AKAI 541332 MPC Key 61 Standalone Synthesizer Keyboard User Guide

AKAI 541332 MPC Key 61 Standalone Synthesizer

Contents

Introduction

Features

- 20+ cutting edge instrument plugin engines
- A massive 6,000+ sound preset library
- 61 key semi-weighted keyboard with aftertouch
- Vibrant 7” capacitive multi-touch screen
- Standalone MPC workflow with 4 GB RAM
- 16 velocity-sensitive RGB-backlit drum pads
- MPC DAW with MIDI sequencing, audio recording, plugin instruments and audio effects

Box Contents

MPC Key 61	Software Download Card
Power Cable	Quickstart Guide
USB Cable	Safety & Warranty Manual

Important: Visit akaipro.com and find the webpage for **MPC Key 61** to download the complete User Guide.

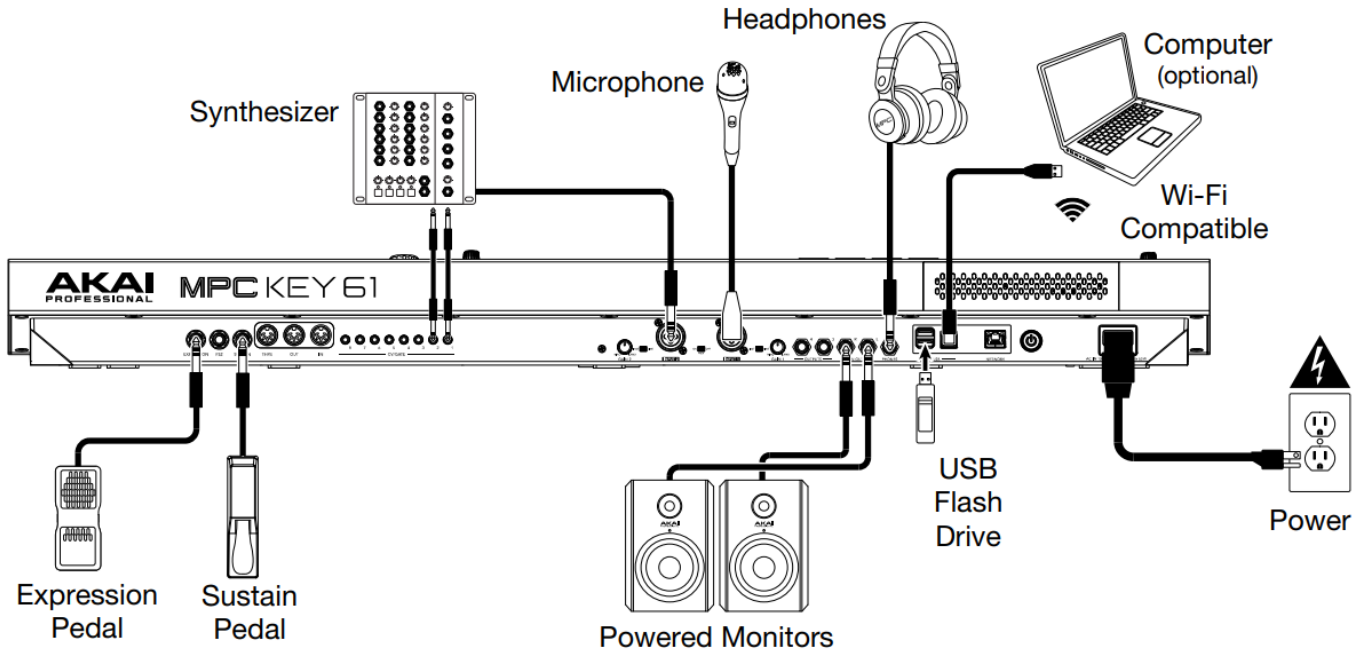
Support

For the latest information about this product (documentation, technical specifications, system requirements, compatibility information, etc.) and product registration, visit **akaipro.com.**

For additional product support, visit akaipro.com/support.

Connection Diagram

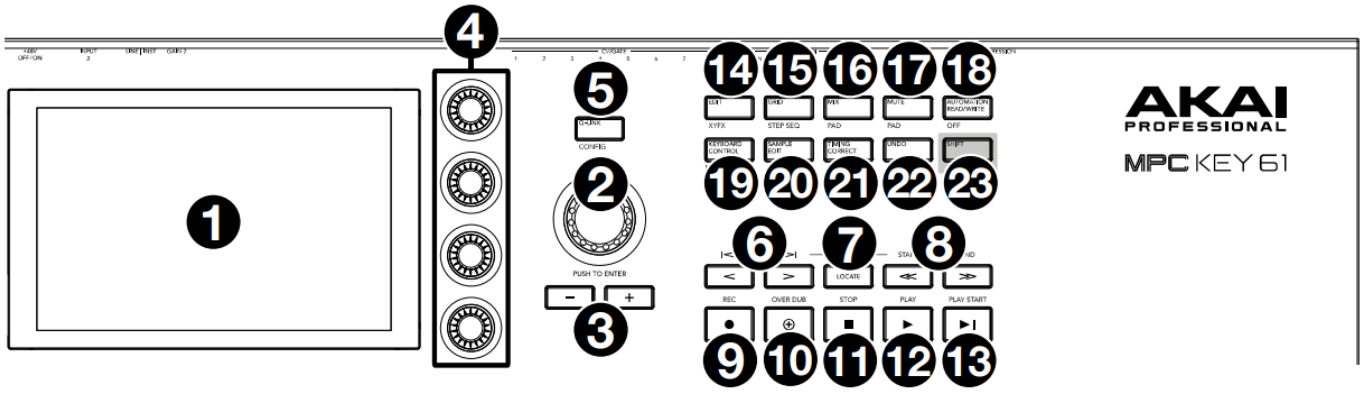
Items not listed under Introduction > Box Contents are sold separately.



See Appendix > Signal Flow for a full diagram of how audio and MIDI are routed through MPC Key 61's different features.

