

14 February 2024  
a small confession

Friends,

I'm using the Olivetti Lettera 36, an electric typewriter from the past that feels like it was intended to predict the future, to write this thing. It's Italian, but I don't think that has anything to do with my current problem: How do you make an exclamation mark on this thing? I've figured out how to make an apostrophe by rolling up the platen half a line and type a comma. I've even figured out that the lowercase L is a good substitute for the number one. The problem with this machine, as with many others, is that there's no one key. On this machine, that's ~~taking~~ taken up by the "Keyboard Release" key. I think this machine has a problem with keys jamming in the basket and you need a special ley to unjam the jam that they clearly considered to be inevitable. I can't say that I blame them. I find that as I grow more comfortable ~~z~~ with the machine, I'm coming perilously close to jamming it myself. Or it's full of gunk., or rust. Also, let's be honest, this thing is fairly loud. I'm concerned that the plastic gears or elderly drive belts are going to give up in short order. We'll see...

Your best pal,

- bob

UPDATE: I just had to use the Keyboard Release button. I'm not sure exactly what I did to jam the keys, but the ~~Rel~~ Release key did the trick. Super weird. Also, I could still use some help making the number one.

ANOTHER UPDATE: It looks like there's a simple solution. Lowercase L for the number one, shift+8 for an apostrophe, and hold down the shift key, then hit apostrophe then period to stack the characters without advancing the carriage. I must've slept ~~through~~ through typing class on this one. Amazing!. Or, you know, amazing!