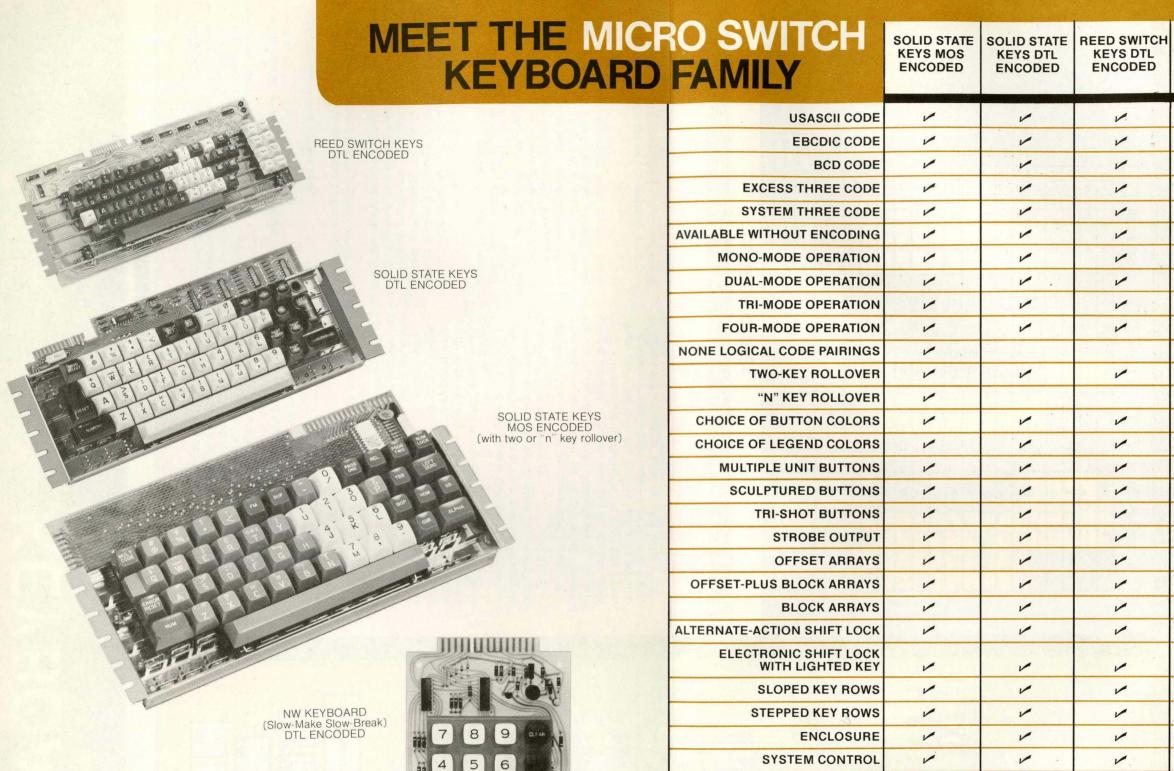
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MICRO SWITCH—the company that understands your requirements and provides the widest selection of features and options to meet them.



For more information contact MICRO SWITCH Freeport, Illinois.

FAMILY	SOLID STATE KEYS MOS ENCODED	SOLID STATE KEYS DTL ENCODED	REED SWITCH KEYS DTL ENCODED	(SLOW-MAKE SLOW-BREAK) DTL ENCODED
USASCII CODE	~	V	1	V
EBCDIC CODE	~	-	V -	
BCD CODE	~	-	-	~
EXCESS THREE CODE	~	~	-	~
SYSTEM THREE CODE	~		-	
AVAILABLE WITHOUT ENCODING	~			
MONO-MODE OPERATION	~		-	
DUAL-MODE OPERATION	V	V .	~	
TRI-MODE OPERATION	~	~	-	
FOUR-MODE OPERATION	~	~	~	
NONE LOGICAL CODE PAIRINGS	~			Not the state of
TWO-KEY ROLLOVER	~	~	/	~
"N" KEY ROLLOVER	~			
CHOICE OF BUTTON COLORS	~	~	-	
CHOICE OF LEGEND COLORS	-	~	~	~
MULTIPLE UNIT BUTTONS	~ ~	~	-	V
SCULPTURED BUTTONS	~	~	-	
TRI-SHOT BUTTONS	~	~	~	
STROBE OUTPUT	~	/	-	~
OFFSET ARRAYS	~		~	
OFFSET-PLUS BLOCK ARRAYS	~	/	~	Kan San
BLOCK ARRAYS	~	~	~	V
ALTERNATE-ACTION SHIFT LOCK	~	~	~	
ELECTRONIC SHIFT LOCK WITH LIGHTED KEY	/	~	1	
SLOPED KEY ROWS	~	~	~	~
STEPPED KEY ROWS	~	~	-	100 m
ENCLOSURE	-	/	~	
SYSTEM CONTROL	~	/	~	
ONE-CHARACTER STORAGE	. /			
DATA KEY IDLE SIGNAL	~			
ERROR SIGNAL	~			
FUNCTION KEY OUTPUTS	/	V.	~	~
OUTPUT ENABLE	~	A		6

THE ELECTRONIC ENGINEER

Magazine

KEYBOARD SELECT

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COMMON TERMS

Encoding: Keyboards are required to generate a variety of codes ranging from 4-bit binary-coded-decimal (BCD) which is common to numeric devices, to the 12-bit Hollerith card punch code. Other commonly used codes are:

ASCII—7-bits, primarily for communications terminals.

