Typing Special Foreign Characters on the Macintosh

Using the Option key to the left of the command-key in the lower left part of the keyboard with certain other keys lets you enter international language characters. In most cases, typing the Option-key combination produces nothing until you type the character that you want to have marked with an accent or other diacritical as well. For example, if you hold down the Option key and press the u key, then release those keys and type an o, you’ll get an ö.

- For an acute accent (´) as in école or diâ, type Option-e, then type the vowel.
- For a grave accent (` ) as in lèvre or città, type Option-~, then type the vowel.
- For a circumflex (^) as in maître, type Option-i, then type the vowel.
- For an umlaut (or dieresis) (¨) as in München, type Option-u, then type the vowel.
- For a tilde (~) as in mañana, type Option-n, then type the character (an n or N, or for Portuguese, an o or an a).
- For an es-zet (Ø), type Option-s.
- For a c-cedilla (ç) as in français, type Option-c.
- For an upside-down question mark (¿), type Shift-Option-?.
- For an upside-down exclamation point (!), type Option-1.