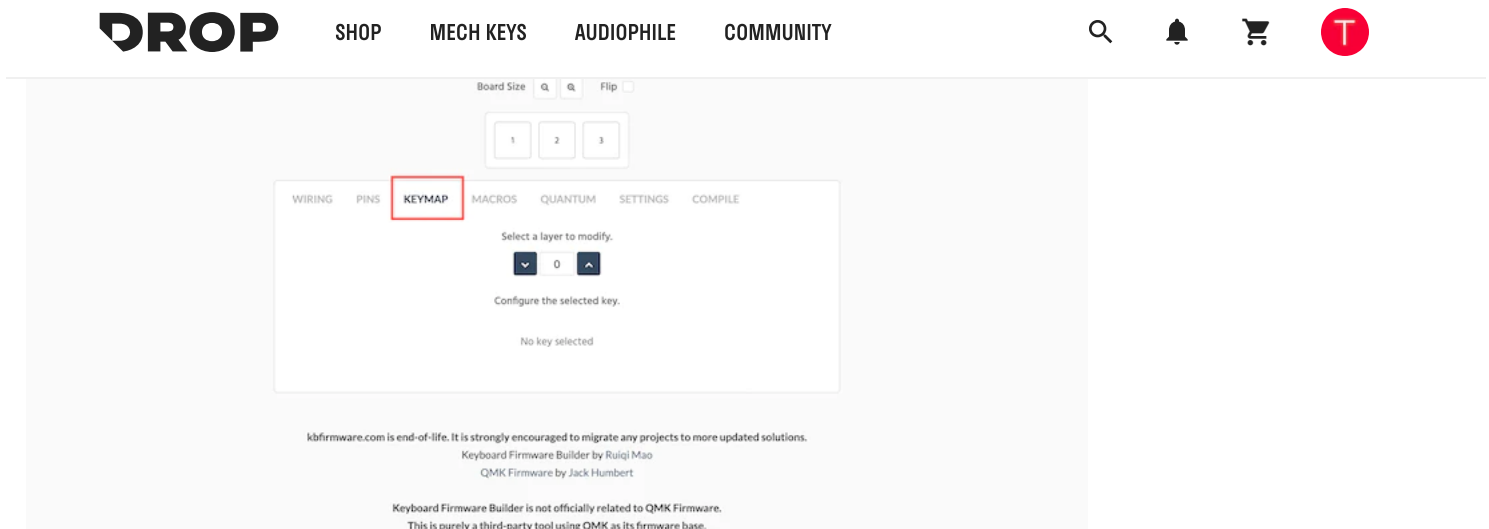
🔖 SAVE

To get under the hood and start reprogramming your The Key:

