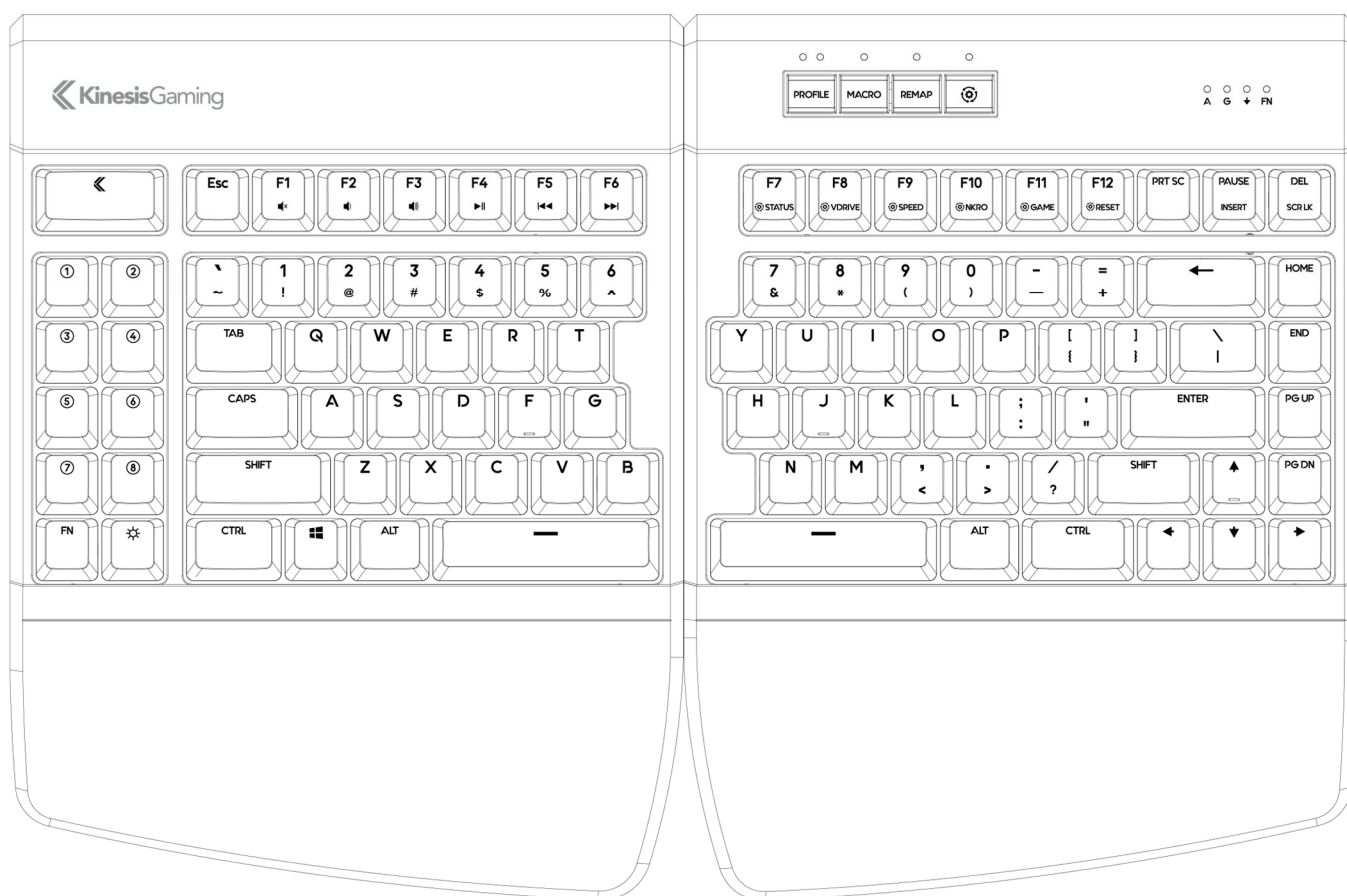


FREESTYLE EDGE

RGB+

SPLIT MECHANICAL GAMING KEYBOARD



User Manual

KB975-LIN | KB975-TAC





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Keyboard models covered by this manual:

- KB975-LIN
- KB975-TAC

Version Date: October 9, 2025

This manual covers features included through firmware version 1.0.121 unless otherwise indicated. To download the latest firmware and to access all support resources visit:

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/fs-edge-rgb-support/>

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FCC Radio Frequency Interference Statement

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help

Warning

To assure continued FCC compliance, the user must use only shielded interfacing cables when connecting to computer or peripheral. Also, any unauthorized changes or modifications to this equipment would void the user's authority to operate.

INDUSTRY CANADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interface-causing Equipment Regulations.

Cet Appareil numerique de la classe B respecte toutes les exigences du Reglement sur le material brouilleur du Canada.

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1.0 Read Me First

Health and Safety Warning

Continuous use of any keyboard may cause aches, pains or more serious cumulative trauma disorders such as tendinitis and carpal tunnel syndrome, or other repetitive strain disorders.

- Exercise good judgement in placing reasonable limits on your keyboarding time every day.
- Follow established guidelines for computer and workstation setup.
- Maintain a relaxed keying posture and use a light touch to press the keys.

