

Sofle Choc Wireless quick-start guide

Getting connected, finding your way around the layers, and making the layout your own.

Firmware: ZMK **v0.3.0**, the latest stable ZMK release (1 August 2025).

Good to know: the Sofle is an open-source keyboard designed by Josef Adamcik, and the wireless version runs the open-source **ZMK** firmware. Everything in this guide works the same on any wireless ZMK Sofle, so the ZMK documentation and the many community guides and videos about the Sofle apply to your keyboard too. The useful ones are listed at the end of this guide.

1 Connect the batteries

For safety, the batteries ship **unplugged**. Under each half there is a small white JST connector: plug each battery into its half. The plug only fits one way, so never force it.

To charge, plug each half into a USB-C charger or computer. If your keyboard has OLED screens, they show the battery level of each half and the connection status (see "Reading the screens").

2 The reset button

Each half has a small **reset button** on its side.

- **Press once** to restart that half, if it ever stops responding.
- **Press twice quickly** to enter firmware-update mode: a USB drive appears on your computer. You only need this to install new firmware. If you enter it by accident, press reset once more to go back to normal.

3 Pair with your computer

1. Once both batteries are connected, the two halves find each other automatically.
2. Open the Bluetooth settings of your computer, tablet or phone.
3. Select "**Sofle**" in the list of devices and pair it. That's it, you can start typing.

Tip: the left half is the one that talks to your computer. If pairing fails, remove "Sofle" from your device's Bluetooth list, press reset once on the left half and try again.

4 Reading the screens

If your keyboard has OLED screens, each half shows its battery level and a connection status. The symbols on your screen may look slightly different from the ones below.

Left half: connection to your devices

- | | |
|--|--|
| | Connected over Bluetooth. The number is the active profile (1 to 5). |
| | Profile 1 is free: the keyboard is ready to pair with a new device. |
| | Profile 1 is already paired with a device that isn't connected right now. The keyboard waits for that device and won't pair with another one on this profile: select a free profile, or clear this one with BT_CLR (see "Use several devices"). |
| | Typing through the USB cable of the left half. |

Right half: connection to the left half

- | | |
|--|--|
| | The right half is connected to the left half. |
| | The right half isn't connected to the left half. Check that both batteries are plugged in, then press reset once on each half. |

5 Use several devices

The keyboard remembers up to **5 devices** (Bluetooth profiles). Open layer 3 (hold **Layer 1** + **Layer 2**, see "The layers"), then:

- **BT_SEL 0** to **BT_SEL 4**, on the number keys **1** to **5**, select profiles 1 to 5. Select a free profile, then pair the new device from its Bluetooth settings.
- Afterwards, the same keys switch instantly between your paired devices.
- **BT_CLR**, at the far left of the number row, forgets the device on the current profile, if you need to pair it again. Remove "Sofle" from that device's Bluetooth list too before pairing again.

6 Cable or wireless

Your keyboard can type over Bluetooth or through a USB-C cable plugged into the **left half**. When both are available, it uses your **preferred connection**. It comes set to prefer the cable. To change it, open layer 3, then press **OUT_USB** or **OUT_BLE** on the home row (**A** and **S** positions):

- **OUT_USB**, prefer the cable: when the left half is plugged into a computer, it types through the cable. Unplugged, or plugged into a charger, it types over Bluetooth.
- **OUT_BLE**, prefer Bluetooth: it keeps typing over Bluetooth even while the left half is plugged into a computer, for example to charge it from one computer while typing on another device. When no cable is connected, it types over Bluetooth either way.

The keyboard remembers your choice, even after a restart, and the left screen shows the connection in use (see "Reading the screens").

7 Remap any key with ZMK Studio

You can change the layout from your browser, with nothing to install or flash.

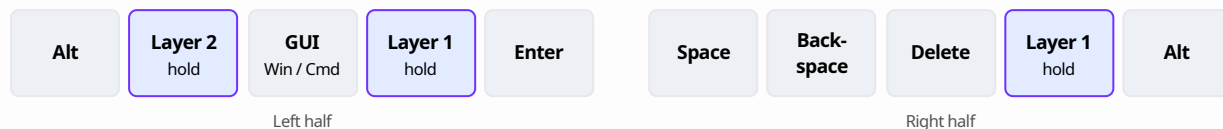
1. Plug the **left half** into your computer with a USB-C cable.
2. Open [zmk.studio](https://zmkstudio.com) in Chrome or Edge and click connect.
3. Click a key, pick its new function, then save. Changes are stored on the keyboard.