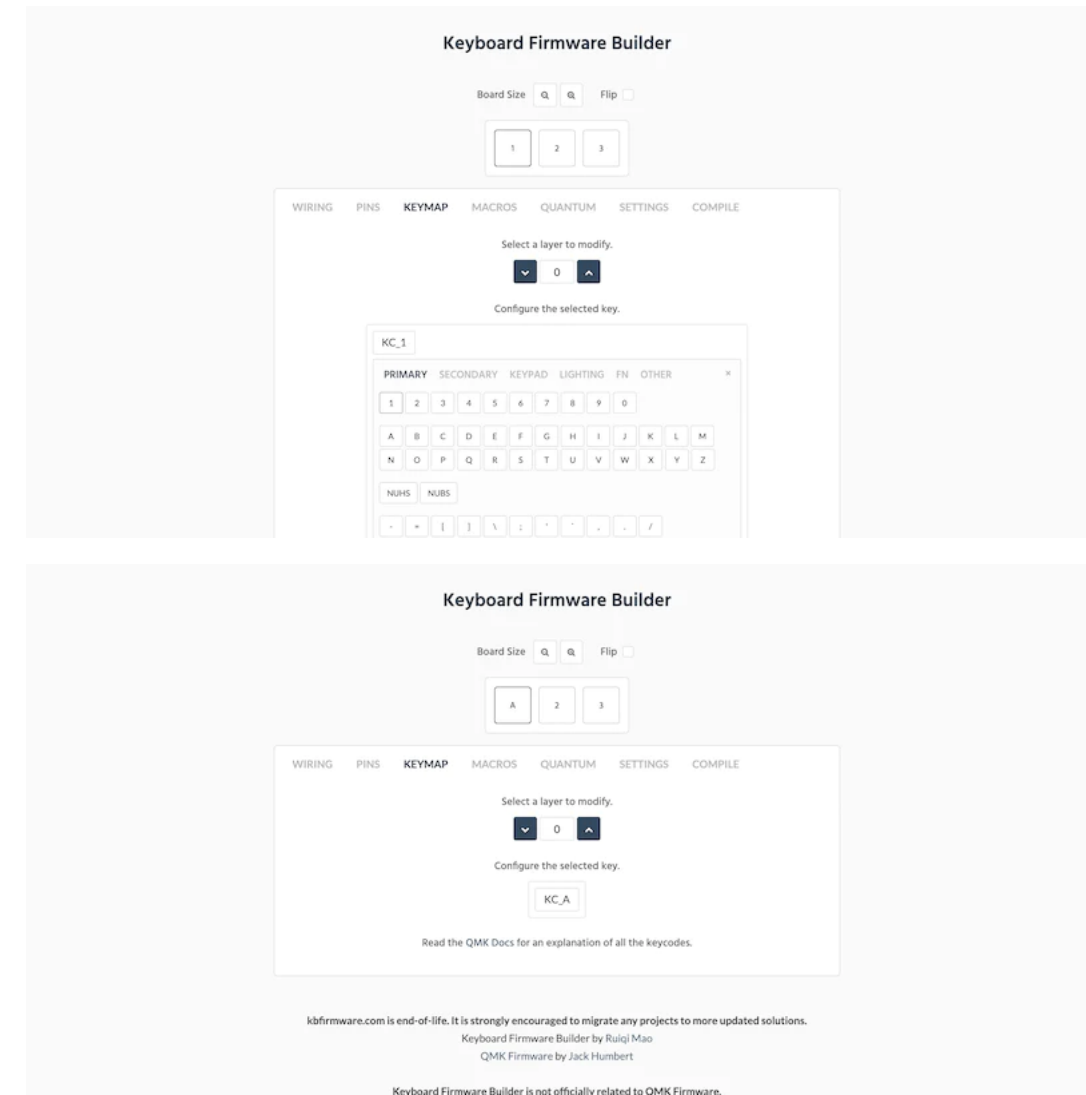
1. Go to [Keyboard Firmware Builder](#)
2. Download this JSON file onto your computer by selecting “Save Page As...”: <https://docs.drop.com/thekey.json>
3. Upload TheKey.json by pressing the “Upload” button under the text ‘Upload Keyboard Firmware Builder configuration’. This is what you’ll see:

