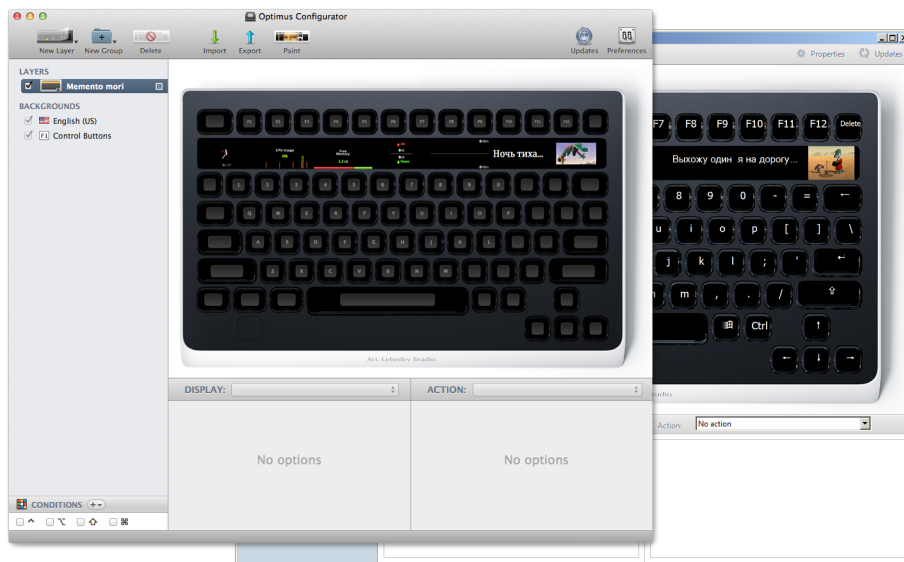




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Optimus Configurator User Manual



Working with Optimus Configurator

Connection and Installation

Connect the keyboard to a **USB** port on your computer. If power provided by the **USB** port is not enough, the keyboard will display a layout, however text input will be unavailable. Should this happen, use the provided power supply unit.

Each time the keyboard is turned on, it boots for several seconds. With no software installed, only functional keys and the English layout are displayed. In order to use all the features of the keyboard, install the latest version of Configurator software that can be downloaded from **optimus.artlebedev.com**.

If this is the first time the keyboard is connected to a computer, wait for the drivers to be installed. On a **PC** this happens automatically, and once the process is finished a message box will appear in the corner of the screen.

Optimus Configurator

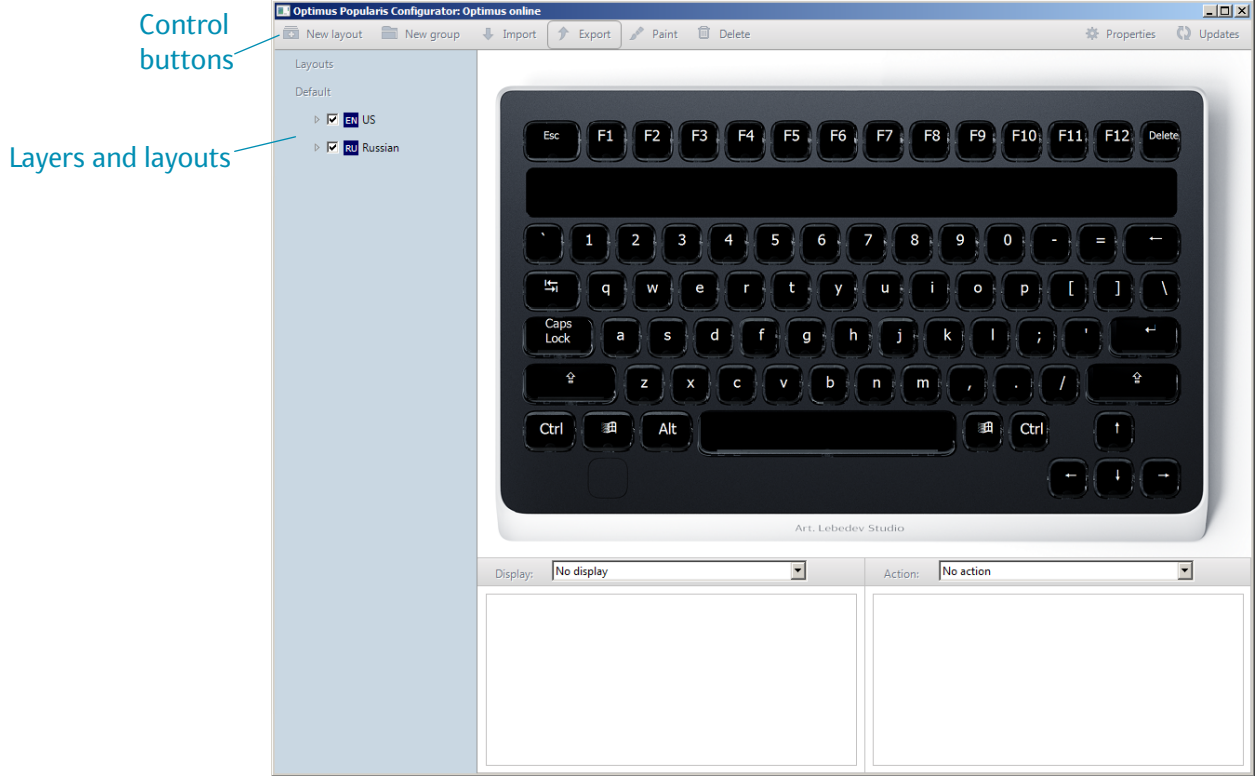
To enjoy all features of Optimus Popularis, download and install the latest version of Configurator software for [Mac](#) or [PC](#).

