CharBar

Special characters made simple · v3.5 Preview 5

Application collections

Custom Bars, favourites and appearance

Choose a set. Place the caret. Click a character.

For Windows

CharBar v3.5 Preview 5 · Charbar
5 November 2026

Instructions for the application’s workflows. Consult the in-app lists for available Packs, character sets and font guidance as the collection grows.

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Applications and characters in CharBar

CharBar v3.5 includes the launcher features from AppBar v1.0. You do not need a separate AppBar installation. Standalone AppBar keeps its own settings and its one-bar-per-edge rule. CharBar continues to support stacked bars.

Open a bar's Settings and choose **App collections**, or right-click its cog and choose **Application collections and settings**. This opens a page showing the bar's current content; it does not switch the bar or start a scan. Choose **Use apps on H1/H2/V1/V2** explicitly to switch, then manage collections in the application settings. **Return H1/H2/V1/V2 to language bar** restores the saved language, symbols or custom keys. That return button is also visible on every application Settings page, beside the bar being configured. Collections and shortcuts are kept when you return, and the other bars stay as they are.

Character & tool settings in the application settings sidebar opens CharBar's language, symbol, font, dictionary and Clipboard controls. Existing character sets, H1+ companions, notes, dictionaries and custom definitions are retained.

When a paired alphabet needs H1+, an already enabled H2 application collection stays visible as H2 and temporarily uses the **top of the screen**. H1 and H1+ remain paired, so three horizontal bars are allowed. H2 returns to its saved edge when H1+ ends. No vertical profile is taken, and its saved layout is not overwritten.

Review the setup suggestions

Some buttons may initially be on the wrong bar. Others may be unwanted or access a feature your computer does not support. Windows, hardware and application configurations vary, so automatic setup cannot be 100% accurate on every computer. Review, move or remove the suggested buttons to suit your installation.

The first populated setup offers Games, Writing, Audio, Photos, Video, System Tools, Web & Comms, Design & 3D and Development. Uncategorised is a review group, unchecked by default. Older games are included without an age or AAA filter. The catalogue recognises products; only detected installed items are suggested.

Writing includes My Documents, Audio My Music, Photos My Pictures and Video My Videos, using their actual locations on your computer. Selecting or arranging an entry never runs it. Finish saves choices; Cancel keeps the prior collections. Setup can be opened later using **Collections → Populate bars**.

To correct earlier suggestions, review the preview, select the standard groups to update and explicitly tick **Refresh scanned app suggestions in the selected standard groups**, then Finish. Keep System Tools selected when removing its old misplaced suggestions. Normal Finish is additive. Custom collections and original items are kept.

Add, arrange, edit and remove

Click **+** to search installed applications and choose **Add to bar**. Other pickers add folders, files, web addresses and explicit commands/scripts. You can drop one application, supported desktop shortcut, folder or file anywhere on an application bar. Saving a shortcut does not open it or move its original.

Drag entries to reorder or move them between application collections. Hold **Ctrl** to copy. Collections also provides Move, Copy, Rename, Duplicate, Delete, Favourite, Import and Export actions. Large application collections use paging rather than the legacy Custom Bar slot limits.

Right-click an entry for **Edit shortcut** or **Remove shortcut**. Removal confirms and affects only the current collection and its favourite reference. Other collections using the entry keep it. It never uninstalls the application or deletes the original shortcut, file or folder. Use it to remove unwanted or unsupported feature buttons.

Copy new custom bars copies existing CharBar custom definitions into application collections, including exact character strings, launcher entries and Clipboard or dictionary references. Blank assignment keys remain in the original definition. Copies are independent: the original definitions are not deleted or silently changed, and repeated copying does not create duplicates. Later new custom bars can be copied with the same action. Legacy character-assignment workflows and capacities remain available; the copied application collections have AppBar's larger paging capacity.