Keyboard is not a medical treatment

This keyboard is not a substitute for appropriate medical treatment! If any information in this guide appears to contradict your health care professional's advice, please follow your health care professional's advice.

No warranty of injury prevention or cure

Kinesis bases its product designs on research, proven features and user evaluations. However, because of the complex set of factors believed to contribute to computer-related injuries, the company can make no warranty that its products will prevent or cure any physical ailment. Your particular risk of injury may be affected by workstation and chair design, posture, time worked without breaks, type of work, activities outside the workplace, and/or individual physiology.

Quick Start Guide

If you are eager to get started, please consult the included Quick Start Guide. The Quick Start Guide can also be downloaded from our website. Consult this full User Manual for detailed descriptions of both basic and advanced features.

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/fs-edge-rgb-support/#manuals>

Read This User's Manual

Even if you don't normally read manuals or you are a long-time user of Kinesis keyboards, we strongly encourage you to review this entire manual. The Freestyle Edge RGB Plus is a fully-programmable keyboard with powerful tools and features. If you unknowingly execute a programming shortcut or key combination, you could inadvertently alter the layout of your keyboard which might necessitate a Hard Reset of the keyboard.

If you have no plans to re-program the keyboard and would like to disable all programming features see Section 4.12.

Disable All Programming

If you are a Windows user and QWERTY typist, and have no intention of custom programming the keyboard, we recommend performing the simple Program Lock command to prevent accidental reprogramming. If you change your mind down the road you can always "unlock" programming . See Section 4.12 for details.

2.0 Keyboard Overview

Specifications

- Split-adjustable keyboard with standard US ANSI tenkeyless layout
- 6' USB cable and 20" adjustable linking cable
- 2 year limited warranty

Features

- Hotswap Gateron Pro v1 Mechanical Switches
- 16.8M Color Per-Key RGB LED backlighting
- SmartSet Programming Engine with on-the-fly remaps & macros
- Downloadable SmartSet App for Windows & Mac
- 9 Customizable Profiles with fully-programmable dual-layer layouts and Lighting Effects
- 4MB onboard memory (the v-Drive™)
- 1000mhz polling | 100% anti-ghosting | Game Mode | NKRO Mode

Package Contents

- Freestyle Edge RGB Plus hotswap mechanical USB keyboard with 20" linking cable
- Detachable Cushioned Palm Supports and Detachable Lift Kit
- 4 Mac Modifier Keycaps
- Keycap and Key Switch Removal Tool
- USB A-to-C adapter
- Quick Start Guide

System Requirements

- Keyboard: Windows® 7+, macOS® v10.6+, ChromeOS® or Linux® & full-size USB Port
- SmartSet Programming App (Required for Lighting customization): Windows 7+ or macOS 10.4+, Internet Connection (download only), 25MB available hard-disk space, and 1920x1080 monitor size.

Keyboard Setup

To setup the Freestyle Edge simply plug the USB cable into a full-size USB port on your computer. Use the included USB A-to-C adapter if you only have access to USB-C ports. The Edge does not require the installation of any special software or drivers, or an internet connection. If you wish to program the keyboard beyond the onboard programming options, visit the URL below and download the appropriate version of the SmartSet App, Windows or macOS, to your computer.

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/fs-edge-rgb-support/#smartset>

3.0 Introduction

3.1 RGB Backlighting



The Freestyle Edge is equipped with customizable RGB backlighting. Tap the LED key to quickly toggle the backlighting On and Off. Each of the nine Profiles is pre-configured with a unique lighting effect for each layer. Additional custom effects can be assigned to any of the 9 Profiles via the SmartSet App (See Section 5.0).

	Profile 1	Profile 2	Profile 3	Profile 4	Profile 5	Profile 6	Profile 7	Profile 8	Profile 9
Top Layer	RGB Wave (Right)	Rain (Green)	RGB Spectrum	Reactive (Cyan)	Rebound L/R (Purple)	Monochrome (Blue)	Monochrome (Red)	Monochrome (Green)	Monochrome (White)
Fn Layer	RGB Wave (Down)	Rain (Green/White)	Monochrome (White)	Monochrome (Cyan)	Rebound U/D (Purple)	Breathe (Blue)	Breathe (Red)	Breathe (Green)	Breathe (White)

3.2 Dual Layer Layouts (Embedded Fn Layer)



The keyboard has two separate layers so each of the 95 full-size keys can perform two distinct actions if desired. In the factory default layout, all of the Fn layer actions mirror the top layer except for 8 keys in the Function Row which have their secondary actions legended on the lower half of the keycap: **F1-F6** perform multimedia actions, **PAUSE** performs **INSERT**, and **DEL** performs **SCROLL LOCK**. To access those 8 secondary actions hold the **FN** key to temporarily “shift” into the Fn layer (the Fn indicator light will illuminate while the Fn layer is active and the RGB lighting effect will change). If you are a frequent keypad user we recommend using the SmartSet to add the standard keypad actions to the Fn layer for easy access.

Note: The FN key can be configured to “toggle” the Fn layer or moved to any key via the SmartSet App.

