

## THE 'PHILOSOPHY' OF THE MALTRON EUROPEAN KEYBOARD

1 Conventional office keyboards were designed a century ago, based on mechanical methods and manufacturing technologies then current.

2 Operators have just had to get used to them. Substantial practice is necessary to acquire the skill to type quickly and accurately; and there is significant physical strain in using them.

3 They suffer severe limitations. To accommodate these, each country has evolved a national variant to suit its own needs. These are all different, and it is very confusing when an operator who has acquired skill in one country moves to another country.

4 The Maltron keyboard is based on modern technology. The physical form uses two saucer shaped groups of keys, angled to suit the movements of the fingers.

5 As a corollary many more keys can be provided, all easily reached by the fingers.

6 This permits, first, an extension of the repertoire of graphic characters and, in particular, sufficient to provide for keying foreign-language and multi-lingual texts. This is of great importance in connection with the growth of European trade and travel.

7 A 'zone' of a few keys in the bottom row is reserved for the special requirements of individual countries. The other keys are the same for all countries, permitting operators to move easily from country to country.

8 The extra capacity permits, secondly, conveniently placed keys for the editing functions available with modern text editing devices — erasing errors, justification, centring, etc. Also, control keys can be provided for each of a wide variety of keyboards for special applications in offices and factories — e.g. machine-tool or process-plant controllers, telex and Teletex. Thus one basic keyboard can be used for all these heterogeneous devices, and operators may more easily move from one work station to another.

9 The layout of the keys on the Maltron keyboard is optimized, so that the most-frequently used keys are in the 'home row' or under the strongest fingers, and common pairs and triplets of letters are easily keyed.

10 It is much easier and quicker to learn to use a Maltron keyboard than a conventional one, about 25% of the time to reach equivalent proficiency. Accuracy of keying is much improved, 10-times reductions of errors have been recorded. There is greatly reduced fatigue, and increased operator satisfaction, when using it.

10 Training methods to learn to use the Maltron keyboard have been developed to a high degree of effectiveness.

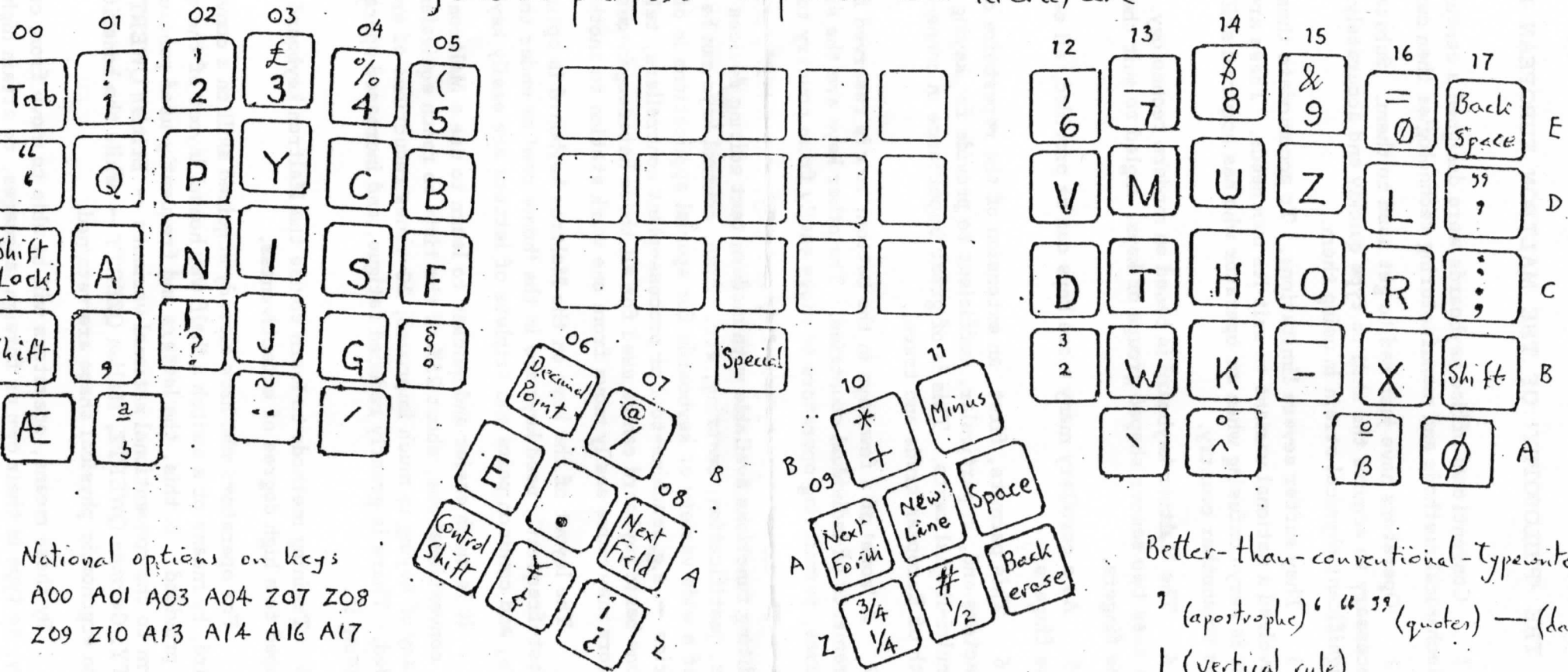
11 For operators who have already acquired skill on a conventional keyboard, by means of a switch a 'half way house' layout of the characters can be provided. In this, the letters and frequently-used punctuation marks conform to the conventional national variants — British QWERTY, French AZERTY, German QWERTZ, Italian QZERTY — while the benefits of the Maltron ergonomic physical shape are retained.

12 By these means, operators will be able to move from country to country, to type in their own or foreign languages, to attain higher speeds

# THE 'MALTRON EUROPEAN KEYBOARD'

Implementing ISO 6937 - 8-bit coded character sets for text communication

For Teletex, general data processing, typewriter applications  
and general-purpose reports and literature



National options on keys  
A00 A01 A03 A04 Z07 Z08  
Z09 Z10 A13 A14 A16 A17

Variant for Western Europe including Iberia & Scandinavia  
& North & South Americas  
Serves population of 600 million persons

Better-than-conventional-typewriters  
' (apostrophe) ' " ' (quotes) - (dash)  
| (vertical rule)

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