Features

Top Panel



1. **Display**: This full-color multi-touch display shows information relevant to MPC Key 61's current operation. Touch the display (and use the hardware controls) to control the MPC interface. See **Operation** to learn how to use some basic
2. **Data Dial**: Use this dial to scroll through the available menu options or adjust the parameter values of the selected field on the **display**. Pressing the dial also functions as an **Enter**
3. **–/+**: Press these buttons to increase or decrease the value of the selected field on the display.
4. **Q-Link Knobs**: Use these touch-sensitive knobs to adjust various parameters and settings. The knobs can control one column of parameters at a time. The lights above the **Q-Link button** indicate the currently selected column. Press the **Q-Link** button to change which column of parameters they currently
5. **Q-Link Button**: Press this button to change which column of parameters the **Q-Link Knobs** currently control

(indicated by the lights above the button). Each press will select the next column.
Press and hold **Shift** and then press this button to view the Q-Link Configuration window. Press and hold **Shift** and then press this button again to return to the Main page

6. **</>** (**Event** **|</>|**): Use these buttons to move the audio pointer left/right, one step at a
Press and hold **Locate** and press one of these buttons to move the audio pointer to the previous/next event in the sequence grid.
7. **Locate**: Press this button to open the Locate window, which allows you to quickly jump to specific points in your
Press and hold this button to activate the secondary functions of the **</>** and **<</>>** buttons (i.e., **Event** **|</>|** and **Start**/**End**, respectively).
8. **<</>>** (**Start**/**End**): Use these buttons to move the audio pointer left/right, one bar at a
Press and hold **Locate** and press one of these buttons to move the audio pointer to the start or end of the sequence grid.
9. **Rec** / **Recall**: Press this button to record-arm the Press **Play** or **Play Start** to start recording. Recording in this way (rather than using **Overdub**) erases the events of the current sequence. After the sequence plays through once while recording, Overdub will be enabled.
Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to recall recently played MIDI note events when recording was disabled and insert them into the current sequence.
10. **Overdub**: Press this button to enable Overdub, which allows you to record note events in a sequence without overwriting any previously recorded note You can enable Overdub either before or during recording.
11. **Stop** / **Return**: Press this button to stop Double-press this button to immediately stop all sound.
Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to stop playback and return the playhead to the Loop Start value.
12. **Play**: Press this button to play the sequence from the audio pointer's current
13. **Play Start**: Press this button to play the sequence from its start
14. **Edit** / **XYFX:** Press this button to view Program Edit Mode, which contains all parameters for editing your
Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view XYFX Mode, which turns the touchscreen into an XY pad where each axis represents the range of an effect parameter. As you touch or move your finger on the touchscreen, the current position will determine the current value of the two parameters. You can use this mode to create interesting effect automation on your tracks.
15. **Grid** / **Step Seq:** Press this button to enter Grid View Mode, where you can view and edit the note events of each track of a sequence in a project and their
Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view Step Sequencer Mode where you can create or edit sequences by using the pads as "step buttons," simulating the experience of a traditional step-sequencer-style drum machine.
16. **Mix** / **Pad:** Press this button to view the Track Mixer where you can set levels, stereo panning, and other settings for your tracks, programs, returns, submixes, and
Press and hold **Shift** and then press this button to view the Pad Mixer where you can set a program's levels, stereo panning, routing, and effects.
17. **Mute** / **Pad:** Press this button to view Track Mute Mode where you can easily mute tracks within a sequence or set mute groups for each
Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view Pad Mute Mode where you can easily mute pads within a program or set mute groups for each pad within a program.
18. **Automation Read**/**Write** / **Off:** Press this button to toggle the Global Automation state between **Read** and

Write.

Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to disable or enable Global Automation.

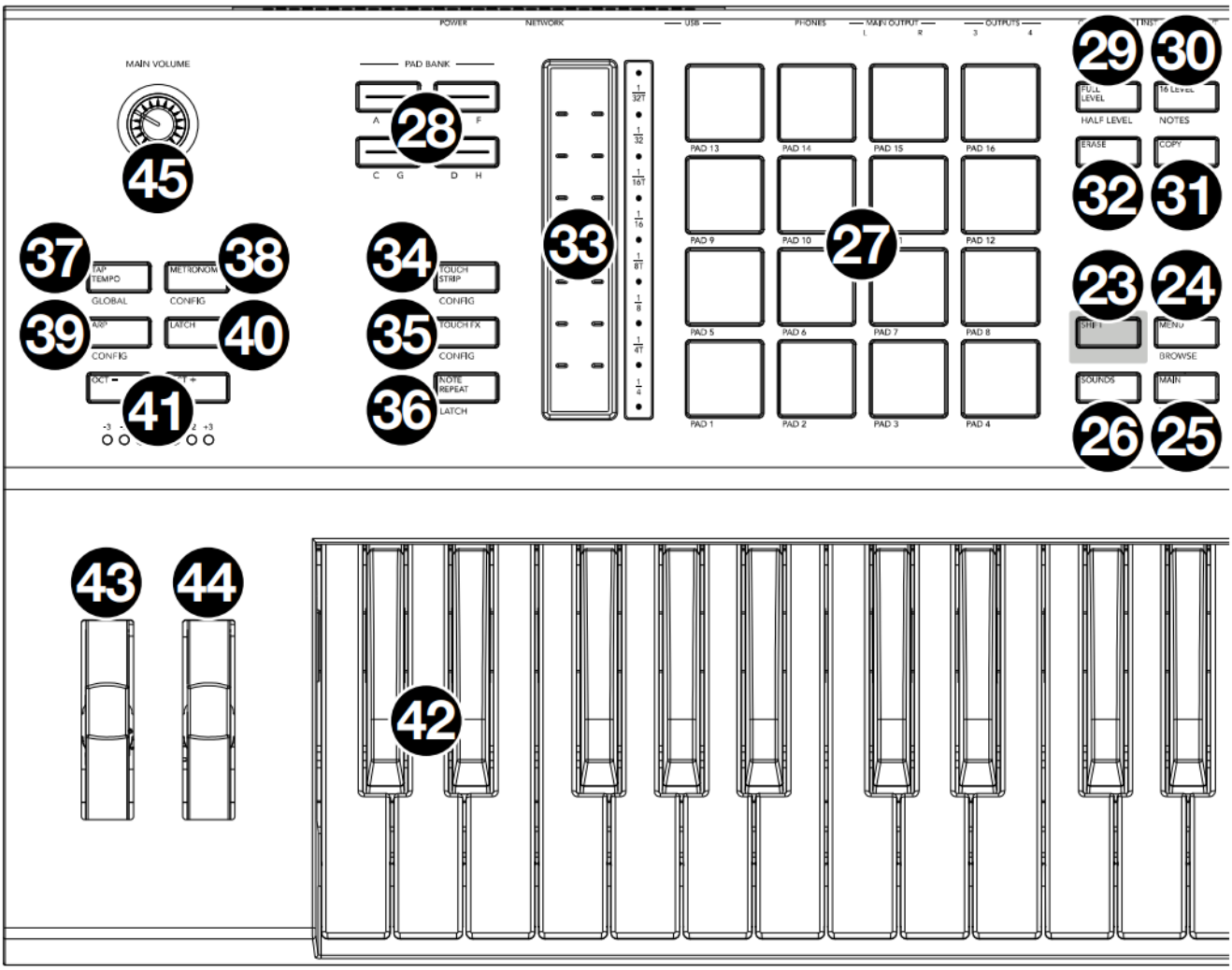
19. **Keyboard Control** / **MIDI Control:** Press this button to view the Keyboard Control menu, where you can customize the functions of the keyboard and wheels, including velocity response, routing, MIDI assignments, ranges and

