IBM T43 Keyboard/Trackpoint Conversion to USB by Nathaniel Wolf



The IBM T43 keyboard is shown connected to a Teensy 3.2 connector board.

The T43.KICAD_PCB layout shown below uses a Teensy 3.2 and the 40 pin connector unsoldered from the original T43 motherboard using the ChipQuik SMD1 Leaded Low Temperature Removal Kit. Two 4.7K pullups are needed for the trackpoint PS/2 clock and data. The Anode side of the LEDs for Num Lock, Caps Lock, and Scroll Lock can be connected to the pads shown below. Each LED cathode should have a dropping resistor tied to ground to limit the current. Flying leads or right angle headers can be used for Teensy I/O's 24 thru 33 on the backside.



The KiCad file can be sent directly to OSHPark for fabrication and will produce the board shown below.



The completed board with soldered components is shown below.



Teensy I/O #	FPC pin #	Signal Name		
0	40	Trackpoint Reset		
1	32	Keyboard Row		
2	28	Keyboard Row		
3	24	Keyboard Row		
4	20	Keyboard Row		
5	16	Keyboard Row		
6	12	Keyboard Row		
7	8	Keyboard Row		
8	1	Hotkey (Fn)		
9	3	Keyboard Column		
10	5	Keyboard Column		
11	7	Keyboard Column		
12	9	Keyboard Column		
13		Blink LED on Teensy		
14	17	Keyboard Column		
15	15	Keyboard Column		
16	13	Keyboard Column		
17	11	Keyboard Column		
18	37	Trackpoint Data		
19	39	Trackpoint Clock		
20	22	Keyboard Row		
21	26	Keyboard Row		
22	30	Keyboard Row		
23	36	Hotkey (Fn return)		
24	14	Keyboard Row		
25	10	Keyboard Row		
26	6	Keyboard Row		
27		Debug sync		
28		Caps LED		
29		Num LED		
30		Scroll LED		
31	2	Keyboard Row		
32	4	Keyboard Row		
33	18	Keyboard Row		
	38	5 Volts		
	19	Power Switch		
	31	Ground		
	34	Ground		

This table gives the Teensy 3.2 I/O pin numbers translated to the FPC connector pins.

The keyboard matrix is given below with the Teensy 3.2 inputs across the top and Teensy outputs on the side. The Teensy code scans the rows by driving each output row low, one at a time. The other 15 row outputs are left floating so they don't interfere. The Teensy turns on pull ups on the 8 inputs and will read a low if the key is pressed.

In								
Out	14	15	16	12	11	10	9	17
22		cntrl-r				cntrl-l		
1	alt-r		prt_sc	scr-lk			alt-l	
21		shift-r			shift-l			
2	Left	pause	end			Home	Up	
						back-		
20		Z	1	Q	Tab	tick	esc	А
3	Pg-right	Pg-left	pg-down			pg-up		
4	Right		F12			Insert		
					Vol-			
5	Down		F11	Vol-up	down	Del	Access	Mute
6	/		0	Р	[minus	quote	•
24		С	3	Е	F3	F2	F4	D
7		Period	9	0	F7	F8		L
25	В	V	4	R	Т	5	G	F
33		Х	2	W	Caps	F1		S
26	Space	Enter	F10		bckspc	F9	F5	\
32		Comma	8]	equal	F6	K
31	Ν	Μ	7	U	Υ	6	Н	J

I/O 23 is Fn output (always driven low) I/O 8 is Fn Input

The Fn (Hotkey) has its own dedicated pins, not shared with any other keys.

This matrix has been coded into the Arduino file "IBM_T43_KBandTP.ino"

Select Tools, Board: Teensy 3.2 and USB Type: Keyboard+Mouse+Joystick.