



## Matias Half-QWERTY 508 Overview

Touch-type with just one hand on the **Half-QWERTY 508 Keyboard** from **Matias**. Designed for one-handed individuals, or those suffering from hemiplegia, carpal tunnel syndrome, or other hand-related injuries, the Half-QWERTY is compliant with Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act, which requires that Federal agencies' electronic and information technology is accessible to people with disabilities.

The Half-QWERTY typing technique is very similar to the standard two-handed touch-typing technique. You place your hand where it would normally be if you were touch-typing - that takes care of that half of the keyboard. To type the letters of the other half, you hold down the space bar with your thumb and do the same finger movement that you would normally do with the other hand. Tapping the space bar still types a space. The relative finger movements used for one-handed typing are the same as those used for two-handed typing. So if you're currently a touch-typist, you already know them. You should be typing one-handed in a matter of minutes.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and other typing-related injuries don't always occur in both hands. In cases where only one hand is affected, you can type with the other hand, while the injured one heals. Half-QWERTY's innovative "skill transfer" design makes the transition fast and easy. And when your injury heals, use the Half-QWERTY Keyboard as a standard desktop keyboard that is used with two hands.

### Blindness

Used in conjunction with a Braille display, Half-QWERTY allows blind and visually impaired persons to read what they type as they are typing it, much as a seeing person would.

## Quick Learning Curve

If you've never learned to type before, learning Half-QWERTY will take roughly the same amount of time it would take to learn standard two-handed touch-typing. However, if you are a trained touch-typist, you can learn Half-QWERTY in a matter of minutes, with little or no re-training. Published empirical research has shown that (on average) a touch-typist can learn Half-QWERTY in 1/3 the time it takes to learn a one-handed chord keyboard. Half-QWERTY's innovative "skill transfer" design makes this possible.

## Type Fast

With practice, Half-QWERTY typists can expect to reach speeds of between 61% and 91% of those achievable by two-handed typists. Typing speeds as high as 64 words per minute (wpm) have been recorded.

## Use Either Hand - or Both

The Half-QWERTY Keyboard allows one-handed typing using either hand, or both, just like a standard keyboard. The one-handed typing capability can be switched on or off by the user as desired, using the "Matias" key.

## Sticky Keys

Sticky Keys is a feature that makes typing modifier-key sequences (e.g., capital letters) easier for one-handed typists, in that you no longer have to type the modifier (e.g.: Shift, Control, Alt) and the key being modified simultaneously. You can type them in succession. Depressing and releasing a modifier key once makes it active for the next key typed. Pressing it twice locks it until it is unlocked by pressing the modifier again.

## Key Incriptions

For easy reference, the surface of each key is clearly labelled with all the characters and functions of both regular and one-handed typing modes.

## International Layout Support

Non-US keyboards are a little different. They have an extra key in the lower left corner (right next to the Shift key). While the Half-QWERTY Keyboard doesn't have this extra key (it's a US layout), it will let you do this key by typing double-Shift-Z. The keyboard can also be remapped to whatever layout is standard in your country, by simply choosing the desired layout from the appropriate control panel on your computer.

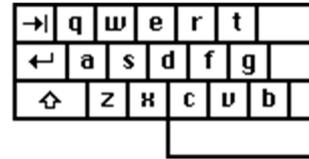
### How does it work?

Typing with one hand is a lot like typing with two hands...



1. Place your hand on the keyboard, in the standard position.

2. The letters under your hand are **exactly the same** as on a regular keyboard. You already know how to type them – no learning required!



3. For the other half of the keyboard, you need to **hold down the space bar**. When you hold down the space bar, the keys under your hand **change** to the **other half of the keyboard**.



4. To type a space, just tap the space bar.

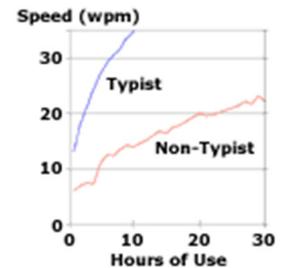
5. That's all there is to it! It's just like regular typing, except you hold down the space bar to get the other half of the keyboard.

### How fast can I type?

With practice, up to 88% as fast as your two-handed speed. The current speed record is 64 words-per-minute!

### How fast can I learn it?

If you've never learned to type before, you can learn one-handed typing in the same time – and at the same time – as two-handed typing. If you're already a touch-typist, you can learn one-handed typing in a matter of minutes, with little or no retraining.



### Why is it so easy to learn?

The finger used to type each letter is the same finger that's used in normal touch typing – That's why you can learn it so quickly. It's uncanny, but your brain quite naturally understands that a key that you would normally type with the index finger of one hand can be typed with the index finger of the other hand.

You're using the same finger movements that you already learned for touch-typing, except now, you're only using one hand to do them. To try it out for yourself, download the [software demo](#) from this page.

### No drivers required

The one-handed capability is built into the keyboard hardware, so there are no drivers to install. It will work with any device that supports standard wired keyboards.