    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view MIDI Control Mode, where you can use the device as a MIDI controller and customize what MIDI messages are sent from the hardware controls.
20. **Sample Edit** / **Sampler:** Press this button to view Sample Edit Mode where you can edit your samples using various functions and

    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view the Sampler where you can record audio samples to use in your projects.
21. **Timing Correct** / **On/Off:** Press this button to open the Timing Correct window, which contains various settings to help quantize the events in your

    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to turn Timing Correct on and off.
22. **Undo** / **Redo**: Press this button to undo your last

    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to redo the last action you undid.
23. **Shift**: Press and hold this button to access some buttons' secondary functions (indicated by white writing).



24. **Menu** / **Browse:** Press this button to open the Mode You can tap an option on the Menu screen to enter that mode, view, etc.

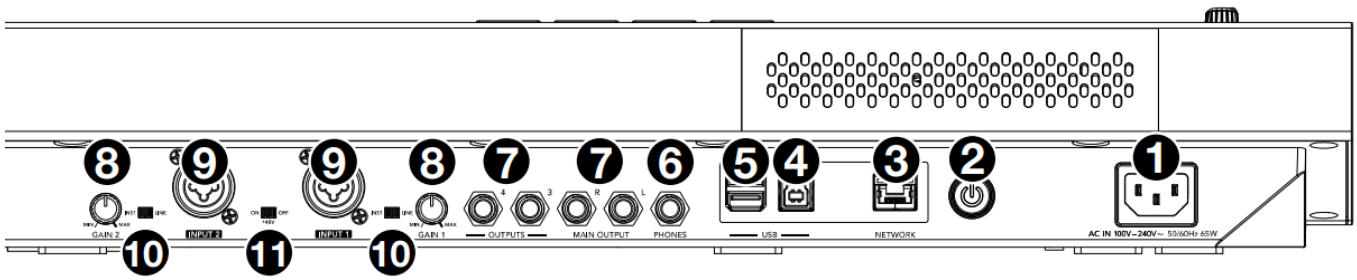
    Press and hold **Shift** and then press this button to view the Browser. You can use the Browser to locate and select programs, samples, sequences, etc.
25. **Main** / **Track**: Press this button to view Main

Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view Track View Mode, an overview of the tracks of each sequence. You can also set key ranges in this mode.

26. **Sounds** / **Favorites:** Press this button to view Sounds Mode, where you can browse MPC Key 61's built-in instruments and
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view Favorites, where you can quickly select instruments and presets that you have defined as your favorites.
27. **Pads**: Use these pads to trigger drum hits or other samples. The pads are velocity-sensitive and pressure-sensitive, which makes them very responsive and intuitive to play. The pads will light up different colors, depending on the current function. You can also customize their colors.
28. **Pad Bank Buttons**: Press any of these buttons to access Pad Banks A–D. Press and hold **Shift** while pressing any of these buttons to access Pad Banks E–H. Alternatively, double- press one of these
29. **Full Level** / **Half Level**: Press this button to activate/deactivate Full Level. When activated, the pads will always trigger their samples at the maximum velocity (**127**), regardless of the amount of force you
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to activate/deactivate Half Level. When activated, the pads will always trigger their samples at half-velocity (**64**).
30. **16 Level** / **Notes**: Press this button to activate/deactivate 16 When activated, the last pad that was hit will be temporarily copied to all 16 pads. The pads will play the same sample as the original pad, but a selectable parameter will increase in value with each pad number, regardless of the amount of force you use.
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to activate/deactivate Notes mode for the pads. When activated, you can play musical scales/modes, chords or progressions using the pads while in any mode. Use the Pad Perform window to configure the settings for the pads
31. **Erase**: As a Sequence is playing, press and hold this button and then press a pad or key to delete the note event for that pad or key at the current playback This is a quick way to delete note events from your sequence without having to stop playback. When playback is stopped, press this button to open the Erase window where notes, automation and other sequence data can be erased from the sequence.
32. **Copy** / **Delete**: Press this button to copy one pad to another in Clip and Drum When the **From Pad** field is selected, press the "source" pad (the pad you want to copy). When the **To Pad** graphic (of all pads) is selected, press the "destination" pad. You can select multiple destination pads, and you can select pads in different pad banks. Tap **Do It** to continue or **Cancel** to return to the previous screen.
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to delete.
33. **Touch Strip:** The touch strip can be used as an expressive control for playing and can be configured to control Note Repeat, Pitch Bend, Modulation and
34. **Touch Strip** / **Config:** Press this button to cycle between control modes for the Touch Press and hold the button to quickly select one of the control modes.
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view the Touch Strip Configuration window
35. **Touch FX** / **Config:** Press this button to enable Touch FX control for the Touch This allows you to control parameters from the Touch FX plugin using the Touch Strip. Press and hold this button to quickly select a Touch FX preset. Alternatively, double press this button.
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to view the Touch FX Configuration window.
36. **Note Repeat** / **Latch**: Press and hold this button, and then press a pad to trigger that pad's sample The rate is based on the current tempo and Timing Correct settings.
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to "latch" the Note Repeat feature. When latched, you do not have to hold the Note Repeat button for it to be activated. Press **Note Repeat** once more to unlatch it.