Layout configuration is based on the concept of layers. Layers contain information about images and functions assigned to each key. Layers can either be assigned to a specific application or work across all applications.

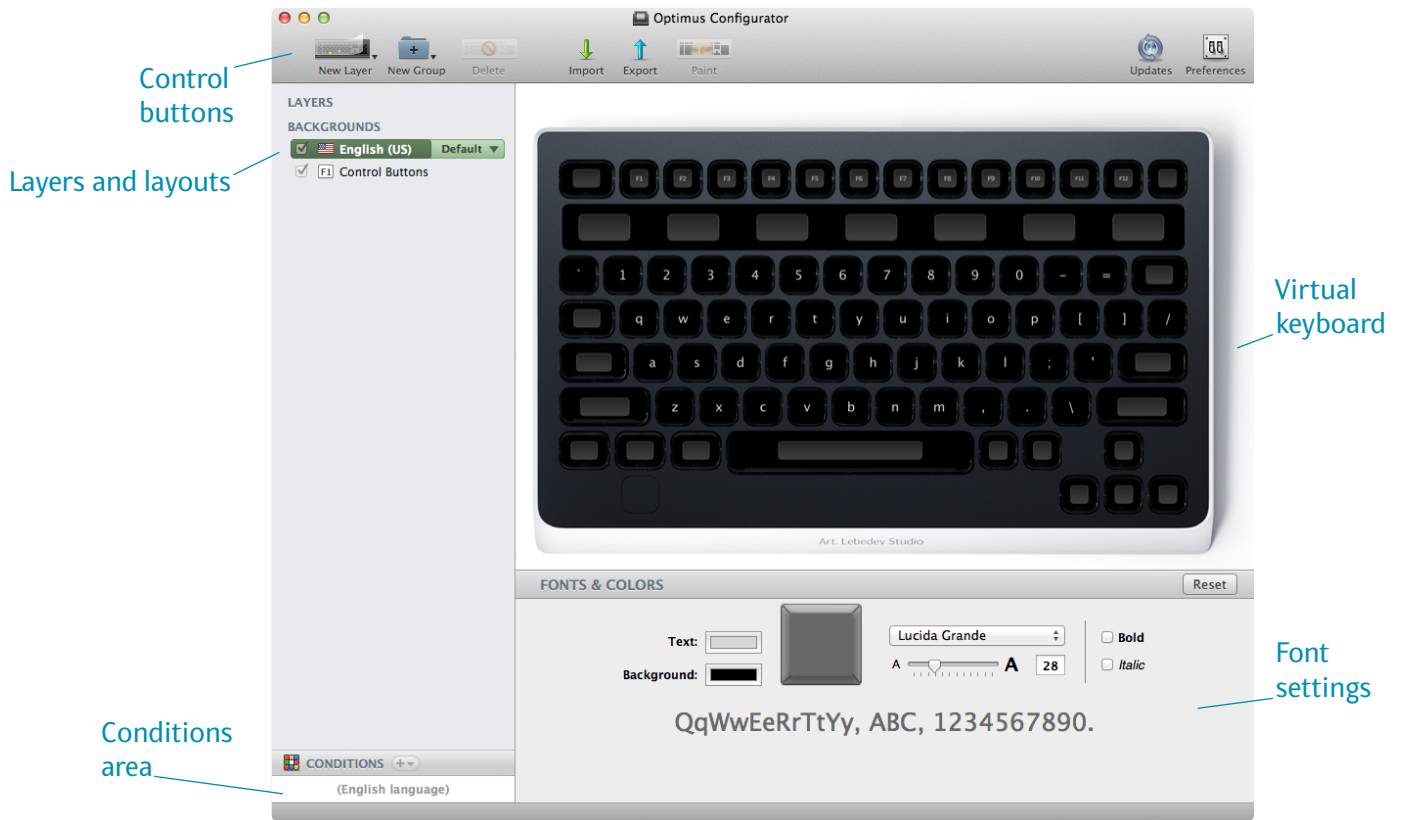
When Configurator is active, Optimus Popularis ignores the default layout stored in the keyboard memory.

The Configurator window has two areas. On the left is the list of layers, and on the right is the virtual keyboard that allows setting up individual keys. The panel on the top contains control buttons..