EBCDIC-8-bits, IBM 360/370 code

Additional bits may be generated to cover tagging of certain keys for special functions and/or controls.

Shift/modes: Many applications today require two, three or four levels or modes of keyboard encoding. Often the modes require random or non-logical shifting of bits from one mode to another. These modes may be accessible by shift keys or system shift signals. Control of the shifts may be located in the keyboard or in the system or a combination of the two.

Strobe: This is a signal indicating valid key depression and is used for synchronizing with external equipment.

Repeat: Generally an electronic simulation of repeated depression of same key by gating the strobe signal on and off at a given rate after a key has been depressed for some given length of time. Options are that all keys have this capability or special function keys control the automatic repeat. Bi-level switches provide a repeat signal when key is depressed three or four times normal pressure.

Interlock: An electronic means of preventing error generation due to the actuation of more than one key at any one time.

Electrical Monitor Detector (EMD): A current or voltage sensing circuit to enable detection of the number of keys depressed at one time.

Two-Key Rollover (2KRO): An extension of the EMD detection circuits, where, if a second key is depressed before the first key is released, both keys will be registered. The second key, however, is registered only after the first is released.

NKRO: Is more than an extension of 2KRO to any number of keys, in that registration is in order of depression regardless of release sequence.

Error Detection: An invalid key depression is commonly detected by use of tag bits. A tag bit is added to the encoding matrix and comes true when an invalid key is depressed. This turns on the error detect circuit which alerts the operator.

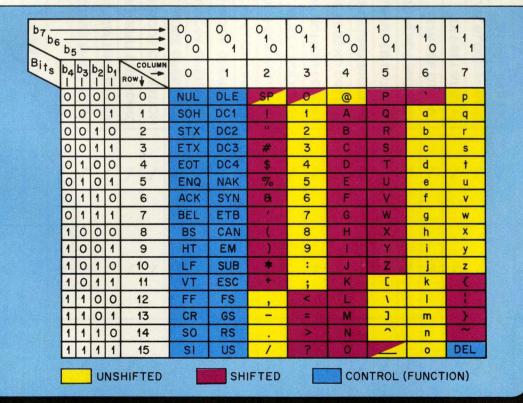
Parity checking, though less common today with electronic keyboards, is another means of detecting errors. If odd parity, then the sum of all the ones in the binary code including parity bit must be odd, similarly an even parity system requires the sum of all the ones to be even.

Data key idle (DKI) enable detection of a two-key-down condition. This type of error detection is common in two-key rollover interlock systems. It is not needed in n-key rollover interlocks.

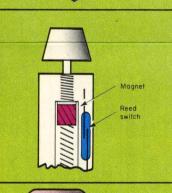
Key array: The physical or appearance aspects of a keyboard are determined by the operators' environment. Available in skew/offset configurations, the keys can be grouped in blocks, they can be stepped much as in a mechanical typewriter or, in the same plane, sloped as in some of the electric typewriter systems. Keyboards can use different color keys to make it easy to spot which groups of keys do what general functions.

USASCII CODE

U.S.A. Standard Code for Information Interchange



KEYBOARDS AND SWITCHES 53 Key Tri-mode ASCII Keyboard (Conforms to American National Stan **KEYBOARD SWITCHES** While there may be various versions of switch methods used for keyboards, they will general MECHANICAL CONTACTING TYPES SOLID STATE TY ELASTOMERIC HALL-EFFECT (SSK) circuit board Semiconductor land as transducer stationary uses hall effect contacts which to induce a voltage change are closed by from the movement of contact key a magnet



Glass-sealed ferro-magnetic alloy members close when magnetized, thereby closing an electric current path.

REED

A normally pinched-off mercury

tube is opened by key depression to make a circuit closure.

which are coupled when a ferrite core is unsaturated or closed.

CAPACITIVE Switches either generate or

couple pulses

between metal

when the key changes

dielectric

distance

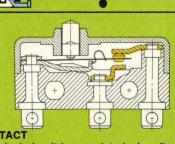
plates.

SATURATED

Wired array has oscillator

and coded

sense wires



MERCURY

Electrical circuit is completed when fixed and moveable contacts touch. Actual contact can be from bumps on arms, or wires touching.