37. **Tap Tempo** / **Global**: Press this button in time with the desired tempo to enter a new tempo (in BPM). Press and hold this button to adjust the tempo manually using the **data dial**.
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button to set whether the currently selected sequence follows its own tempo (the button will be lit **white**) or a global tempo (the button will be lit **red**).
38. **Metronome** / **Config:** Press this button to enable or disable the
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button, or press and hold this button, to open the Metronome Configuration window.
39. **Arp** / **Config:** Press this button to enable or disable the internal Arpeggiator, whose rate is based on the current Tempo and Time Division
    Press and hold **Shift** and press this button, or press and hold this button, to configure the Arpeggiator's settings.
40. **Latch:** Press this button to enable or disable latch for the Arpeggiator. When latched, you do not have to hold the keys for the arpeggiation to
41. **Oct –** / **Oct +:** Press these buttons to transpose the keyboard down or up one octave at a time. The lights below this button will indicate the current octave
    Press and hold **Shift** and press these buttons to transpose the keyboard down or up one semitone at a time.
    Press and hold both buttons and press a key on the keybed to set the transposition to that value.
    Press and hold both buttons and release to reset the transposition.
42. **Keybed:** Use this 61-key semi-weighted, velocity-sensitive keybed to input notes and aftertouch. See ***Appendix > Signal Flow*** for a full diagram of how MIDI is routed through MPC Key 61's different
43. **Pitch Wheel:** The pitch bend wheel is primarily used to bend the notes played on the keyboard up or down. This allows you to play phrases not normally associated with keyboard playing, such as guitar-style
44. **Modulation Wheel:** The modulation wheel is typically used to add variation for the sound you are playing. This type of real-time controller was originally introduced on electronic keyboard instruments to give the performer options such as adding vibrato, just like the players of acoustic instruments
45. **Main Volume**: Turn this knob to adjust the volume of the **outputs** and **phones output**.

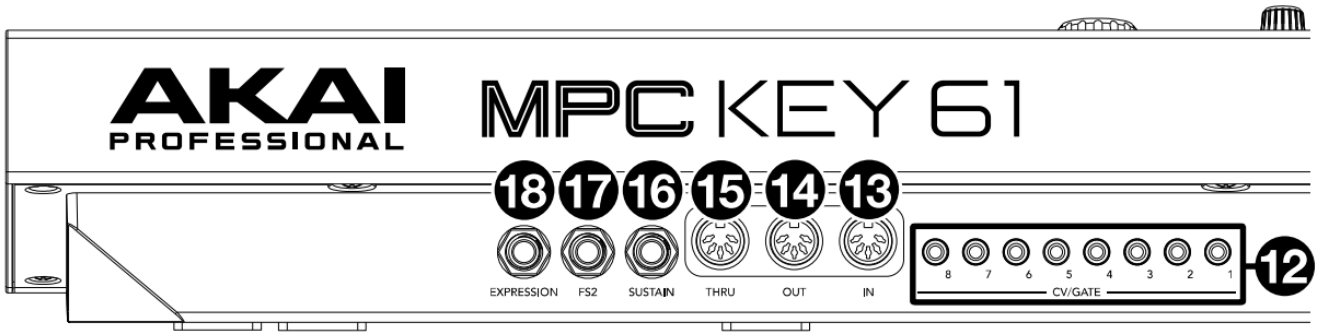
Rear Panel



1. **Power Input**: Use the included power adapter to connect MPC Key 61 to a power outlet.
2. **Power Switch**: Turns MPC Key 61's power on/off.
3. **Network**: Connect a standard Ethernet cable to this port to use Ableton Link and other compatible devices with MPC Key 61. Download the full *User Guide* for more information.

> **Note:** You can also use Ableton Link wirelessly over a Wi-Fi connection. Download the full User Guide for m ore information.

4. **USB-B Port**: Use the included USB cable to connect this high-retention-force USB port to an available USB port on your computer. This connection allows MPC Key 61 to send/receive MIDI and audio data to/from the MPC software on your computer.
5. **USB-A Ports**: Connect a USB flash drive to these USB ports to access its files directly using MPC Key 61. You can also connect any class-compliant MIDI device to these
6. **Phones** (1/4" / 6.35 mm): Connect standard stereo headphones to this
7. **Outputs** (1/4" / 6.35 mm): Use standard TRS cables to connect these outputs to your monitors, mixer, etc.). The **Main L/R** outputs are the same as **Outputs 1,2**.
8. **Gain:** Use these knobs to adjust the gain of the incoming signal from **Input 1/2** on the rear panel. Be careful when setting this knob at higher levels, as this can cause the signal to distort.
9. **Inputs 1/2** (XLR or 1/4" / 35 mm): Use standard XLR or TRS cables to connect these inputs to audio sources (microphone, mixer, synthesizer, etc.). When using a 1/4″ cable, the Mic preamp is removed from the circuit, and the **Inst/Line** switch can be used to set the impedance.
   Turn the **Gain** knobs to set the input level of each one.
10. **Inst/Line:** Use these switches to set **Inputs 1/2** to accept either a Line-level or Instrument- level sound source when using a 1/4″
11. **Phantom Power** (**+48V**): This switch activates and deactivates phantom power for **Inputs 1/2** when using an XLR connection. When activated, +48V of phantom power will be supplied to both inputs. Note that most dynamic microphones do **not** require phantom power, while most condenser microphones **do**. Refer to your microphone's documentation to check if it needs phantom