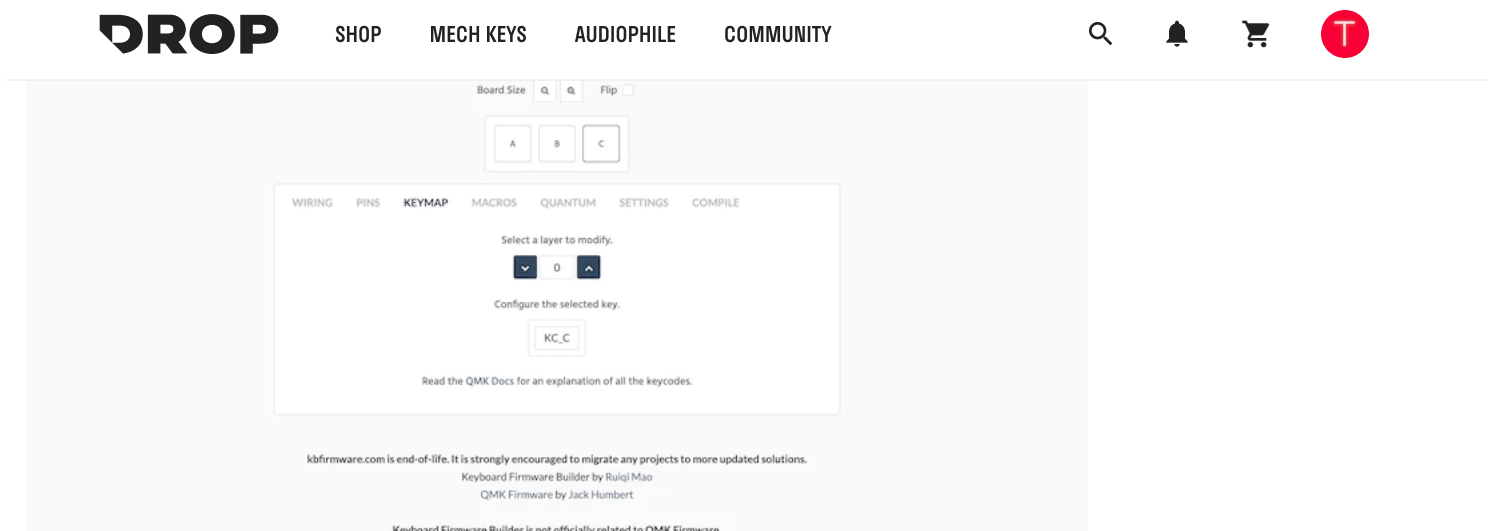


4. Now the fun begins. There are many areas to play with and a lot more can be read on [QMK Firmware here](#). To keep this instruction set simple, we want to scroll to the Tab that says “Keymap”. By default this JSON file has a keymap where the three keys are the numbers 1, 2, and 3.

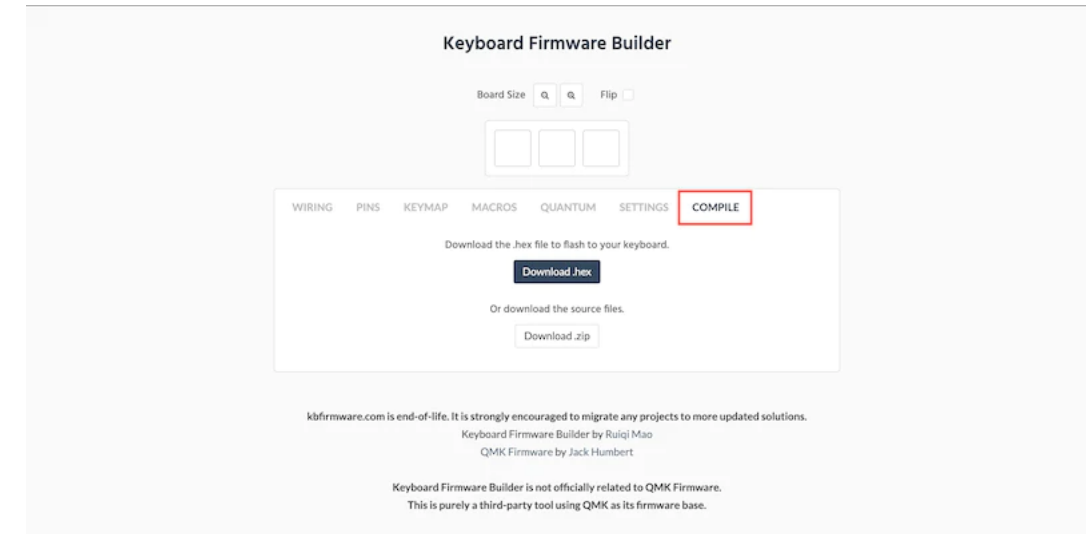


5. Select the leftmost key. Click on the “KC_1” button and it’ll unfurl the functions you can bind your first key to. Choose a function. Repeat the process for the remaining two keys. A full list of keycodes and what function they perform is [given here](#).





6. It is now time to compile this new configuration into a file that you can use to flash The Key with your new functionality. Go to the “Compile” tab and press the button “Download .hex”. You will see a file downloaded named 3key.hex.



Quick Note on Adding Layers

Adding a layer requires one of the keys to activate a layer. For example, the function “MO()” momentarily activates a layer. We are posting some images below for an example on how one could create a new layer.

Board Size

Q

Q

Flip

A

B

MO()

WIRING

PINS

KEYMAP

MACROS

QUANTUM

SETTINGS

COMPILE

Select a layer to modify.