Buttons that are configured in the current layer look different from those that have no functions assigned to them.



Configurator window in Windows



Configurator window in Mac OS

Layouts

The layout that the keyboard displays is a combination of all layers. Layers are added one by one with each new layer overlaying on top of previous layers.

If a key has no function defined in the current layer, its function is taken from the settings of the previous layer. When a key has different functions assigned in different layers, the topmost layer has the priority (unless additional conditions, such as application awareness, are specified).

Layer conditions are configured in the **Conditions** area

Language Layers

Configurator contains layers for all languages installed in the operating system, as well as control buttons. Lowercase, uppercase and special character sets are available for each language. Background and font (including font color and size) can be configured either for all keys or for each key independently.

When a new language is added to the operating system, the corresponding layer becomes available in Configurator automatically.

Plugins and Key Settings

Plugins extend the functionality of the keyboard. There are two types of plugins. **Display** plugins deal with displaying images on the keyboard keys. For example, keys can display system information, an image, or new mail notifications. **Action** plugins define key press actions.

Each key can be assigned one display plugin and one action plugin. When they become available, new plugins will extend the functionality of Optimus Popularis.

Plugins can be assigned on custom layers only. To customize a key on a layer, left-click the key and change the settings in **Display** and **Action** areas.

To reset the settings of a key, choose it in Configurator and press the **Backspace** key on a **PC** keyboard or the **Delete** key on a **Mac** keyboard. **PC** users can also use context menu. **Mac** users have to press **CMD + Delete**.

Customization Examples for PC

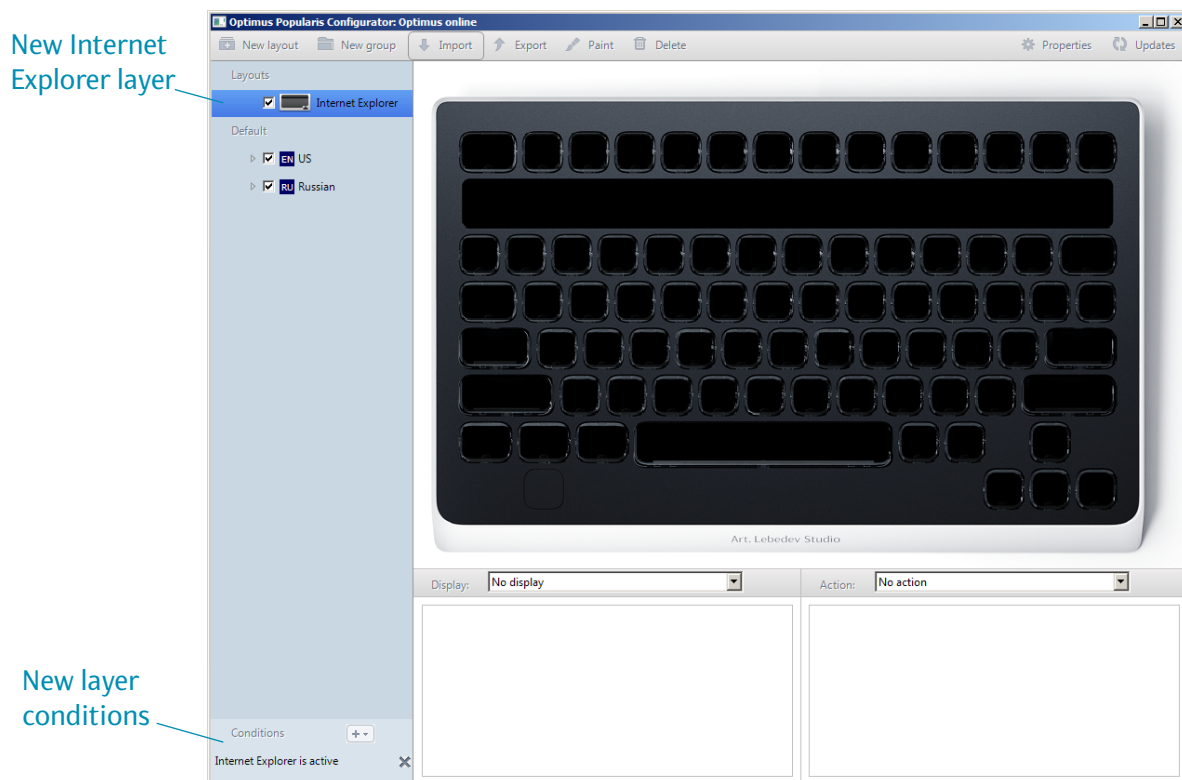
Browser controls

Let's configure Optimus Popularis to control **Internet Explorer**.

Launch Configurator and create a new layer by pressing the **Add Layer** button. Rename it, e.g. to **Internet Explorer**.

Now we need to configure the layer to work only when **Internet Explorer** is active. To do that, add **Application** field in the **Conditions** area, then select **Internet Explorer** and check **is active**.