12. **CV/Gate Out** (1/8″ / 3.5 mm, TS): MPC Key 61 will send control voltage (CV) and/or Gate signals over these outputs to optional external synths or Use standard 1/8" (3.5 mm) TS cables to send a single CV/Gate signal per output.
13. **MIDI In**: Use a standard 5-pin MIDI cable to connect these inputs to the MIDI output of an external MIDI device (additional MIDI keyboard, pad controller,).
14. **MIDI Out**: Use a standard 5-pin MIDI cable to connect these outputs to the MIDI input of an external MIDI device (synthesizer, drum machine,).
15. **MIDI Thru**: Use a standard 5-pin MIDI cable to connect this thru-port to the MIDI input of an external MIDI device (synthesizer, drum machine,). MIDI from the **MIDI In** will be sent through this output.
16. **Sustain** (1/4″ / 6.35 mm, TRS): This input accepts an optional momentary-contact foot pedal. When pressed, the pedal will sustain the sound you are playing without having to keep your fingers pressed down on the
17. **FS2** (1/4″ / 35 mm, TRS): Connect an optional 1/4″ (6.35 mm) TRS footswitch or other foot pedal to this input.
18. **Expression** (1/4″ / 6.35 mm, TRS): Connect an optional expression pedal to this input for adding expressive changes during performances.