▼

0

▲

Configure the selected key.

MO

Layer

▼

1

▲

[Read the QMK Docs for an explanation of all the keycodes.](#)

kbfirmware.com is end-of-life. It is strongly encouraged to migrate any projects to more updated solutions.

Keyboard Firmware Builder by Ruiqi Mao

QMK Firmware by Jack Humbert

Keyboard Firmware Builder

Board Size

Q

Q

Flip ☐

RGB_MOD

TINS

TINS

WIRING

PINS

KEYMAP

MACROS

QUANTUM

SETTINGS

COMPILE

Select a layer to modify.

▼

1

▲

Configure the selected key.

RGB_MOD

Read the QMK Docs for an explanation of all the keycodes.

kbfirmware.com is end-of-life. It is strongly encouraged to migrate any projects to more updated solutions.

Keyboard Firmware Builder by Ruiqi Mao

QMK Firmware by Jack Humbert

Keyboard Firmware Builder

Board Size

Q

Q

Flip ☐

RGB_MOD

RGB_TOG

TRANS

WIRING

PINS

KEYMAP

MACROS

QUANTUM

SETTINGS

COMPILE

Select a layer to modify.

▼

1

▲

Configure the selected key.

RGB_TOG

Read the QMK Docs for an explanation of all the keycodes.

kbfirmware.com is end-of-life. It is strongly encouraged to migrate any projects to more updated solutions.

Keyboard Firmware Builder by Ruiji Mao

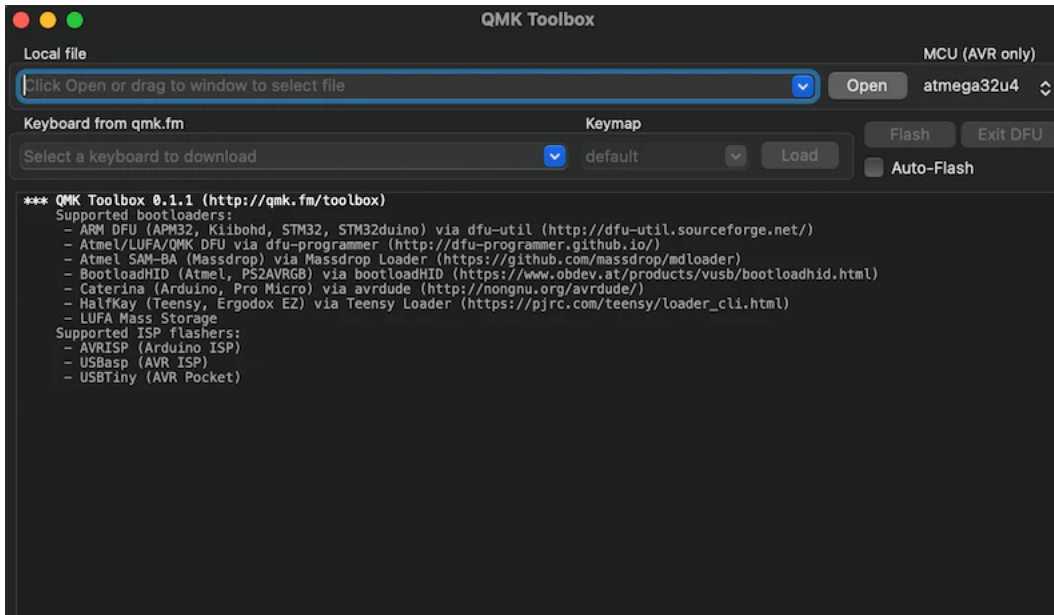
QMK Firmware by Jack Humbert

Again, as mentioned above, a full list of keycodes and what function they perform is [given here](#). You can further look into “Layer Switching” and “RGB Lighting” on this page.