3.3 Multimedia Actions



Control your media using the **FN** key in combination with the **F1-F6** keys.

Note: Multimedia actions can be assigned to any key on the keyboard in either layer using onboard programming (see Section 4.3) or the SmartSet App (see Section 5.0). Multimedia actions are disabled while the v-Drive is connected.

3.4 Programming Cluster



The four Programming Cluster keys enable quick and easy onboard programming (see Section 4.0). The **Profile button** toggles between the first 3 Profiles (1, 2, and 3), the **Macro button** controls on-the-fly macro recording, and the **Remap button** controls onboard remapping (aka rebinding).

The gear icon key is the **SmartSet button** and it controls all onboard programming shortcuts.

Note: Hitting these keys can have unintended consequences so read through this manual before attempting to reprogram the keyboard, or disable programming (See Section 4.12).

3.5 Removable Lift Kit for Tenting

The Freestyle Edge RGB Plus comes with the Lift Kit (#AC910) accessory pre-installed for maximum ergonomics and convenience. The keyboard ships from the factory with the lowest tenting height. If you would like to remove the Lift Kit and use the keyboard flat, simply unplug the keyboard and flip it over. Peel away the

tape and gently press the squeeze tabs together and lift straight up to disengage from the keyboard.

To increase the tenting height, remove the tape and snap the legs on each v-lifter together. The legs will make an audible click when they are properly snapped into place. Failure to snap the legs properly will result in instability. Once the legs are snapped together, they can be swiveled underneath the keyboard to achieve the medium tenting height, or swiveled towards the middle to achieve the highest testing angle. We suggest starting low for maximum familiarity and working your way up to find the optimal position for your body.

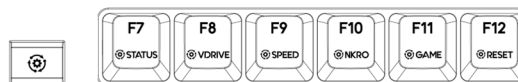
*Note: The Lift Kit cannot be used without the Palm Supports. If you prefer tenting without palm support you will want to purchase the **V3 Pro accessory** (#AC930) from Kinesis or an authorized reseller.*

3.6 Removable Cushioned Palm Supports

If you are using the keyboard flat then you have the choice of when to use the palm supports. To remove the supports, first detach the Lift Kit and then flip the keyboard over and gently wiggle the palm support to lift the tabs over the bumps on the underside of the keyboard, and then pull straight out. To attach, slide the palm support into the key modules until they latch into place.

Note: If the palm support doesn't snap into place easily you may be trying to attach it to the wrong key module, or it may be misaligned. The cushioned palm pads are attached by Velcro for small adjustments. Do not attempt to remove the Palm Supports while the Lift Kit is installed.

3.7 SmartSet Programming Engine- Onboard Shortcuts



The **SmartSet button** is used in conjunction with the F7-F12 keys to activate the basic onboard shortcuts. The basic onboard shortcuts are legended with the SmartSet icon to differentiate them from Fn layer actions.

To trigger an onboard shortcut, hold the **SmartSet button** and then tap the desired shortcut key. Because the Reset shortcut is particularly powerful, to prevent an accidental reset you must also hold the Shift key along with the **SmartSet button** before tapping **F12**. See Section 4.0 for more information on Onboard Programming.

3.8 Adjustable Linking Cable

Adjusting Length: The two key modules are connected by a 20" braided linking cable that can be adjusted to suit your typing preferences or gaming style. From the factory the cable allows for 12" of separation. If you need additional cable, simply remove the cable compartment cover on the back of the left key module and thread out more of the stored cable. Once you have achieved the desired cable length, carefully fit the excess cable into the compartment removing any kinks and slide the cable cover on until it latches.

Note: For best results rotate the left key module to remove any kinks from the cable so it lies flat. The Link Cable is strong but excessive bending/twisting of the link cable can result in keyboard failure.

Positioning: Position the key modules in the optimal configuration relative to your other input devices, or separate the modules to shoulder-width for maximum typing comfort. There is no wrong way to configure the Edge, experiment with different positions to find the configurations that work best for you.

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/ergonomics/>

3.8 Game Bank

The Game Bank comprises nine fully programmable keys (all blank by default) that can be programmed to perform any custom key action, mouse-click, or macro, in either layer. The Game Bank is perfect for moving critical right-sided keys over to the left key module to enable one-handed play, storing macros, or moving the multimedia actions to the top-layer. The SmartSet App has pre-configured hotkey options for convenience.

4.0 SmartSet Onboard Programming

The SmartSet Programming Engine allows you to custom program the keyboard without installing any software or special drivers on the computer by using a series of convenient onboard shortcuts via the small **SmartSet button** (gear icon). Remap buttons, record macros on-the-fly, toggle Profiles, and adjust keyboard settings. All Profiles and Settings are saved to the keyboard's onboard "v-Drive" memory, not your PC, so they travel with your keyboard. To customize Lighting Effects and access other powerful programming tools, download and install the intuitive SmartSet App for Windows or macOS (See Section 5.0).