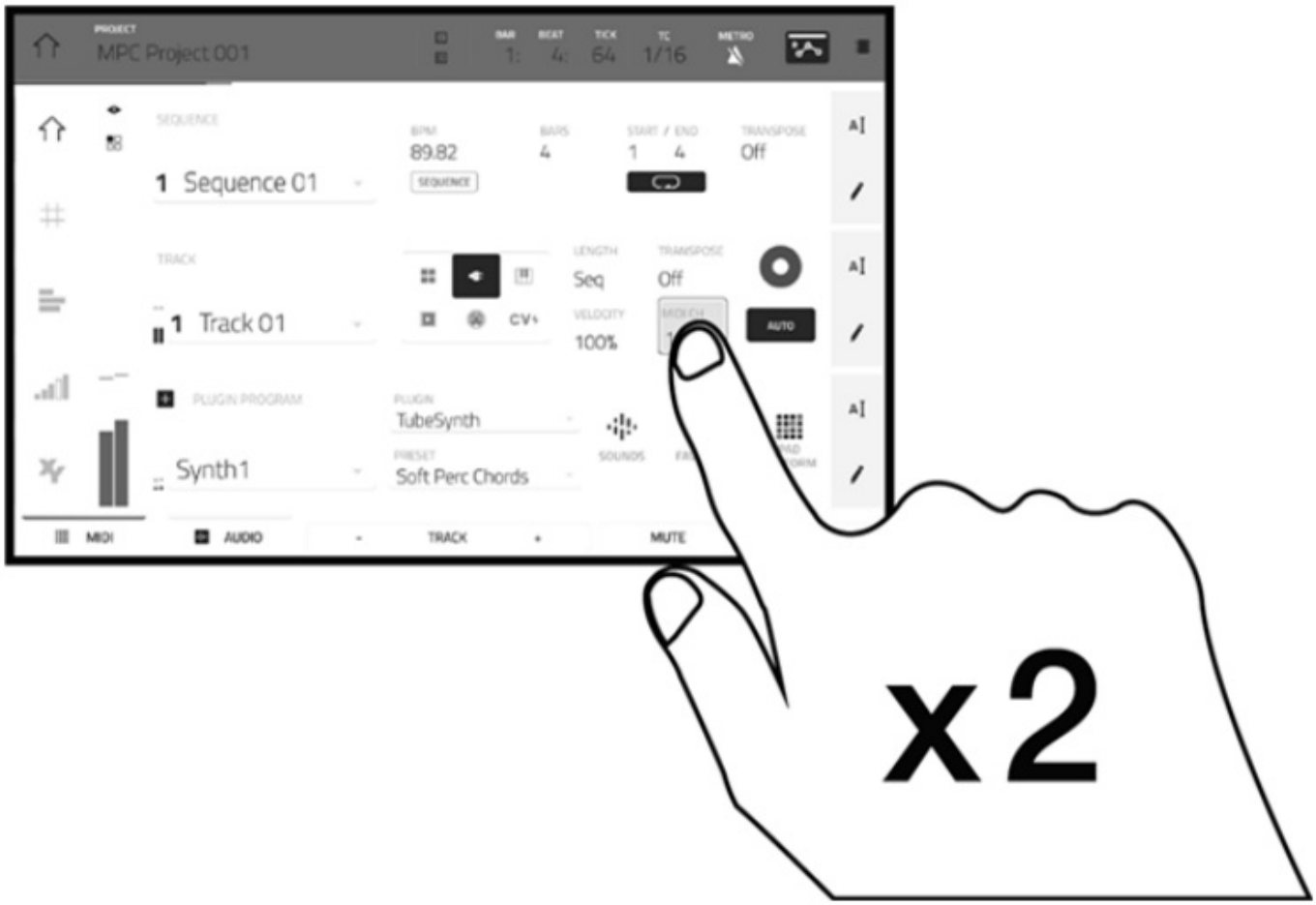
Operation

Using the Display

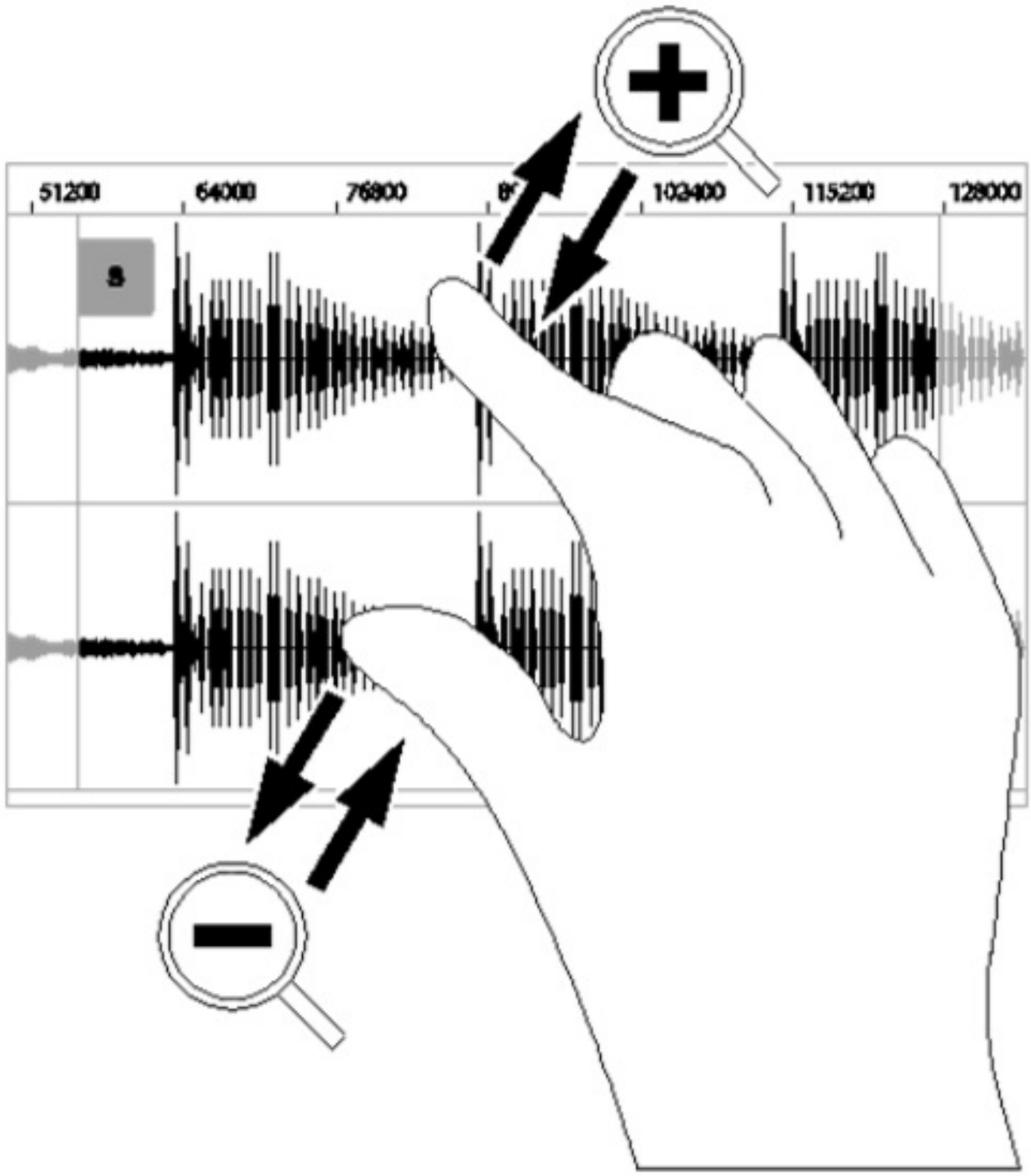
Here is some general information about how to use the MPC Key 61 **display:**

Tap a button or option to select it. Use the **data dial** or **–/+** buttons to change its setting or value

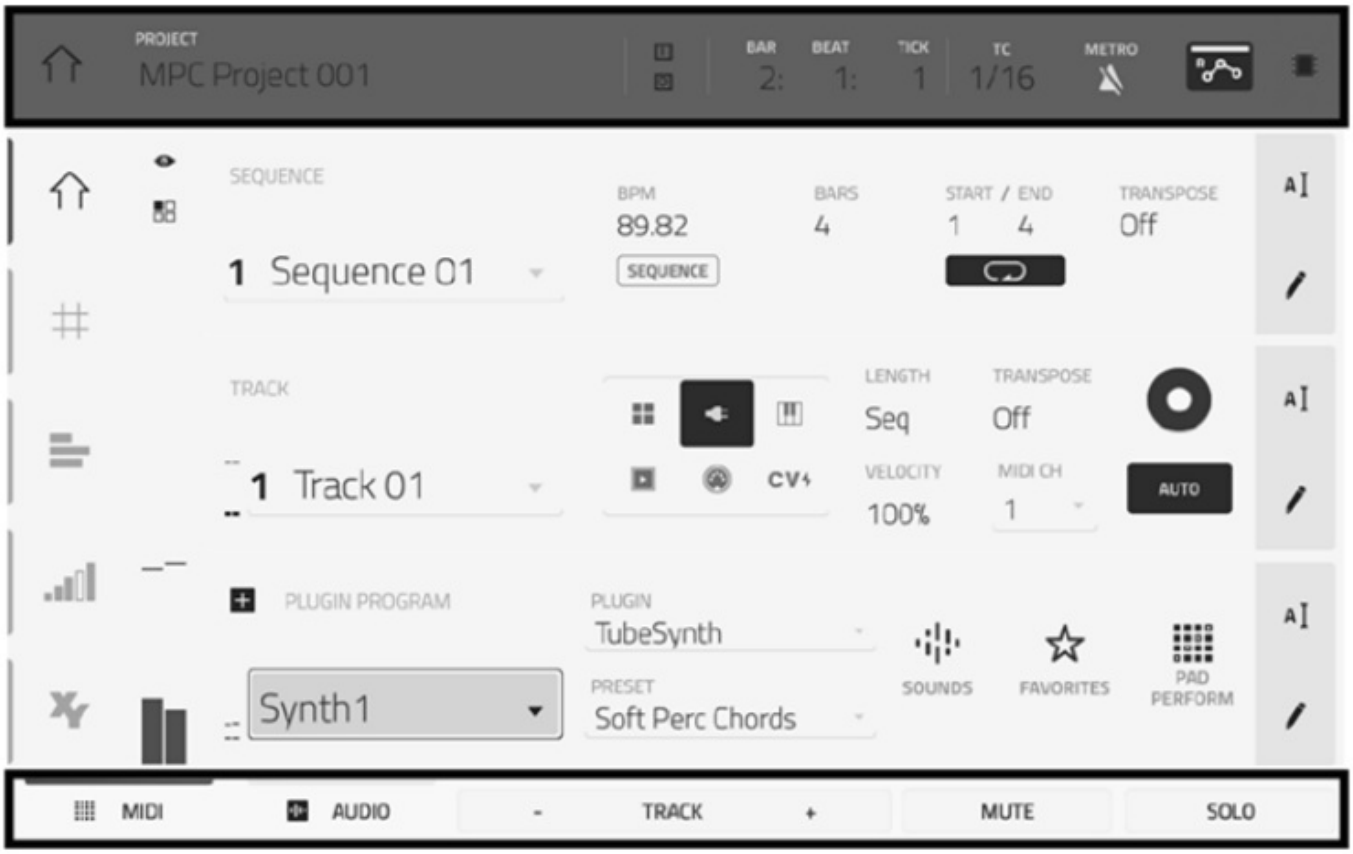
Double-tap a button to access advanced editing options. In some cases, this will show a numeric keypad that you can use to enter a value (an alternative to the **data dial** or **–/+** buttons). Tap the upper-left part of the display to return to the previous view.