Back to the default layout: use *Restore Stock Settings* in ZMK Studio at any time. Layer 3 still opens whenever you hold layers 1 and 2 together, whatever you remap, as long as a **Layer 1** and a **Layer 2** key stay on your layout. Keep the Bluetooth keys somewhere too.

The layers

The Sofle keeps a full number row, and puts symbols, arrows, F-keys and a number pad on extra layers, reached by holding thumb keys.

The thumb keys



- **Layer 1** (symbols and arrows): hold either **Layer 1** key, the fourth thumb key on each half.
- **Layer 2** (F-keys, number pad and navigation): hold **Layer 2**, the second thumb key on the left half.
- **Layer 3** (Bluetooth): hold **Layer 1** and **Layer 2** **at the same time**. The easiest way is **Layer 2** with your left thumb and **Layer 1** with your right thumb.

The knobs

- **Left knob:** turn to change the volume, press to mute.
- **Right knob:** turn to scroll, press to pause media. On layer 1 it moves by page (Page Up / Page Down).

Reading the maps

&kp	A normal key.
&mt	Tap for the key shown, hold for the modifier. Bottom-left: tap Esc , hold Ctrl .
&mo	Hold to use that layer: 1 for layer 1, 2 for layer 2.
&inc_dec_kp	Knob: one action per turning direction.
&bt	Bluetooth control (see "Use several devices").
&trans	Transparent: the key keeps what it does on the base layer.
&none	Does nothing on this layer.

Layer 0 · Base Always active

Always active

[illegible]

C_MUTE and **C_PAUSE** , next to **B** and **N** , are the knob clicks.

Layer 1 · Symbols and arrows Hold a Layer 1 thumb key

Hold a Layer 1 thumb key

The screenshot shows the 'lower_layer' configuration page. The top section displays a keyboard layout with various symbols and characters. The bottom section shows 'Sensor bindings' for 'encoder_left' and 'encoder_right', with 'PG_UP' and 'PG_DN' assigned to the encoder buttons.

Arrows on **H** **J** **K** **L**, brackets and **<** **>** just below.

Layer 2 · F-keys, number pad and navigation

Hold the Layer 2 thumb key

layer_2 ...

Sensor bindings

encoder_left encoder_right

+

F1 to F12 on the left with Home, Page Up, Page Down and End below, a number pad on the right.

Layer 3 · Bluetooth

Hold Layer 1 + Layer 2

layer_3 ⌕ ...

Sensor bindings

encoder_left encoder_right

+

Bluetooth profiles on the number row, **OUT_USB** / **OUT_BLE** on **A** and **S**.

8 Useful links

These resources cover every wireless ZMK Sofle, not only ours, so you can rely on them for anything this guide doesn't cover.

ZMK documentation	zmk.dev/docs : the official firmware docs, from basics to advanced features.
ZMK version	ZMK v0.3.0 , the latest stable ZMK release (1 August 2025).
ZMK Studio	zmk.studio to remap in your browser, and zmk.dev/docs/features/studio for what it can do.
Key codes	zmk.dev/docs/keymaps/list-of-keycodes : every key you can assign, with OS compatibility.
Bluetooth issues	zmk.dev/docs/troubleshooting/connection-issues : pairing problems, and re-pairing the two halves.
Split keyboards	zmk.dev/docs/features/split-keyboards : how the two halves work together.
Custom firmware	zmk.dev/docs/user-setup to build your own firmware (combos, macros, tap dance...). Keymap Editor edits the keymap file visually.
Knobs	zmk.dev/docs/features/encoders : how the rotary encoders work in ZMK.
Our default config	github.com/jerlam06/zmk-config-sofle : the firmware your keyboard ships with, ready to fork.
Controller	nicekeyboards.com/docs/nice-nano : the nice!nano-compatible controller inside each half.
The Sofle project	github.com/josefadamcik/SofleKeyboard : the original open-source design by Josef Adamcik.
Community	ZMK Discord : a very active community for firmware questions.
Typing practice	keybr.com : build speed again while you get used to the new layout.

9 Need help?

Something doesn't behave as expected, or you have a question about your keyboard? Just write to us, we answer every message.

contact@thekeebLab.com · thekeebLab.com/pages/contact

Happy typing! · TheKeebLab