

About the SemicodeUS Keyboard Layout

SemicodeUS is a Unicode keyboard layout for MacOS X, designed for Computers with a U.S. Keyboard (QWERTY layout). It is optimized for the transcription of Semitic texts, with the focus on Arabic, especially Palestinian Arabic. To install it, drag the files "SemicodeUS.keylayout" and "SemicodeUS.icns" in the folder Macintosh HD > Library > Keyboard Layouts and restart the computer. Next, open the International pane of System Preferences, and select the Input tab. Find far down the list SemicodeUS marked with a Palestinian flag, and click the checkbox so that it is checked. Now, SemicodeUS should appear in the Input menu. You should be able to select it and use it from this point.

All applications, that support Unicode can make use of SemicodeUS. For writing texts the word processors NisusWriter Pro and Mellel are most recommended. To get access to all glyphs one needs a Unicode font, I personally prefer "Charis SIL" from the Summer Institute of Language (SIL), which can be downloaded free of charge at <<http://scripts.sil.org/CharisSILfont>> .

The table at the next page shows you the keystrokes, when SemicodeUS is selected in the Input menu. **N** stands for Normal (no modifier key down), **S** for Shift, **O** for Option and **SO** for Shift and Option modifier together pressed. Dead keys are marked in red color. To use a dead key, first press it, afterwards the sign you want to combine with the dead key. The last page gives you a list of all possible dead key combinations.

I designed SemicodeUS with the ingenious and free program "Ukelele" by John Brownie (SIL). I provide it here for everyone who wants to write Semitic texts in Unicode under MacOS X. Of course, I can give no guarantees for the proper operation or safety of the keyboard driver. Use it at your own risk.

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SemicodeUS Keyboard (Font Charis)

N	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
S	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
O	ā	ḁ	š	ḍ	ē	ṭ	ğ	ḥ	ī	ğ	ḵ	ḷ	ˊ	ˋ	ō	ƒ	ʔ	ɾ	ş	ţ	ū	ḍ	č	ḥ	ẏ	ž
SO	Ā	Ḃ	Š	Ḍ	Ē	Ṭ	Ğ	Ḧ	Ī	Ğ	√	ı	ı	ı	Ō	ƒ	ε	ı	Ş	Ṭ	Ū	Ḍ	Č	Ḧ	ẏ	Ž

N	[]	;	'	\	,	.	/	§	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	-	=	
S	{	}	:	"		<	>	?	~	!	@	#	\$	%	ə	&	*	()	_	+	
O	“	‘	...	˙	«	—	˘	˙	˘	˙	˘	˙	˘	˙	ä	ª	˘	•	ü	Ø	—	→
SO	”	’	ß	˙	»	—	˘	E	˘	˙	€	˘	..	fi	˘	˙	ö	☞	☞	—	←	

DEAD KEYS:

˙	˘	˘	—	—	˙	˙	˘	˙	˘	˘	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙	˙
O /	O§	SO6	O,	SO,	O'	SO'	O7	SO7	O.	SO.	SO§	O1	SO1	O3	SO3	O4	SO4	SO9	SO0	O2					

[illegible]