4.1 Change Profiles (Tap Profile or SmartSet + Number Row)



The Edge features 9 fully programmable Profiles which can be customized with an individualized Lighting Effect and unique key Layout for different games, users, or workflows. The LEDs above the **Profile button** indicate the active Profile. Tap the **Profile button** to toggle through the three primary Profiles. To jump directly to any of the nine Profiles, hold the **SmartSet button** and then tap **1-9** in the number row to select the desired Profile. Left LED = Profile 1, Right LED = Profile 2, Both LEDs = Profile 3, No LEDs = Profile 4-9 (Use the Status Report to determine the Active Profile when using Profiles 4-9, See Section 4.4).

4.2 Recording Macros



A macro is string or combination of characters/actions that is triggered by a single key press or key combo. Macros are powerful tools that allow you to quickly produce multiple actions in rapid succession to boost gameplay or productivity. Macros are assigned to the active Profile at the time of recording but can be easily copied using the SmartSet App.

To record a macro on-the-fly, tap the **Macro button** to enter Macro Record Mode, choose your trigger key(s), and then type out your macro. Tap the **Macro button** stop recording.

Macro Trigger Key(s): After entering Macro Record Mode, the Macro LED will flash rapidly prompting you to select a trigger key. Any full-size, non-modifier key can be used as a macro trigger. A macro can also be triggered by a two-key combination by pairing the primary trigger key with a modifier-key "co-trigger". To assign a key combination as a macro trigger, first press and hold one of the six standard modifier keys (Ctrl, Alt or Shift) and then tap the primary trigger key.

Note: The Windows key is not recommended for use as a macro co-trigger.

Macro Contents: After a macro trigger has been selected, the Macro LED will flash slowly prompting you to record your macro (open an appropriate program during recording). Every single keystroke will be recorded so if you make a mistake, we recommend starting over, or editing your macro with the SmartSet App rather than using backspace key. To stop recording and save your macro, simply tap the **Macro button** again.

Note: Macro Record Mode will end automatically when you hit the max length of 300 keystrokes.

Only Keystrokes Recorded: The speed at which you type the macro and the pauses between strokes are not recorded. The macro will playback at the Global speed setting (see Section 4.6) by default, but the playback can be customized by adding internal timing delays (1-999ms or random delays) or by setting a custom playback speed for that specific macro using the SmartSet App (see Section 5.6).

Macro Playback: To play a macro, simply press the trigger key(s). Modifier co-triggers should be pressed first and held while the primary trigger key is then tapped. Macros will play back once by default, but with the SmartSet App you can enable Multiplay or Repeat playback modes (See Section 5.4)

Macro Mistake?: If you make a mistake, you can simply record over the macro by repeating the process and choosing the identical trigger key(s). Or you can erase the macro by simply tap the Macro button, then input

the trigger key(s) of the macro you wish to erase. Once the Macro LED starts flashing slow, simply tap the Macro button again to record a “blank” macro. Or you can launch the SmartSet App and edit the existing macro.

Macro Limit: Each Profile layout can accommodate 7,200 macros characters spread across up to 100 macros. When you have reached the limit for a given layout, the keyboard lights will flash if you attempt to record another Macro button to signal that you must first erase a macro before recording a new one.

4.3 Remapping Keys



With the **REMAP** button, you can move any default key action on the Freestyle Edge to any other full-size key (in either layer) to customize the layout for gaming or typing.

Note: The position/behavior of the Fn key can only be modified via the SmartSet App.

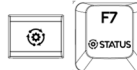
Tap the **REMAP** button to enter Remap Mode. The Remap LED will flash rapidly to prompt you to first select the “Source” key action (i.e., the key action that you wish to assign). After selecting the Source key, the LED will flash slowly prompting you to select the “Destination” key position (i.e., the physical key you want to reprogram).

Remapping Tips and Tricks

- Remapping is a one-way process, it creates a duplicate key action but it does not “swap” two keys. To “swap” two keys you must perform two separate remap programming commands.
- Remapping only operates on one layer at a time. To remap the same key in both layers you must perform two separate remap commands, one for each layer.
- While Remap Mode is active, you can hold the **FN** key to navigate between layers as necessary if you wish to move a key action (e.g., the media keys) from the Fn layer to the top layer, or vice versa.
- While Remap Mode is active, the keyboard reverts back to the default layout so you can’t “lose” a key.
- If you assign a macro to a remapped key, macro playback will take priority over the remap action, except when macros have been temporarily disabled by setting the Global Macro Speed to 0 (See Section 4.6).
- Onboard remapping is create for a small number of “simple” remaps. If you wish to make major changes to the Layout the SmartSet or Direct Programming will be easier.

Special Actions: The Freestyle Edge supports a number of special actions that are not found in the default keyboard layout. These actions can be assigned using the SmartSet App or Direct Programming.