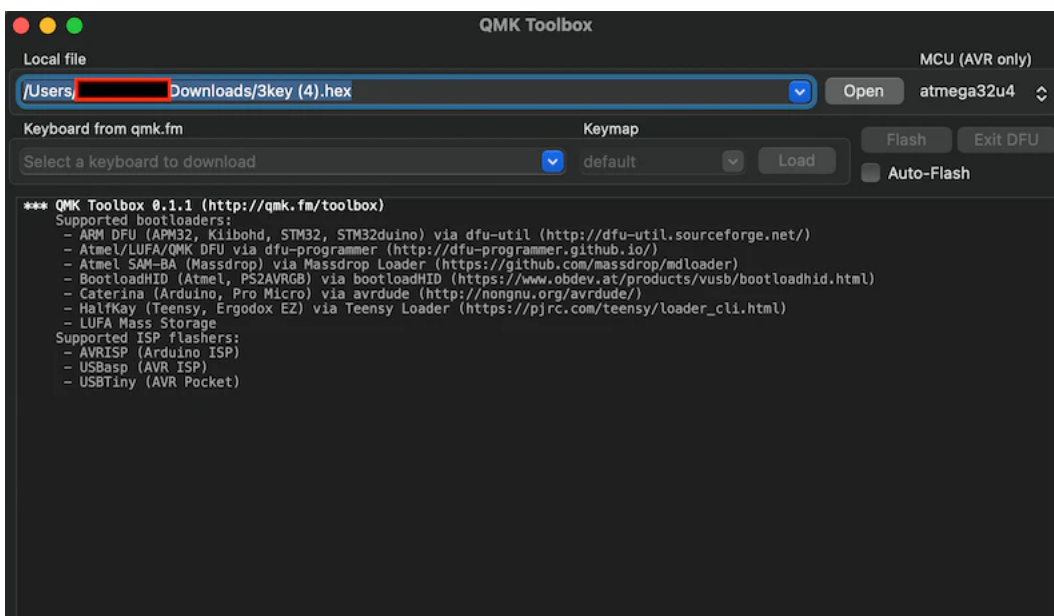
Uploading the New Custom Configuration onto The Key

1. You will first need to download an open-source tool onto your computer. This tool is called QMK Toolbox and [here is the github for it](#). Go to [this page for the latest release and download the relevant file](#). For MAC users, we recommend downloading the .zip file, and for PC users, we recommend downloading the qmk_toolbox.exe file.

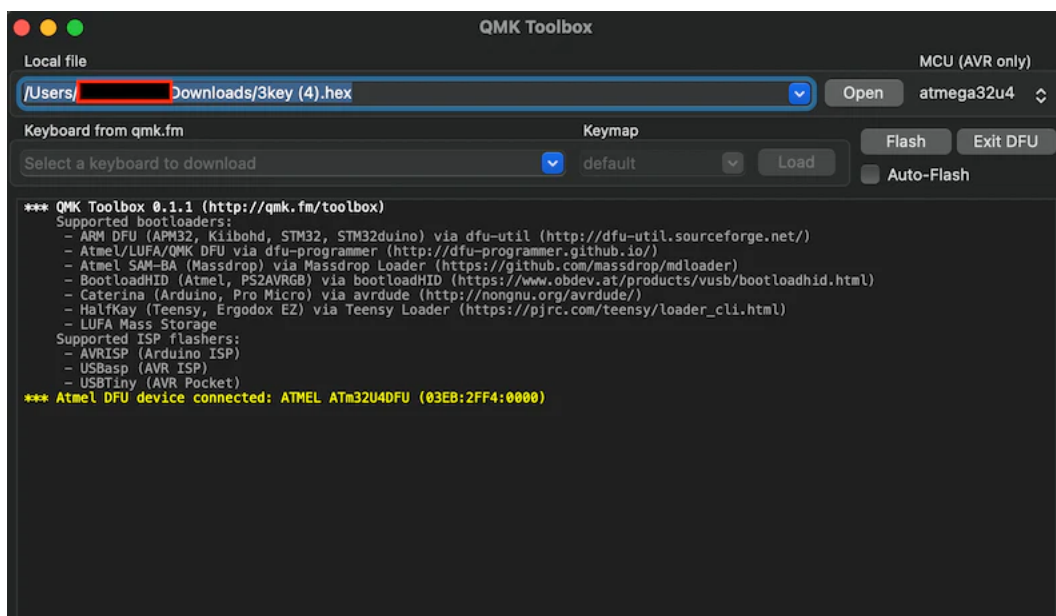
2. Install and launch the software. This is what you will see. Please make sure that the MCU shows “atmega32u4”



