

Ode to the Option Key

by Cindy & Jen O'Hora

Oh option key, oh option key
How I love you so.
By using you with other keys
Faster I will go.

If I hold you down, as I click a window shut
I will close all the windows behind it.
When I hold you down and double click an icon
It will open, closing the window the icon is in .

I hold you down as I choose Clean Up
From in the Special menu,
All the icons will align from left to right and top to bottom
Creating an orderly view.

When I start my Mac while holding you down
Along with the command key,
My desktop file is cleaned up nice
Making my Mac work better, for me.

If I hold you down
As I choose Empty Trash
Even locked files
Will depart in a flash.

Option down while I drag a file
Or folder to different window,
It will create a copy and leave the original
Still sitting in the first window.

In Key Caps when I hold you down
More choices I do see.
It helps me find that symbol ©
When copyrighted something do be. (sorry)

In ClarisWorks, I hold you down as I type a space
Between the month and day.
Now they stick together
No matter how much with font/style, I play.

In ClarisWorks when I insert the date or time,
I hold you down to make sure that it
Stays fixed and not change
The next time I open my document.

In Word processing, I use it with the Arrow Up key
To jump to the start of the paragraph I'm in.
If I use option and Arrow Down key
I'll leap right to the end.

In Zapf Dingbats, when I type a W while holding option down,
I get this lovely number ❷.
In Symbols, if I type a 8 while holding option down,
I'll get this spiffy arrow ↑, which isn't Greek to you.

Parlez-vous Français? Use the Option key to place all those diacritics.
Type option e nothing happens, but now type just plain e,
The acute accent é will appear automatic.
Option ` then type your letter a = à or Option c, if you need ç .

¿Hable Español?
The same stuff will work here
Hold down the option type an n, now type a n.
A ñ will magically appear!

I think I've made my point now
The wonders you can see.
Use that option key and know
That happy you will be.

Note to my readers. Last month the idea of this tip came to me, quickly followed by the title. I want you to know that I struggled to ignore the impulse to write this. But like a song stuck in your head, I kept getting these stanzas. Read it with a sense of humor and forgive me for butchering the poetry.

Actually, this is a collaborative venture. My daughter, who is in 4th grade, caught sight of a rough draft. She tactfully took matters in hand to edit it after explaining to me that poetry rhymes and she knew how hard it was to do this. She made some wonderful contributions. Thanks, Jenny!

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