4.4 Print-to-Screen a Status Report (SmartSet + F7)



Use the Status Report to “print-to-screen” a convenient report of the current Global Keyboard Settings and the configuration for the currently Active Profile loaded to the keyboard (1-9). *Make sure you have a text editing program (e.g., Notepad, Word, etc) selected as the active window before running a Status Report as a flurry of key strokes and “enters” will be rapidly sent from keyboard to whatever window is active on your PC, which can result in unintended outcomes.*

*Note: If your Status Report does not print properly, you may need to reduce the speed. The Status Report has 4 playback speeds and can also be disabled to prevent accidental activation. To customize Status Report playback, hold **Right Shift** and the **SmartSet** button while tapping **F7**, and then tap 1 or 2 to set a slower playback speed, or tap 0 to disable it.*

Status Report Speeds: 0 Disabled | 1 Slow | 2 Medium | 3 Fast (Default) | 4 Super Fast

4.5 Connect/Disconnect v-Drive (SmartSet + F8)



The Freestyle Edge features a 4MB virtual drive called the “v-Drive” which stores all keyboard configurations which is what allows for programmability in place of software or drivers. During normal use the v-Drive is hidden from your computer. To use the SmartSet App, Direct Program, or Update the firmware you will need to use the onboard shortcut to connect the v-Drive.

Note: It is not necessary to access the v-Drive for basic keyboard use or onboard programming.

When the v-Drive is connected, your computer will now recognize the keyboard as a removable storage device called “FS EDGE RGB”. The specific appearance and location of the “FS EDGE RGB” drive on your computer will depend on your operating system:

- **Windows:** If a pop-up doesn’t appear, open File Explorer and look under “This PC” (Drive letter will vary)
- **Mac:** The drive will usually be visible on your desktop and in Finder under “DEVICES” or “LOCATIONS”.
Note: Newer versions of macOS will require you to first grant access to the drive.
- **Linux :** Look in in “MY COMPUTER”
- **Chrome:** Look in “FILES”

Keep the v-Drive disconnected when not in use: For best results, keep the v-Drive closed when not using the SmartSet App. *The keyboard’s multimedia actions, mouse clicks, and onboard programming shortcuts are disabled while the v-Drive is connected to prevent programming conflicts.*

 **WINDOWS USERS:** Before using the onboard shortcut to disconnect the v-Drive from your computer it is important to always first Eject the drive in Windows by right-clicking the drive, and selecting “Eject”. On a Windows PC, the PC will notify you when it is safe to disconnect the v-Drive via the onboard shortcut (**SmartSet + F8**). Ejecting the v-Drive ensures that all keyboard configuration files have been closed which will prevent data loss and/or corruption which can occur when *any* storage device is removed without warning.

Note: Failure to properly eject the drive can cause a drive error and Windows will prompt you to “Scan and Fix” the drive the next to you connect. This drive error is not serious but we recommend following the Windows prompts to eliminate the warning. More serious drive errors can require that the v-Drive is reformatted which will erase any custom programming.

 **MAC USERS:** macOS does not support ejecting this type of virtual drive, and new versions will typically generate a “Drive Not Ejected Properly” warning. This warning is unavoidable (and annoying), but it can be safely ignored.

4.6 Adjust Global Macro Speed (SmartSet + F9, then 0-9)



The Freestyle Edge can play macros at nine different playback speeds, ranging from 4 actions-per-second (APS) up to 250 APS on Speed 9. Depending on the specific macro and application(s) in which you wish to use the macro, it may be necessary to adjust the playback to fine-tune performance. Some macros will playback too fast for your PC and some may play back too slow. The default Global speed is Speed 5, which is good for text macros but might be too slow for certain gameplay macros. To adjust the Global speed, use the onboard shortcut to enter Macro Speed Mode, and then use the number row to select a speed from **1-9**. If you wish to temporarily disable macro playback (without deleting any macros), chose **0** instead.

If you are using a wide array of macros and can’t settle on a Global Speed setting that works well for all macros, you can use the SmartSet App or Direct Programming to assign playbacks speeds to individual macros which will override the Global Speed for those macros (See Section 5.4)

4.7 Enable/Disable NKRO Mode (SmartSet + F10)



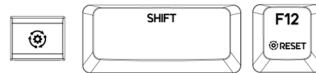
NKRO (“n-key rollover”) mode is a special operating mode that allows the keyboard to register all simultaneous key-presses. Most standard keyboards, and even many gaming keyboards, limit the number of keys you can press at one time to six (aka “6KRO”). If you press more than 6 keys at a time on a 6KRO keyboard, the keyboard may fail to register some of those key-presses. 6KRO is fine for basic typing and will work for most gamers a majority of the time, but hardcore gamers who are playing at lightning-fast speeds prefer NKRO keyboards for maximum performance. Use the onboard shortcut to toggle NKRO Mode on and off (the Edge will take a second to re-enumerate). NKRO mode will remain in effect until keyboard is unplugged, the PC is restarted (to allow access to BIOS), or the v-Drive is opened.

4.8 Enable/Disable Game Mode (SmartSet + F11)



Game Mode disables all Windows key actions to keep you from accidentally exiting your game. The Game Mode indicator LED (“G”) in the upper right corner of the keyboard will illuminate when Game Mode is on.

4.9 Soft Reset (SmartSet + Shift + F12)



Erases all custom remaps and macros of the active Profile, but does not modify lighting.

4.10 Hard Reset (SmartSet + F12 while plugging in keyboard)



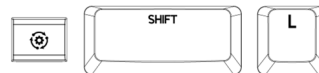
Erases all custom remaps and macros for all 9 Profiles and restores the Edge to its factory default settings, but does not modify lighting.