PHOTO-ELECTRIC

Switches use coded key stems to interrupt light beams which are detected by light-sensitive semiconductors that generate an electror



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MICRO SWITCH keeps you in touch with the future SELECT YOUR KEYBOARD FROM THE WIDE CHOICE OF FEATURES AND OPTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE

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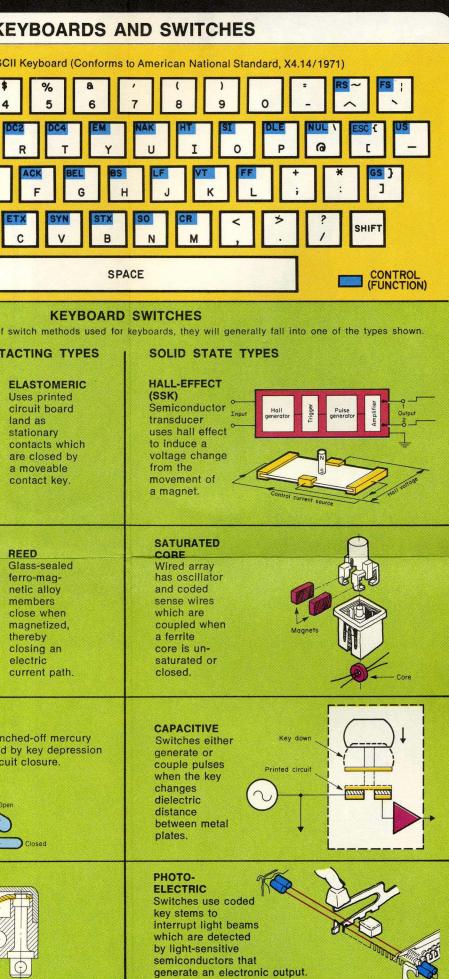
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SELECTION GUIDE

THE ELECTRONIC ENGINEER

Magazine

THE ELECTRONIC ENGINEER with the assistance of MICRO SWITCH One Decker Square, Bala-Cynwyd, Pa. 19004 • Price \$1.00



CHECKLIST FOR KEYBOARDS **Keyboard System Interface Key Array** Interlocks ☐ Skew/offset □ EMD ☐ Pos/Neg. ☐ 2KRO DTL Blocks ☐ TTL Stepped ☐ NKRO ☐ MOS □ Sloped Supply voltage Inputs **Key Tops** □ None/Mono-Mode Outputs ☐ Dual-Mode □ Special shapes Lamp Drivers Tri-Mode Legends Line Drivers ☐ Quad-Mode ☐ Colors Keyboard Inhibit Shift keys ☐ Tri-color ☐ Re-Legendable ☐ External or system control **Special Functions** ☐ Alternate Action Keys **Error Detection Button Configuration** ☐ Tag Bits/Error Sig. □ Lighted Keys □ Truncated ☐ Indicators ☐ Round ☐ Parity □ Data Key Idle Square Repeat □ Sculptured **Error Lock-Out** □ Clock Rates All Keys ☐ Self-correcting **Special Features** ☐ Separate key☐ Timed repeat □ Internal □ Enclosure □ External ☐ Selected Keys ☐ Timed repeat □ Cabling ☐ Timed repea ☐ Bi-level key □ Connector **Encoding** ☐ Basic Code **Switching** ☐ Additional Bits Strobe □ Type ☐ Function Keys ☐ Level ☐ Pulsed **Environment** Shift Lock Strobe Control ☐ Mech. latch Reliability ☐ Electronic □ Internal ☐ Alternate Action Switch **Human Engineering** □ External

EBCDIC CODE Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code Bit Positions **23** 4567 11 01 10 01 11 01 10 11 01 10 00 00 10 00 0 0000 NUL DLE DS 8 0001 SOH DC1 SOS a 2 A 1 j J 0010 STX b В K 2 DC2 FS S 0011 ETX DC3 c C L 3 M 0100 PF RES BYP PN d m u D U 4 0101 HT NL IF RS е n ٧ E N V 5 0110 EOB UC F 0 W 6 LC BS 0 W 0111 DEL IDL PRE EOT g p G P X 7 1000 CAN Н Q 8 h у q 1001 RLF EM 1 R Z 9 i Z 1010 SMM CC LVM SM 1011 CU3 VT CU1 CU2 \$ % J < @ Н 1100 FF DC4 IFS * 1101 CR IGS ENQ NAK 4 1110 TRS ACK SO SI IUS BEL SUB

branch

al contact can be touching.

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We have expanded our entire keyboard facility, including manufacturing, engineering, testing and quality assurance, to accommodate a large volume of orders.

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If you would like to know more about our keyboards and quality procedures, a MICRO SWITCH Field Engineer will be happy to present our slide show on quality and keyboard manufacture. Call your nearest MICRO SWITCH branch office today. (Yellow pages, "Switches, Electric.") Or write us for keyboard literature.







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