**Notes for Azhagi Keyboard for Slavic Cyrillic Languages** (Draft: 2017/06/27)

*Azhagi is very easy to learn, use and demonstrate, but difficult to explain in text, which is why this document is so long. I’m sorry about that.  
Please read the Azhagi Introduction document first. That explains the basics. I am trying to make the various layouts as consistent as possible, so that users can switch languages easily.  
This Cyrillic keyboard mapping is a first draft. It is rough and ready. If you find any bugs, please say so.   
It is also experimental: if any design decisions are wrong, they can be changed. Comments and suggestions would be gratefully received. Alec McAllister, t.a.mcallister@leeds.ac.uk*

This keyboard layout can type all the characters for the Slavic Cyrillic-alphabet languages specified in Unicode range "U400 Cyrillic". If any other characters are needed, I will try to add them. I will also try to add characters for the non-Slavic languages, but that is not an urgent priority at present.

**Design Principles**

* Characters and signs are mapped according to what they LOOK like, not what they sound like.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* No changes are made unless the user presses the Compose key, which is currently # . Unless that key is pressed IMMEDIATELY afterwards, the user gets exactly what is typed, without alteration.

UK keyboards make a distinction between the ~# key (next to Enter) and the |\ key (next to Z). Some Russian layouts make these two keys mere clones of each other, and both produce \ when unshifted and / when shifted. This makes the # difficult or impossible to use. The current version of Azhagi contains a work-around to correct this problem, but we don’t know whether it works consistently. If this affects you, please let me know.

**How to Use Azhagi**

If possible, make sure that you are using the standard United Kingdom keyboard, not any other version. This is not strictly necessary, but makes things simpler.

1. Start your word processor or other program.
2. Start Azhagi.
3. In Azhagi, click **Settings** ... **Keyboard** ... **UK**.[[2]](#footnote-2)
4. Press the hotkey shortcut for your chosen language.
5. Start typing.

**Keys for Accent- and Stress-marks in the Azhagi UKtoRussian layout**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Diacritical Mark** | **UK Key** | **Russian Key** | **Example** | **Result** |
|  | **/** | **.** | Not used for single dot |  |
| **Umlaut/diaeresis/two dots** | **//** | **..** | И**..**#  И**.**#**.**# | Ӥ Ӥ |
| **Acute** accent or stress-mark | **|** | **/** (Next to Z) | Г**/**# к**/**# | Ѓ ќ |
| **Double acute accent** | **||** | **//** | У**||**# У**|**#**|**# | Ӳ Ӳ |
| **Grave** accent or stress-mark | **\** | **\** | И**\**# | Ѝ |
| **Breve** | **(** | **(** | Ж**(**# и**(**# | Ӂ й |
| **Curved addition to bottom of character** | **)** | **)** | З**)**#  н**)**# | Ҙ ӈ |
| **Straight addition to bottom of character** | **?** | **,** | М**,**# т**,**# | Ӎ ҭ |
| **Character flipped or turned** | **=** | **=** | Е**=**# э**=**# | Ә є |
| **Bar through** (hyphen key) | **-** | **-** | Ц**-**# | Ҵ |
| **Macron** (underscore key) | **\_** | **\_** | у**\_**# | ӯ |
| **Ligature** | **+** | **+** | Л**+**Ь# н**+**г | Љ ҥ |
| **Alternative form of character** | £ | **№** | И**№**# з**№**# е**№**# | І ӡ ҽ |

The Acute key above uses a precomposed character if one exists: for example, the sequence **Г|#** produces **Ѓ**, which is a single character (Unicode 0403), without a separate stress mark. If no precomposed character exists, the Acute key above uses the separate Combining Acute Accent (Unicode 0301): for example, the sequence **З|#** produces **З́**, which is the base character **З**, followed by a separate Combining Acute.

If you really want to use a Combining Acute (i.e. to avoid precomposed characters), use **\*|** for the accent: for example, the sequence **Г\*#** produces **Г**́, which is the base character **Г** followed by a separate Combining Acute Accent.[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. i.e. whether something resembles the Cyrillic letter that would be on that key, not whether it resembles the Latin letter that is painted on that key in the UK. For example, the diaeresis is on the Russian fullstop key, which is the / key in the UK. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Future versions of Azhagi will remember this setting, which is a bit of temporary magic to prevent confusion if you normally use more than one layout, or use a computer with a different default, e.g. the RU or US keyboards. Some laptops use the US default, even in the UK. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. If this does not work in Microsoft Word, go to File … Options … Advanced … scroll down, and switch off “**use sequence checking**”. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)