4.11 Refresh (SmartSet + PROFILE)



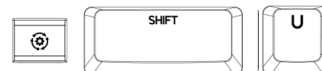
The Refresh shortcut is a very important tool when using the SmartSet App. The SmartSet App does not dynamically update the keyboard so any changes made via the App to the Layout or Lighting will not go into effect until the v-Drive is disconnected, UNLESS you use Refresh shortcut. Use this shortcut to implement your changes immediately after using the in-App Save button to preview changes.

4.12 Program Lock/Unlock (SmartSet + SHIFT + L)



Use the Program Lock shortcut to temporarily deactivate all of the 4 of the programming keys and onboard shortcuts to prevent accidental programming. If you decide you want to do some programming afterall, use the same onboard shortcut to disable Program Lock and re-enable those keys.

4.13 Update Keyboard Firmware (SmartSet + SHIFT+ U)

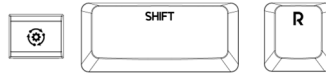


Your Freestyle Edge keyboard is equipped with the latest Keyboard firmware at the time it was built. At the time this manual was published all Freestyle Edge RGB Plus keyboards are running the latest Keyboard firmware.

Kinesis Gaming may periodically release new versions of firmware with bug fixes. Installing new firmware is quick and easy. Use the link below to download the latest firmware files and follow the online installation instructions before using the above shortcut.

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/fs-edge-rgb-support/#firmware>

4.14 Update Lighting Firmware (SmartSet + SHIFT+ R)

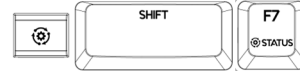


Your Freestyle Edge keyboard is equipped with the latest Lighting firmware at the time it was built. At the time this manual was published all Freestyle Edge RGB Plus keyboards are running the and Lighting firmware.

Kinesis Gaming may periodically release new versions of firmware with bug fixes. Installing new firmware is quick and easy. Use the link below to download the latest firmware files and follow the online installation instructions before using the above shortcut.

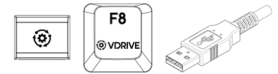
<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/fs-edge-rgb-support/#firmware>

4.15 Adjust Status Report Speed (SmartSet + SHIFT+ F7, then 0-4)



Certain computers may not be fast enough to play the Status Report at normal speed. If you are experiencing “garbled” playback, try reducing the playback speed to level 1 or 2. Use this shortcut to enter Status Speed Mode (LEDs will flash), then tap “1-4” to select the speed (default speed is 3), or “0” to disable the Status Report all together.

4.16 Force v-Drive Connection (SmartSet + F8 while plugging in keyboard)



If you wish to have the v-Drive connect when you plug in the keyboard (which can be helpful for troubleshooting) simply hold down this shortcut while plugging in the keyboard to force the v-Drive to connect on startup.

4.17 Converting Modifiers to macOS

Mac users will want to install the 4 included Mac keycaps in their traditional locations, but first you will want to reprogram those key actions in both layers to match the new keycaps. Reprogramming these key actions can be done via Onboard programming but it is much easier to do it using the SmartSet App for macOS (See Section 5.0).

Small Option | Medium Command | Left Space Bar | Right Space Bar | Medium Command | Large Option

Note: The macOS “Command” key action is equivalent to the Windows key action. Mac just uses its own proprietary name for it.

5.0 SmartSet App (Windows & macOS)

The SmartSet App lets you design custom layouts, build powerful macros, customize the lighting for each of the 9 Profiles, and configure Global Keyboard Settings with a simple-to-use graphical interface. The App works in conjunction with onboard programming but has a number of additional “power user” tools & features.

 **Note:** The SmartSet App works differently than all other keyboard software so please read these instructions carefully before using. 



5.1 Downloading the App

The SmartSet App must be downloaded from our website and run from your PC. Be sure to choose the correct version for your operating system. The SmartSet App can be saved to your desktop or any other folder, and doesn't require any special installation. *Note: Do not attempt to copy the RGB SmartSet App to the v-Drive.*

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/fs-edge-rgb-support/#smartset>

If you do not use Windows or macOS you can still custom program your keyboard using onboard programming (See Section 4) or Direct Programming (Guide linked below). You also have the option of configuring the keyboard on any Windows or macOS machine, and then simply moving the keyboard to your primary PC as all customizations live on the keyboard regardless of what operating system you are using day-to-day.

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/fs-edge-rgb-support/#manuals>

5.2 Overview

Since the Freestyle Edge and the SmartSet App do not utilize any custom drivers, the App operates differently than other keyboard customization software. In order for the SmartSet App to communicate with

the Edge it is necessary to connect the keyboard’s “v-Drive” to the PC. You can connect to the v-Drive before or After launching the App. If you forget, the App will prompt you to connect *before* launching the App, using the onboard shortcut **SmartSet + F8** so the App can read/write to the keyboard’s configuration files.