Suppose we need to assign **Back** action to the **F7** key. Activate the **Internet Explorer** layer, select the **F7** key on the virtual keyboard and choose **www_back** in the **Action** field. Repeat these steps to add **Forward**, **Home**, **Stop**, **Search** and **Favorites** keys.



Configurator window with the new Internet Explorer layer

Change Icon

All browsers use the **F5** key to refresh an open page, however this key lacks a special icon in Configurator. This can be easily fixed.

Activate the **Internet Explorer** layer and click **EditImage**. Configurator will prompt to choose an image editing application. You can draw your own key icon or choose an existing image. When the image is saved, it will automatically appear in Configurator.

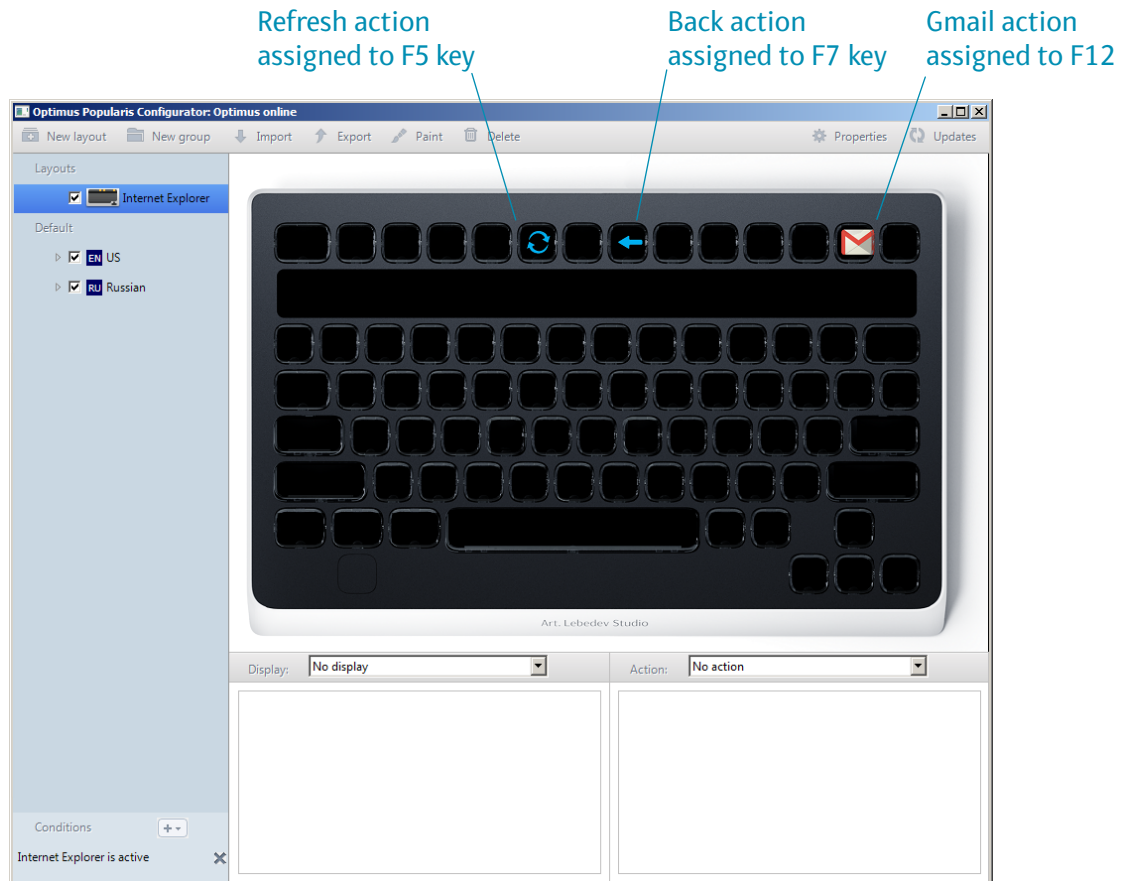
Repeat these steps to change icons for other keys in the layout.

Gmail Settings

Let's set the **F12** key to work with **Gmail**.

In Configurator activate the **Important Stuff** layer or create a new layer. Choose the **F12** key on the virtual keyboard. In the **Display** area select **Gmail** and enter your gmail.com account details. The key will now display the number of unread messages.

By default, pressing the key will open the first unread message. If you would like to change this behavior, you need to click the link button between **Display** and **Action** fields and assign a new action to this key.



