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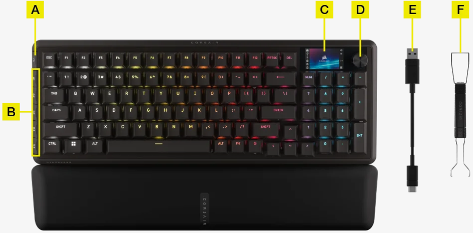
MANUAL | QUICK START GUIDE

VANGUARD 96

RGB Mechanical Gaming Keyboard

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR KEYBOARD



A. GAME MODE BUTTON
B. G-KEYS
C. COLOR LCD SCREEN
D. ROTARY DIAL
E. DETACHABLE BRAIDED TYPE-C CABLE
F. 2 IN 1 KEYCAP & SWITCH PULLER

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Form Factor	96%
Top Cover	Aluminium plate
Bottom	Plastic
Sound Absorbing Foam	PORON
Case Foam	Silicone
Palm Rest	Magnetic cushioned palm rest
Colorway	Black / Dual Tone
Keycaps	PBT Double shot (BR, SP, ES layout is ABS Paint)
Backlighting	Individually LED lit and per-key programmable
LED Color	RGB
Keyswitches	CORSAIR MLX mechanical pre-lubricated key switches
Connectivity	USB 3.0 Type-A
Matrix	Full key rollover (NKRO) with 100% anti-ghosting
USB Report Rate	Up to 8,000Hz hyper-polling with CORSAIR AXON
Profiles	5 (1 On-board, 4 on Web Hub)
Media Control	FN shortcuts/Rotary dial
Game Mode	Hotkey*1
Brightness Control	FN shortcuts/Rotary dial
Adjustable Height	Yes
Plug and Play Operation	Yes
Console Compatibility	Xbox One, Xbox Series X|S, PlayStation 4, 5
Cable	1.8 m / 6 ft, Detachable braided Type-C cable
Dimensions	388(L) x 141(W) x 43(H) mm
Weight	0.994 kgs
Warranty	Two years - Local country regulations are applicable

AXON HYPER-PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

CORSAIR AXON delivers a powerful and responsive keyboard experience with:

- Hyper-fast keystroke detection and processing
- Up to 8,000Hz hyper-polling (adjustable in CORSAIR WEB HUB device settings)
- Up to 20-layer onboard lighting effects (programmable in CORSAIR WEB HUB per profile)

AXON
CORSAIR HYPER-PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

SETTING UP YOUR KEYBOARD

Connecting the keyboard via USB cable to an available USB 3.0 Type-A port or better on a compatible device including:

Windows® PC	Apple Mac®	Microsoft Xbox One* Microsoft Xbox Series X | S*	Sony PlayStation 4** Sony PlayStation 5**

*Keyboard is compatible out of the box, see corsair.com/xbox-support for details.

**See CONNECTING TO SONY PLAYSTATION section.

CONNECTING TO SONY PLAYSTATION

The keyboard also has a special mode to support Sony PlayStation 4 and 5 that can be activated via shortcut.

SHORTCUT	FUNCTION	INDICATION
FN+ ⊞ (Hold for 5 seconds)	Switch to PlayStation mode	🔒 Blinks white 5 times over 5 seconds
FN+ ⊞ (Hold for 5 seconds)	Switch back to standard mode	🔒 Blinks white 2 times

NOTE: Available functions may be limited depending on gaming console support and application.

OPERATING MODES

The keyboard features two operating modes:

1. **Hardware (HW) Mode –** When CORSAIR WEB HUB is not running or the keyboard is connected to a device that does not support CORSAIR WEB HUB, the keyboard operates in hardware mode which uses profiles and settings saved to the onboard storage.
2. **Web-based Mode –** Go to CORSAIR Web Hub link https://corsair.com/web-hub, the keyboard operates in Web-based mode, using profiles and settings saved to onboard storage.

CORSAIR
WEB HUB

FUNCTION	HARDWARE MODE	SOFTWARE MODE
Storage & Profiles	8MB for up 5 profiles	Unlimited
Create New Profiles	N/A	CORSAIR WEB HUB
Create Lighting Effects	N/A	CORSAIR WEB HUB
Create Key Assignments	N/A	CORSAIR WEB HUB
Maximum Lighting Layers	20	Unlimited

HARDWARE OVERVIEW

FN SHORTCUTS LIGHTING INDICATOR

When pressing FN key, all lighting will momentarily turn OFF except for keys that have secondary functions and macros assigned to them which will have backlighting turned ON.

- The default color will be WHITE.
- Users can customize the color indication in CORSAIR WEB HUB.

Color indication for profile currently in-use will take priority over FN Shortcuts lighting.