Spread two fingers to zoom in (into a section of a waveform, for example). Pinch two fingers to zoom out.



The upper edge of the display shows the toolbar, which contains information about the current view (often the name of the current track, sequence, audio pointer position, etc.). Tap an item to select it.
The lower edge of the display shows various buttons that you can use in the current view. Tap a button to press it.
To return to a previous view, either tap outside of the window currently in the display or tap the left arrow (Ù) in the upper-left part of the display.



Selecting Sounds

To get started with MPC Key 61's array of built-in instruments:

1. When MPC Key 61 is first powered on, press the **Empty Project** button on the Demo Screen to create a new project. Tracks 1–8 will automatically be populated with Plugin Programs in this new project.
2. Press the **Sounds** button to open the Instruments menu. Alternatively, tap the **Sounds** icon when viewing the **Main** Mode on the
3. On the Instruments page, you will see a list of the available plugins for MPC Key Tap the plugin name to open the preset categories for the selected plugin, and then tap the category name to view the presets in that category.
   To move back to the previous page, tap the **ß icon** in the upper-left corner of the touchscreen.
4. Tap the preset name to load it to the track. You can also use the arrows at the bottom of the display to move to the previous or next

To return to the Instruments home page, tap the X icon in the upper-left corner of the touchscreen.

To return to Main Mode, press the Main button.

Editing Sounds

To edit a selected plugin preset:

1. From the Instruments page, tap the **Edit Instrument** button at the bottom of the display to switch to **Program Edit Mode**, where you will see a graphical representation of the plugin interface. Alternatively, you can press

the **Edit** button on the MPC Key 61 hardware at any time.

2. Use the tabs at the bottom of the screen to view different pages of parameters for each plugin.
3. Plugin parameters can be edited directly from the touchscreen, or you can use the **Q-Link** knobs to adjust the highlighted parameters. Tap the **Q-Link** button on the MPC Key 61 hardware to change which column of parameters the **Q-Link Knobs** currently

To enable automation for recording parameter adjustments, tap the **automation** icon in the upper-right corner of the touchscreen. Alternatively, press the **Automation Read/Write** button on the MPC Key 61 hardware to toggle between the modes. When automation **write** is enabled, you can adjust parameters while you are recording or playing back for an expressive performance that can be saved and replayed. Set the automation state to **read** to play back your adjustments.

To save your edited plugin preset, tap the **save disk** icon at the top of the display. To load a saved plugin preset, tap the **folder icon** at the top of the display.

Technical Specifications

Keys	61 semi-weighted keys with aftertouch
Pads	(16) velocity- and pressure-sensitive pads, RGB-backlit (8) banks accessible via Pad Bank buttons
Knobs	(4) 360° touch-sensitive Q-Link Knobs (4) Q-Link Knob columns accessible via Q-Link button (1) 360° encoder for display navigation and selection via push
Buttons	(44) dedicated function buttons; white-, red-, or green-backlit
Touch Strip	(1) Multi-function, touch-capacitive control strip 0.8” x 4.4” / 20 x 113 mm (width x heigh t)
Display	7” / 177 mm (diagonal) Full-color LED-backlit display with touch interface
CPU	**Processor**: Quad-core ARM® processor **RAM**: 4 GB **Storage**: 32 GB, expandable via SATA connections

Connections	(2) 1/4” (6.35 mm) Combo XLR/TRS inputs (1 stereo pair) (1) 1/4” (6.35 mm) TRS sustain pedal input (TS compatible) (1) 1/4” (6.35 mm) TRS footswitch pedal input (TS compatible) (1) 1/4” (6.35 mm) TRS expression pedal input (TS compatible) (4) 1/4” (6.35 mm) TRS outputs (2 stereo pairs) (1) 1/4” (6.35 mm) stereo headphone output (8) 1/8″ (3.5 mm) TS mono CV/Gate outputs (1) 5-pin MIDI inputs (1) 5-pin MIDI outputs (1) 5-pin MIDI thru-port (1) Ethernet link port (2) USB Type-A ports (1) USB Type-B port (1) IEC power input
Power	100 V – 240 V AC, 50/60 Hz, 65 W
Dimensions (width x depth x height)	38.8” x 12.3” x 3.8” 986 x 313 x 96.7 mm
Weight	17.9 lbs. 8.1 kg