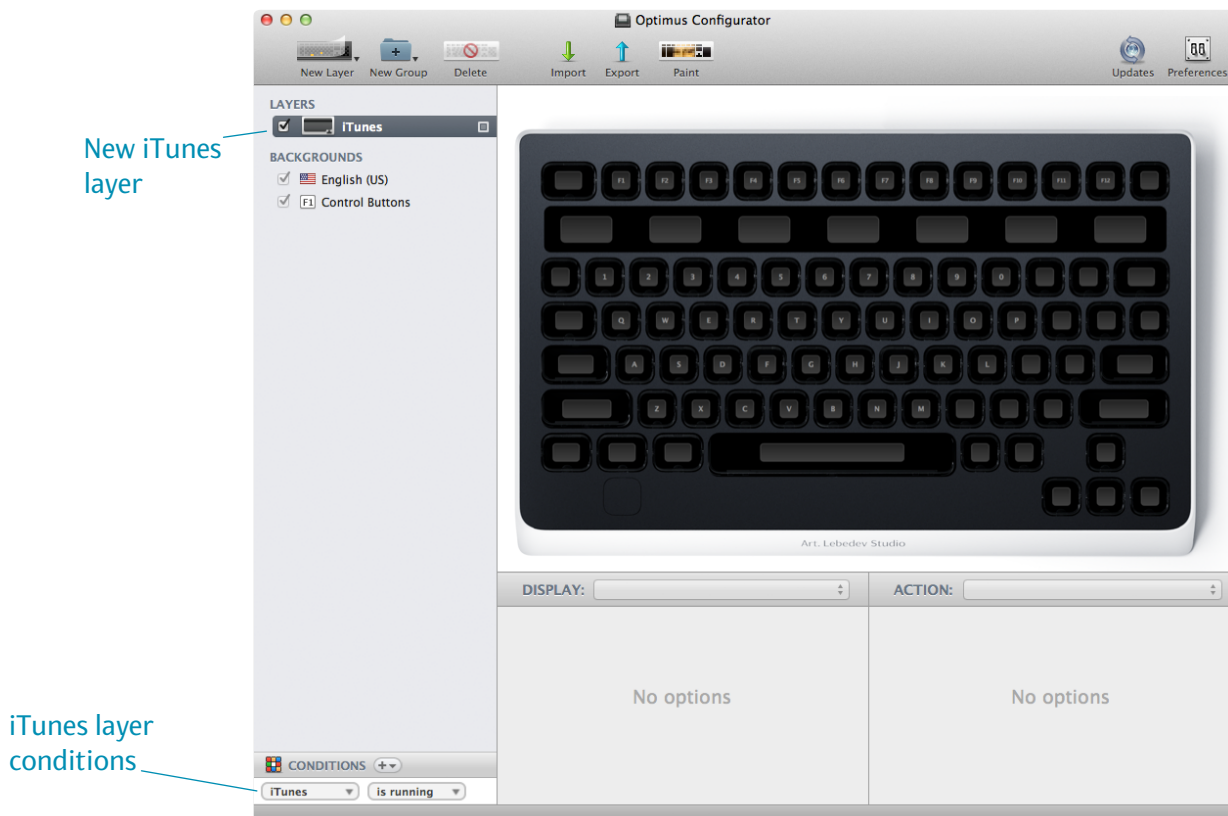
Configurator window with keys configured in the Internet Explorer layer

Customization Examples for Mac

Player Controls

Let's configure Optimus Popularis to control **iTunes**.

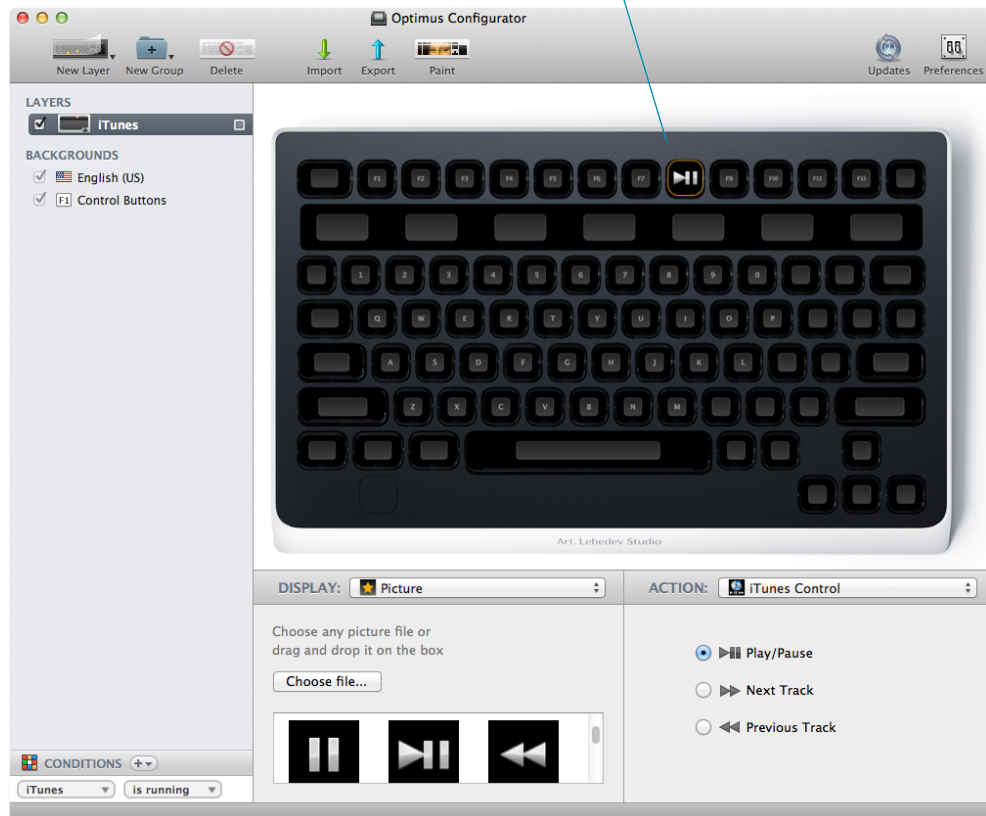
Launch Configurator and create a new layer by pressing the **New Layer** button. Configure it to be active only when **iTunes** is running. To do that, add **iTunes** in the **Conditions** area (the layer will be renamed to **iTunes**) and check **is running**.