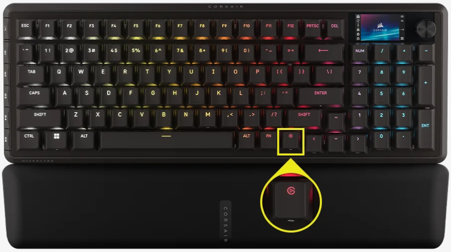
GAME MODE BUTTON (A) FUNCTION

Activate competition-optimized settings with the Game Mode button.

Reminder: Turn on Game Mode BEFORE gameplay to avoid 1 sec of idle time.

	FUNCTION	REMARK
Default mode (Game Mode off)	Game mode off: • Default polling rate (1000Hz) • Rapid trigger off • Winlock off • RGB lighting	Factory default
Game Mode on	Game mode on: • USB Polling rate: 1000Hz by default, and can be adjusted in CORSAIR WEB HUB to the maximum 8000Hz • Winlock on • 1 sec ripple effect* (ripple lighting effect centered on the Game Mode button), then use Game Mode lighting	Can be customizable in CORSAIR WEB HUB

STREAM DECK LAUNCH BUTTON



STANDARD SHORTCUTS

All below functions assume FN key is being held and action is activated upon press unless otherwise noted.

Default function shortcut, with printed icons.

SHORTCUT	FUNCTION
FN + F1	Scroll lock
FN + F2	Profile
FN + F3	Decrease brightness
FN + F4	Increase brightness
FN + F5	Stop track
FN + F6	Previous track
FN + F7	Play / pause
FN + F8	Next track
FN + F12	Dial mode
FN + M	Enter macro recording mode
FN + Enter	Screen action
FN + Left	Screen left
FN + Right	Screen right
FN + Win	Win lock
FN + Win for 5 sec.	PS mode
FN + R-Shift	Flash Tap
FN + F9	Volume mute
FN + F10	Volume down
FN + F11	Volume up
FN + P	Pause
FN + 7 (numpad)	Home
FN + 1 (numpad)	End
FN + 9 (numpad)	PgUp
FN + 3 (numpad)	PgDn
FN + 0 (numpad)	Insert
FN + Stream Deck launch button	Copilot key

MACRO RECORDING / CLEARING NOTES

- Enters macro recording: Hold FN + M key -or- Press dial in MR mode (Indication: Indicator breathes red)
- Press any series of standard keys to begin recording

- Stops recording: Press FN + M key -or- Press dial (Indication: Indicator blinks red)
- Press any key, FN + key or modifier (CTRL/SHIFT/ALT/ALTGR) + key
    - **If keys were recorded:** Pressing that key or combination saves the macro
    - **If no keys were recorded**: Pressing that key or combination clears any macro or function saved

LIGHTING SHORTCUTS

SHORTCUT	LIGHTING EFFECT
FN + `	Current HW profile lighting
FN + 1	Horizon
FN + 2	Watercolor
FN + 3	Spiral Rainbow
FN + 4	Rainbow Wave
FN + 5	Type Lighting Key (random color)
FN + 6	Type Lighting Ripple (random color)
FN + 7	Color Shift (random color order)
FN + 8	Color Pulse (random color order)
FN + 9	Color Wave (random color order)
FN + 0	Static Color
FN + -	Reduce Effect Speed
FN + =	Increase Effect Speed
FN + [	Rotate Effect Left
FN +]	Rotate Effect Right

FACTORY RESET

Hold ESC key for two seconds while device is plugged in to erase onboard memory profiles and restore factory default settings.

PLAYSTATION MODE

1. By holding FN + Windows key for 5 seconds, FW will change to PlayStation mode from standard mode
2. To go back to standard mode from PlayStation mode, hold FN + Windows key for 5 seconds
3. When entering PlayStation mode, Windows key indicator blinks white 5 times over 5 seconds when switching mode
4. When changing to standard mode from PlayStation mode, Windows key indicator breathes white 2 times over 2 seconds when switching mode

In compatibility mode, the output is limited to:

- 13-keys + 7 modifier keys (RCtrl, LAlt, LShift, Windows, AltGr)
- Fixed at 1000Hz polling rate
- Still output media keys

BIOS MODE

1. By holding B and S keys while plugging in power via USB, FW will change to BIOS mode
2. To get back from BIOS mode to standard mode, hold ESC key while plugging in power via USB (this will clear EEPROM, but does not perform factory reset)
3. All indicators blink white 5 times over 5 seconds when switching modes

In BIOS mode, the output is limited to:

- 6-keys + 5 modifier keys (RCtrl, LAlt, LShift, Windows, AltGr)
- Fixed at 125Hz polling rate
- No media keys output

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