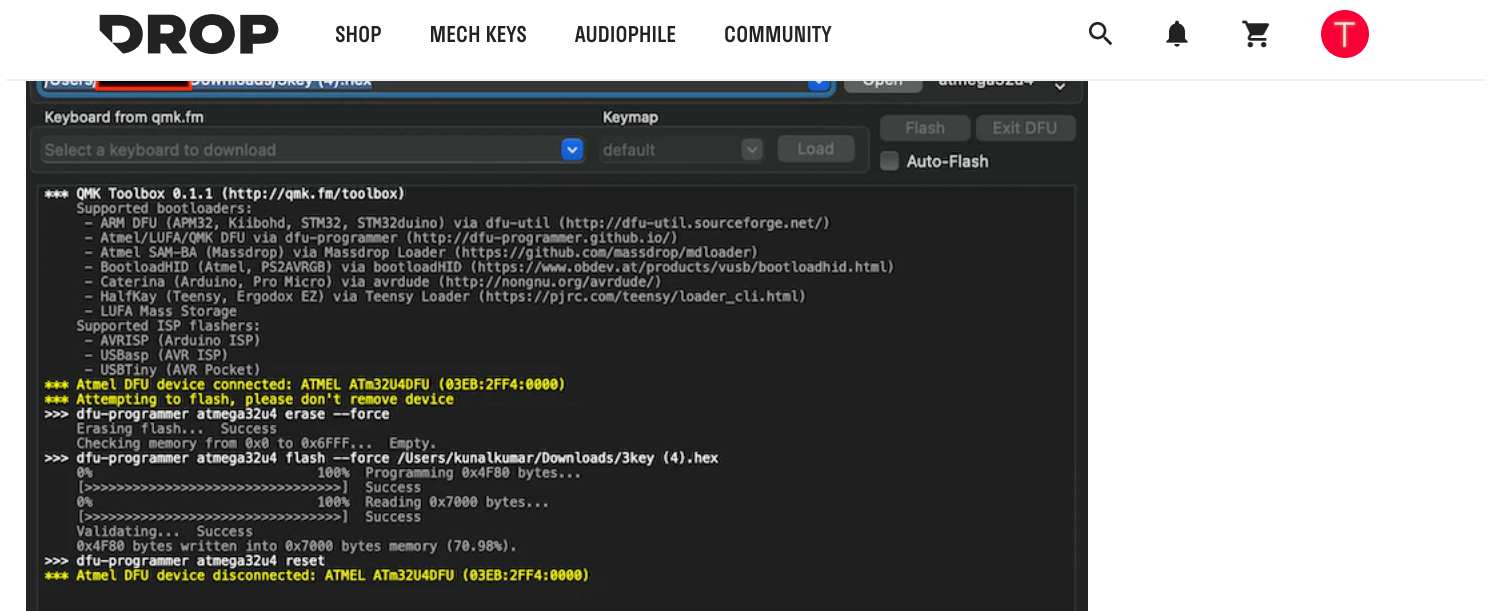
3. Click “Open” and select the 3key.hex file you created above. In the image below you can see the filename is not exactly 3key.hex and that is because we tried to create many different configurations. Note that the “Flash” button is not activated at this point.



4. Unscrew the back of The Key and take off the back plate. You’ll see the exposed PCB. Connect The Key to your MAC or PC. Once connected, press the button on the back of the exposed PCB of the macropad. Go back to the QMK Toolbox and you will see text in yellow saying that a device has been connected, along with the “Flash” button now being activated.



5. Click the “Flash” button. QMK Toolbox will show that it is trying to flash The Key and once the flashing is done will show a yellow prompt saying that the device has been disconnected.



6. You can now test whether the macropad is performing as you had configured it. You now have your version of The Key. Enjoy and please share what you created with the community.

Let us know if you have any questions in the discussion. We also look forward to the community sharing the custom layouts and functionality they are building with The Key.

(Edited by moderator HoffmanMyster)


 Kevin, kunalkumar, and 33 others

97% upvoted

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 Shayan_R

DEC 27, 2022

Thought I'd share this for others since I couldn't find a ready example so had to create my own.