The SmartSet App does not dynamically update the keyboard. To implement changes made in the App, you must first use the in-App “Save” buttons for Profile or Settings, and then wait for the App to prompt you that it has finishing writing your changes to the v-Drive. Then you can disconnect the v-Drive (**SmartSet + F8**) or use the Refresh Shortcut (**SmartSet + PROFILE**) to “push” the new settings to the keyboard.

Note: The SmartSet App does not (and should not) need to run in the background or be installed for custom programming to function as all changes are saved directly to the keyboard’s onboard memory.

5.3 Profile Selection

The SmartSet App will automatically load whichever Profile is currently “active” on the keyboard (1-9) when the App is launched. If you would like to customize one of the other 8 Profiles, simply use the Profile drop-down menu in the upper left.

*Note: Loading a Profile to the App does not load it to the keyboard. To load a Profile to the keyboard use the onboard shortcut **SmartSet + 1-9**.*

5.4 Layout Editor

When you launch the App, the default view is the “Layout Editor” which displays a graphical representation of the active layout for the designated Profile, showing all assigned key actions including any custom remaps and macros (shown in blue). You may assign any supported key action to any of the 95 full-size keys.

Getting Started: To begin programming, first select a key in the keyboard image. Once a key has been selected it will be outlined in white to designate that it is ready for programming. If you would like to assign a standard action to that key, simply type that action the Edge. If you wish to assign a special action, you can use the action menu on  the left to select from supported options. To store that action, just select another key or click the Accept button at the bottom of the Action Menu.



Quick Configurations: A variety of Quick Configuration options are available to make it quick and easy to implement an alternate layout in one or both layers (Dvorak, Colemak, Workman), assign a numeric keyboard

for either hand, or configure a handy set of hotkeys in the Game Bank.

Navigating Layers: The “top-layer” action and the “Fn-layer” action can be customized separately. Use the Layer toggle-switch to move between the layers during Layout programming.

Macro Editor: Click “Macro” in the Actions Menu to launch the Macro Editor to create new macros, edit existing macros, or copy and paste existing macros to new triggers keys or between Profiles.

Note: Keys with macros are displayed with a blue outline in the keyboard image.

Programming / Editing a Macro: First designate the primary trigger key by clicking the main keyboard image. Only non-modifier keys can be used as a primary trigger. If you would like to assign a modifier “co-trigger” to your macro, select the desired modifier using the “Co-Trigger” buttons in the Macro Editor.

Then type out your macro contents (up to 300 characters). The App will record every single keystroke from the keyboard (including Backspace and Delete) but it will not record the speed or pauses (Playback speed



and timing are customized separately). Store your new macro by clicking the Accept button.

Note: Alphanumeric characters are displayed in black whereas “actions” are displayed as red “tokens”.

Macro Tools

- **Backspace & Clear:** Use these buttons to delete unwanted characters or erase your macro and start from scratch. Hitting the Backspace key on your keyboard will insert that action into your macro.
- **Common Shortcuts:** Use this menu to select from a list of popular pre-programmed macros.
- **Timing Delays:** To perfect the playback of your macro, it may be necessary to insert brief delays in between certain keystrokes. Select a delay from 1ms to 999ms, or chose a random delay (up to 1000ms) so that playback is constantly variable.
- **Mouse Clicks:** Use this button to insert a mouse-click into your macro, or to create-your own double-click macro.
- **Windows Combos:** Use this button to assign a macro using the Windows key without exiting the App.
- **Copy & Paste:** You can copy your favorite macros from one trigger key to another and even between different layouts using the Copy and Paste buttons.

Playback Speed Selector: To achieve optimal playback performance, program the macro to playback at a speed specifically tailored to this macro and its intended playback environment, or choose the Global Speed.

Multiplay Selector: Program the macro to playback a specific number of times (1 to 9) when the trigger is pressed, or select “Repeat” to have the macro fire continuously until the trigger key is released.

Note: Most macros should be configured to Multiplay 1 and that is the default playback for on-the-fly macros.

Multiple Macros per Key: Multiple macros can be assigned to the same trigger key provided you designate a unique modifier co-trigger to differentiate it. Simply select that primary trigger key as you normally would,

and then click the “#2” or “#3” radio buttons to get access a fresh macro text box. To store the new macro you will need to select a unique trigger key combination using one of the six standard modifiers as a co-trigger.

5.5 Lighting Editor

To customize the lighting for a given Profile, click the “Lighting” tab to load the Lighting Editor. The Lighting Editor will display the Effect



currently assigned to the Profile loaded to the App. Each Profile can get a unique Effect for each Layer. There are 11 Lighting Animations to choose from (with various parameters that can be customized), along with the Monochrome mode which lets you set a single color for all keys in the layer, and the Freestyle mode which lets you apply a different color to each key in each layer. Or you can choose to disable lighting for any Profile or Layer.

Navigating Layers: The “top-layer” Lighting Effect and the “Fn-layer” Lighting Effect can be customized separately which can be a convenient to highlight layer changes or special actions in the Fn layer. Use the Layer toggle-switch to move between the layers during Lighting programming.

Parameter Modules: Depending on which Lighting Effect you choose, you will have one or more “parameters” which you can configure to your specifications.