Exporting/importing never executes a button. Application-only collections use AppBar's collection format. Mixed collections containing CharBar character/tool actions use a CharBar-aware format and require CharBar v3.5. Exports can include local paths and references; review them before sharing. Clipboard note text and dictionary contents are not included just because a button references them.

Bar controls

- **Cog with bar badge:** settings.
- **Collection name:** choose a collection or return to character/custom content.
- **☆ / ★:** all entries or favourites for the selected application collection.
- **i On/Off:** turn hover descriptions on or off for this bar. It is also available on character bars. Control-help tooltips remain available where the platform permits.
- **+ / Edit:** add entries or manage collections.
- **Thick chevron:** page through an overflowing collection. On the last page it returns to the first; its tooltip gives page information.
- **Red X:** exit CharBar, shown on the current master bar when enabled.

Vertical selectors show a compact collection name. Scrolling them briefly shows the full current name and its position in the list.

Wheel over a collection name to change collection; wheel over entries to scroll. Page Up / Page Down also navigate. Application paging shows complete buttons rather than partially clipped icons. Vertical/flipped bars have equivalent controls.

Appearance and placement

Light, Dark and High Visibility use AppBar's exact button painting, including borders, corner rounding and interaction states. System follows the system theme. Custom retains bar, button, highlight, button-edge and text-colour options. Character font support and font recommendations remain available in Character & tool settings.

Appearance includes button height, Icons / Names / Icons and names, name width, Beside/Above icon-name layout, justification and hover descriptions. In **Configure bar**, choose the profile to edit, including inactive profiles.

Apply appearance to all bars copies appearance to active and inactive profiles. It is available in application settings and the existing character Appearance page. It is a one-time copy, not permanent linking. Languages, custom content, dictionary and Clipboard data, activation and locations remain separate. The character settings page retains its Apply / Save and Close / Revert draft workflow.

Application Bar Locations selects its content profiles, dock edges, screen and persistent/auto-hide mode. CharBar permits stacking. Clearing **Use application collection on H1/H2/V1/V2** returns that profile to its ordinary content where enabled. Existing character-layout controls remain in Character & tool settings.

Auto-hide leaves a narrow edge strip. Move to the edge to reveal it. Open menus, pickers/dialogs and dragging protect the application bar from hiding. Physical screens, DPI, taskbar placement and Linux compositors can behave differently; native trials are still necessary on the actual machine.

Icons and different application editions

Apps use their own artwork rather than an Explorer/Steam activation icon. Packaged applications, shortcut icon resources and game artwork resolve in the background, with positive caching and bounded automatic retries after temporary startup failures. There is no need to add another button to trigger recovery. Missing artwork uses an identifying fallback; ordinary shortcuts can have an explicit icon override.

Different Media Player or Outlook products can be separate applications. Equivalent shortcut/program aliases and architecture duplicates merge. Native architecture is suggested by default; alternate variants remain searchable. Small icon badges identify coexisting 32/64-bit variants, actual product edition years or Classic/New products. Installation dates are not used as product release years.

Data, upgrade and uninstall

Install the complete CharBar v3.5 Preview 5 installer over the current CharBar, with settings retained. The runtime, required dependencies, fonts/notices and offline guides are included. Windows Installed Apps reports the installed program size in MB.

Application collections and their caches live under **CharBar/Launchers** in local application data. They never read or overwrite the standalone AppBar folder. Existing CharBar settings, custom definitions, notes, dictionaries and packs retain their own locations. A pre-v3.5 settings copy is preserved before an older profile is updated.

Uninstall keeps settings by default. Explicit settings removal also removes the owned application-collection records and cache. Original programs/files and unrelated user documents are kept. Existing Clipboard/dictionary-data retention choices remain in effect. **Remove settings** in application settings resets application collections; it keeps character settings and tools, and closes CharBar.

No account or telemetry is required. Unresolved-title web checks send product names, not local paths, and never supply executable commands. Offline setup stays usable. A last-scan report stays locally on the computer and is not automatically uploaded.