



## A new (old) kind of keyboard

The first iPhone famously introduced the soft keyboard, which could change its shape [depending on the need](#). Sometimes it would mean becoming a keypad (for numeric entries), and sometimes something subtler, like introducing a “.com” key to the bottom row, or adding a new column of keys and making the keys a bit more narrow for a few languages that need that.

[Bear](#) (the note-taking app) does something interesting: after a button press, it replaces the onscreen QWERTY keyboard with a “funpad” or a “function keypad” (like [StreamDeck](#) or [Figma Creator Micro](#)). This achieves a similar result to a scrolling toolbar above the keyboard (see: Apple Notes), but in a different way. I haven’t seen anything like this before, and I think it’s really clever and it has worked well for me in practice.

(It also cleverly closes itself upon some actions like introducing a divider, but stays put for bolding, indentation, etc.)

06:55

TIME

95



# This is a note



ABC



H<sub>1</sub>

**B**

*I*

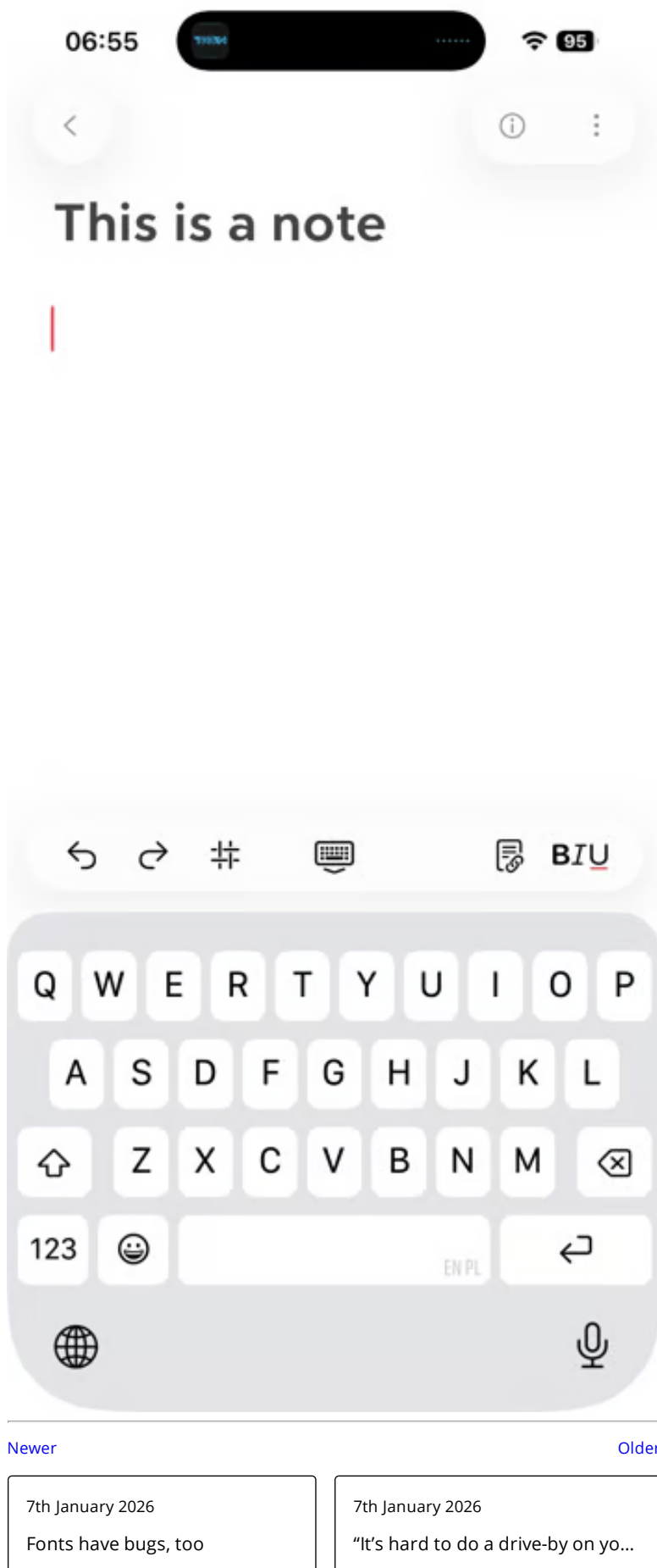
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A'





[Newer](#)

[Older](#)

7th January 2026  
Fonts have bugs, too

7th January 2026  
"It's hard to do a drive-by on yo..."

Marcin Wichary © 2022-2025

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