5.6 Global Keyboard Settings Editor

Open the Global Keyboard Settings Editor to change the Active Profile loaded to the keyboard, the Global Macro Speed, the Status Report Playback Speed, and to toggle game mode. Use the “Save” button in the pop-up window to save your changes to the keyboard.

Note: These changes are saved independently of the Profile

5.7 App Tools

6.0 Hotswapping Switches

The Freestyle Edge RGB Plus keyboard uses plug-and-play “hotswappable” switches which allow you to install any just about any conventional full-travel, plate or PCB mounted mechanical “MX-style” switch in the keyboard. Swap out all the switches for a complete makeover, or install different switches strategically in the keyboard for a truly customized typing or gaming experience.

- Clicky Caps Lock
- Linear WASD
- Low force modifiers
- Higher force function keys
- Quiet space bars



WARNING: IMPROPERLY REMOVING OR INSTALLING SWITCHES CAN DAMAGE THE KEYBOARD, AND VOID YOUR WARRANTY. PLEASE READ THIS GUIDE THOROUGHLY AND THEN PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

Not all mechanical switches are compatible with the Freestyle Edge RGB Plus

- **Low Profile Switches (e.g., Kailh Choc, Gateron KS 33):** These switches require a closer spacing between the PCB and Plate and are therefore not compatible with the Edge EVEN if the pins match.
- **Optical Switches:** Different PCB hardware required.
- **Magnetic/Hall Effect switches:** Different PCB hardware required.

If you are unsure whether a particular switch is supported by the Edge, contact the switch manufacturer or Kinesis.



Note: Kinesis recommends unplugging the keyboard before swapping key switches.

Switch Removal: Using included tool, gently remove the keycap by pulling straight up with the two wire loops. Once the keycap is free, use the other end of the included tool to gently depress the two tabs on the front and back edge of the switch while pulling up (wiggling the switch slightly may help release the tabs).

Note: If you apply too much pressure you will break the tabs on the switch which may impact your ability to reinstall that switch in the future.

Switch Installation: Before installing a switch, turn it over and inspect it. It should have two metal pins/prongs (and only two pins) extending straight out of the base of the switch. And those pins should match the spacing and alignment of the switch “socket” visible on the black printed circuit board (PCB) below the white plate. If the switch pins are bent, DO NOT INSTALL THE SWITCH. Often times the pins can be straightened using a pair of tweezers.

Position the switch in the vacant square hole. Orient the switch so that two pins are at the base of the hole and aligned with the two small “receptor holes” in the PCB. Once the switch is properly aligned, gently press straight down until it snaps securely into the metal plate. If you feel any resistance at all, remove the switch and reorient it. If you force the switch in you are likely to bend the pins or worse damage the socket, which will render that key position inoperable until the keyboard is repaired.

Plug the keyboard in and test the new switches for functionality. If the switch doesn’t work, follow the instructions above to remove it and reinstall it, paying careful attention to the two pins.

7.0 Maintenance

To keep your Freestyle Edge RGB Plus performing at its peak, we recommend periodically spraying canned air between the keycaps to remove any loose debris and wiping it clean with a damp, soft cloth (no soap).

8.0 Technical Support, Repairs, and Returns

For Downloads, FAQs, troubleshooting tips, other resources please visit the link below. Kinesis offers free, lifetime technical support from trained agents over email Monday through Friday (excluding US Holidays).

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/contact-tech-support/>

Return Merchandise Authorizations (“RMAs”)

For any repair, regardless of warranty coverage, you must first contact Kinesis Technical Support to obtain a Return Merchandise Authorization (“RMA”). Visit the link below and submit a support ticket.

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/support/>

Repairs

This product should be repaired by authorized personnel. Unauthorized repairs may seriously jeopardize the safety of the user (such as from fire danger) and may invalidate your warranty.

Packaging and Shipping

To ship a product back to Kinesis please use its original packaging or other suitable packaging that protects the device against impact and shock. You should insure the package with your carrier as Kinesis is not responsible for items until they are received at the Kinesis repair center. Packages sent to Kinesis without an RMA number marked on the outside of the box may be refused.

9.0 Warranty & Limitation of Liability

Visit our website for the current terms of the Kinesis Limited Warranty. Kinesis does not require any product registration to obtain warranty benefits. Proof of purchase is required for warranty repairs.

<https://gaming.kinesis-ergo.com/warranty/>

Disclaimer of Other Warranties

The warranty and remedies described in the Kinesis Limited Warranty referenced above are exclusive and in lieu of all others, whether oral or written, express or implied. Kinesis specifically disclaims any and all implied warranties, including, without limitation, warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. No Kinesis dealer, agent, reseller, or employee is authorized to make any modification, extension, or addition to this warranty. Kinesis does not warrant that the product will meet your requirements, or that operation of the product will be uninterrupted or error-free, or that all errors will be corrected.

Limitation of Liability

Kinesis is not responsible for special, incidental, or consequential damages resulting from any breach of warranty, or under other legal theory, including but not limited to lost profits, downtime, goodwill, damage to or replacement of equipment and/or property nor any costs of recovering, reprogramming, or reproducing any program or data stored in or used with Kinesis products.