Configurator window with the new iTunes layer

Suppose we need to assign the **Play/Pause** function to the **F8** key. Activate the **iTunes** layer, select the **F8** key on the virtual keyboard and choose **iTunesplay/pause** in the **Action** area.

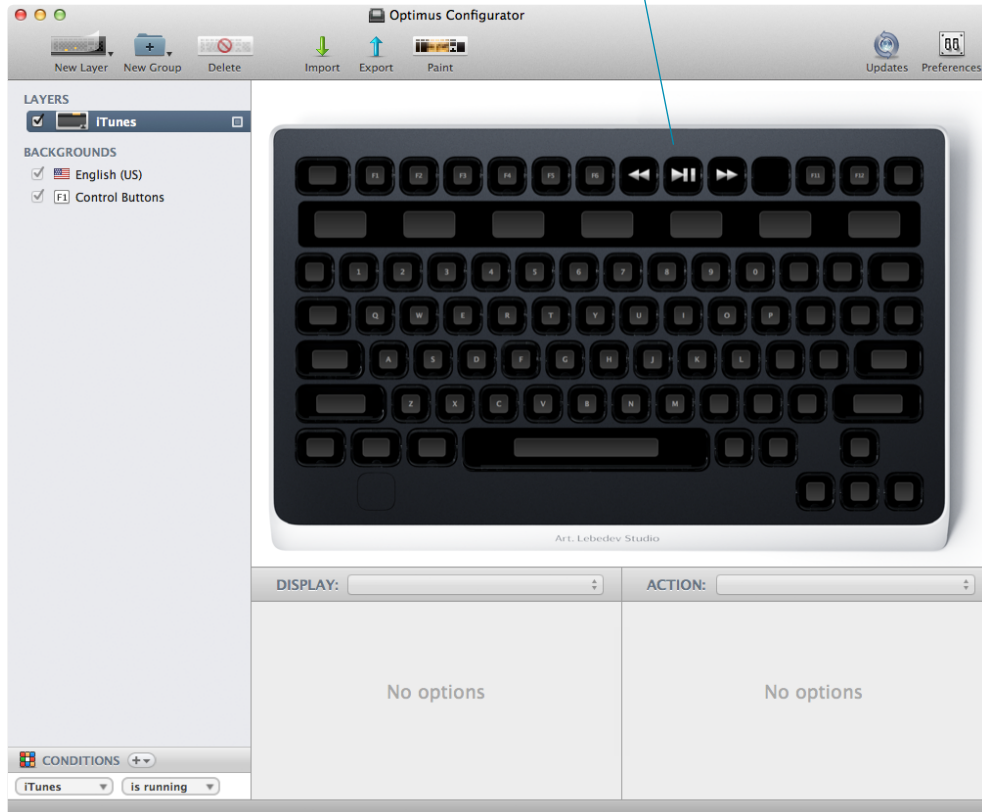
Play/pause action
assigned to F8 key



Configurator window with icon and action options

Repeat these steps to add **Next**, **Prev** and **Rate Track** keys.

