

How to Customize Your Stream Setup Without a Stream Deck

Post-Purchase Setup Guide for Building a Stream Deck Alternative Using Budget Tools

VIRTUAL STREAMING APPS

Use Your Phone or Tablet

- Install Deckboard or Touch Portal on a phone or tablet.
- Connect it to OBS or Streamlabs for virtual scene switching.
- Customize each button layout with icons and labels for quick reference.

OBS HOTKEY SHORTCUTS

Create Reliable Keyboard Commands

- Assign OBS actions (mute, scenes, overlays) to hotkeys.
- Label each key with a sticky note or printed shortcut layout.
- Test layout before going live to avoid triggering the wrong command.

MACRO PAD SETUPS

Repurpose Affordable Gear

- Use a gaming keyboard or budget macro pad (e.g. Koolertron Mini).
- Map each macro key to OBS hotkeys or soundboard triggers.
- Label or color-code keys to match stream functions (camera, overlays, etc.).

SMART AUTOMATION

Trigger Multi-Platform Actions

- Use IFTTT or Streamer.bot to automate platform actions (e.g. send tweet on stream start).
- Link your Streamlabs commands to triggers from OBS or Twitch chat.
- Create macros that combine OBS scenes + external commands.

STREAM LAYOUT CONTROL

Use Docks to Stay Organized

- Use OBS docks to organize controls, scenes, and stream tools on one screen.
- Dock windows into a grid to reduce clicks during live sessions.
- Save your layout so it reloads with OBS on startup.

WHY THIS ACTION PLAN WORKS

Budget-Friendly Streaming Boost

- Replicates Stream Deck behavior using free or low-cost tools.
- Ideal for beginners and mobile-first creators.
- No special hardware or drivers needed - works across devices.
- Lets streamers stay organized and flexible on the go.