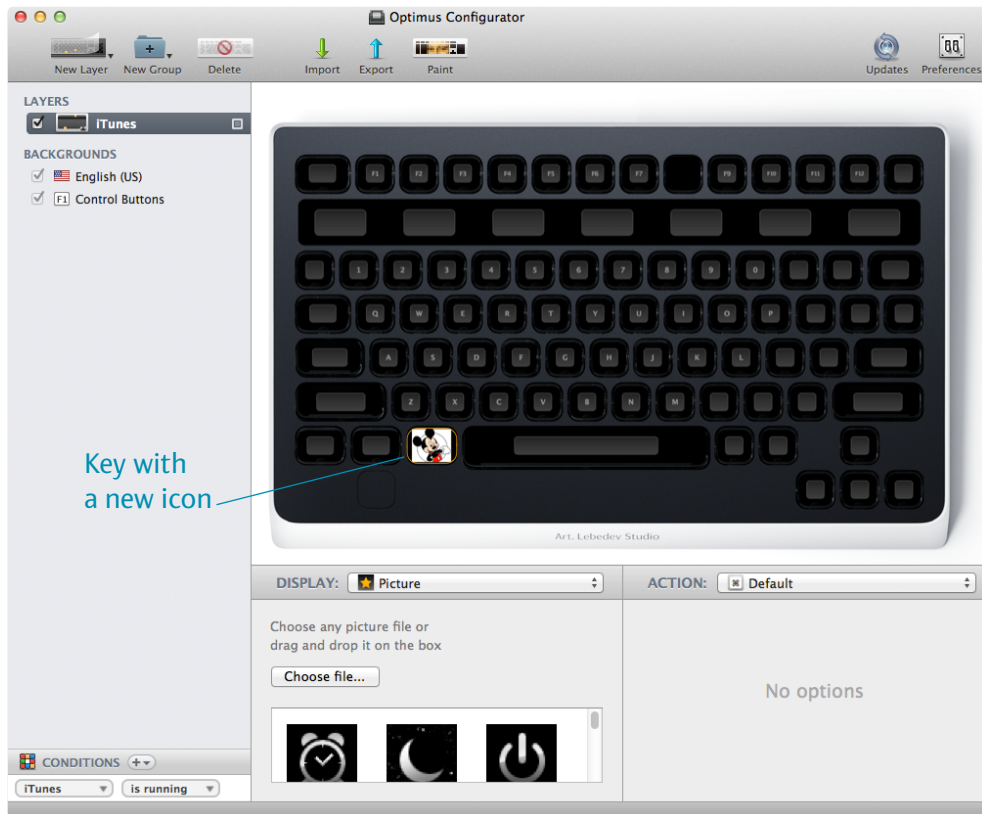
Prev, Play/pause and Next actions assigned to F5, F6 and F7 keys respectively



Configurator window with configured play and rewind keys in the **iTunes** layer

Change Icon

To add an icon to a key, select **Picture** in the **Display** area, click **Choose File** and select the desired image (drag-and-drop and copy-and-paste are also supported). You can also click the **Paint** button on the top panel. Configurator will prompt to choose a graphics editor that will open a template for drawing custom icons. When the image is saved, it will automatically appear in Configurator.

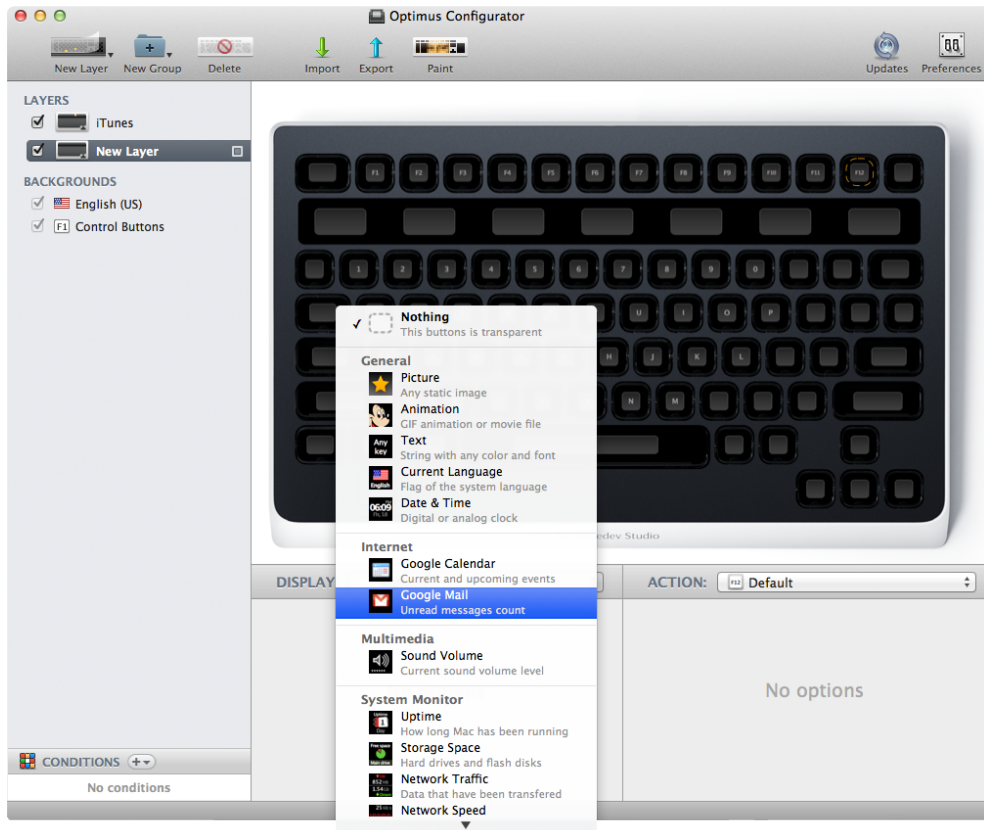


Configurator window with a new icon being selected in the **Display** area

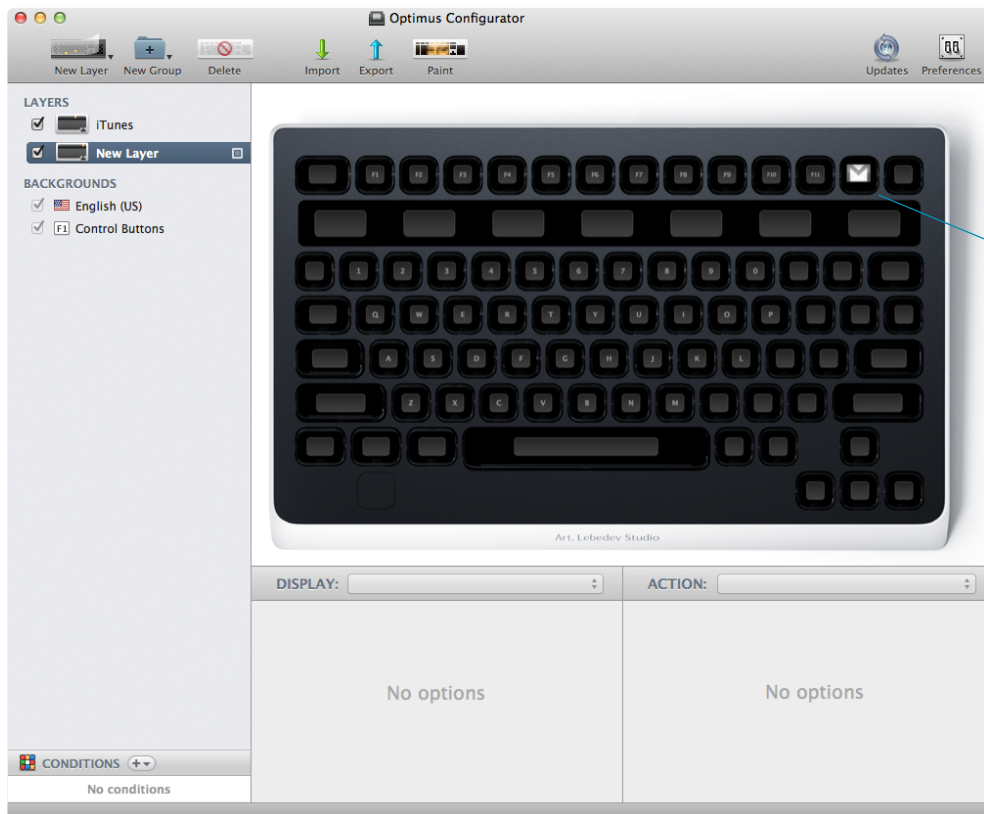
Gmail Settings

Let's set the **F12** key to work with our **Gmail** account.

Create a new layer in Configurator. Select the **F12** key on the virtual keyboard and choose **Gmail** in the **Display** area. Enter your gmail.com account details.



Choosing Gmail in the Display area



Configurator window with the key configured in a new layer

Importance of Timely Updates

In order for the keyboard to work properly you need to make sure you update the keyboard firmware and Configurator often. When update notification icons appear on the top panel, click the **Update** button to run the update process.

The firmware, which is the internal software of the keyboard, is directly connected with Configurator. It means that older versions of firmware and Configurator can conflict. You have to keep both the firmware and Configurator updated to the latest versions, otherwise stable experience cannot be guaranteed.

Attention!

Before updating the keyboard firmware, make sure the power supply unit is connected, even when the keyboard runs normally without it.

During the firmware update process the keyboard consumes more energy. In case the keyboard draws more power than a USB port can supply, a protection mechanism will shut off power to the keyboard, interrupting the firmware update process and causing the keyboard to stop functioning.

Recovery Mode (restoring factory firmware)

If a failed firmware update process resulted in keyboard not working properly, you need to temporarily switch it to recovery mode. In this mode the keyboard will boot from factory firmware stored in the keyboard memory. Then you need to repeat the standard process of updating the firmware to the latest version.

The recovery mode does not modify the corrupted firmware, it simply boots the keyboard from the factory firmware allowing to repeat the firmware update process.

To activate the recovery mode:

1. Turn the computer on and wait for the operating system to boot
2. Choose a single **USB** port for the keyboard and use this port throughout the whole process.
3. Connect the keyboard to the external power supply unit and to the **USB** port, then open any text editor and make sure text input is working.
4. Disconnect the keyboard from the **USB** port and the power supply unit.
5. Connect the keyboard to the power supply unit only. Press and hold the **Backspace** key on a PC keyboard or the **Delete** key on a Mac keyboard and connect the keyboard to the **USB** port. Keep holding the **Backspace (Delete)** key until the keyboard boots up, or for about 10 seconds.
6. Use Configurator to install the latest firmware.