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

Signal Flow

Audio

Fig. 1: STEREO KEYGROUP VOICE x 128

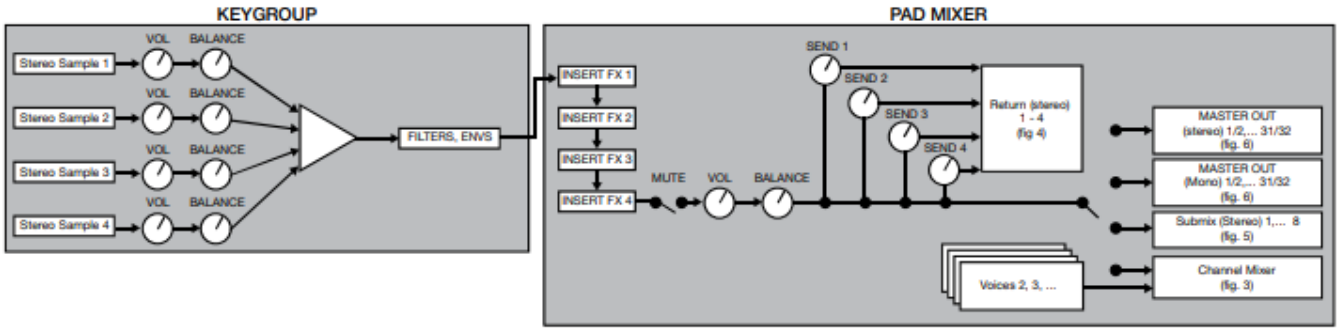


Fig. 2: STEREO DRUM VOICE x 128 PADS

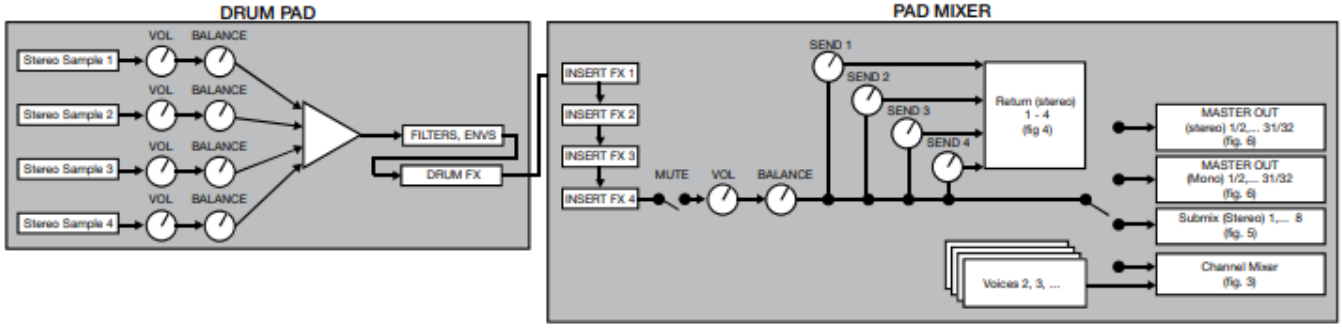


Fig. 3: CHANNEL MIXER (Programs)

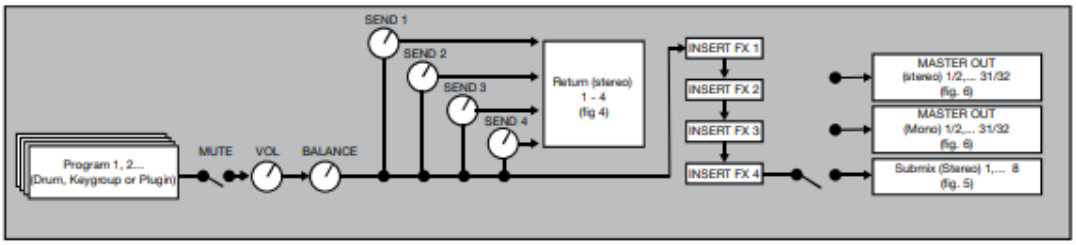


Fig. 4: RETURNS (Stereo)

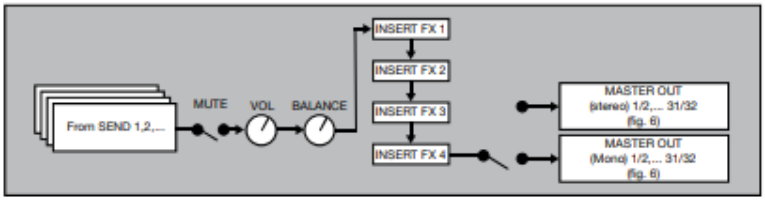


Fig. 5: SUBMIXES (Stereo)

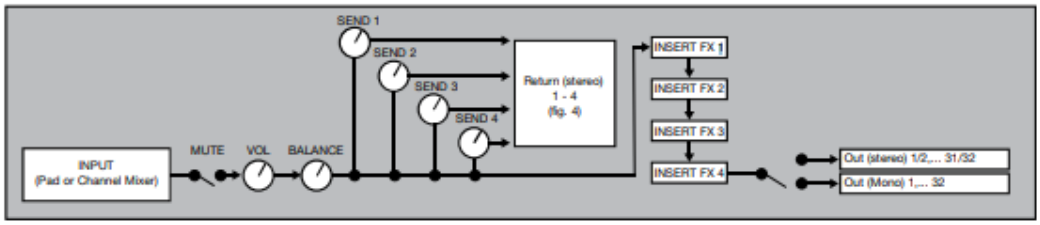


Fig. 6: MASTER OUTS (Mono and Stereo)

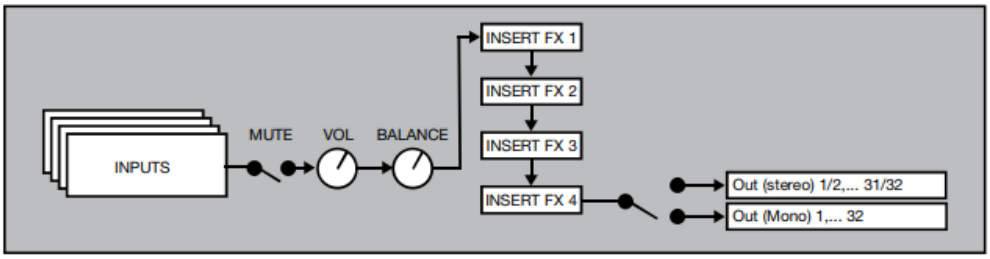


Fig. 7: AUDIO CHANNEL (Stereo)

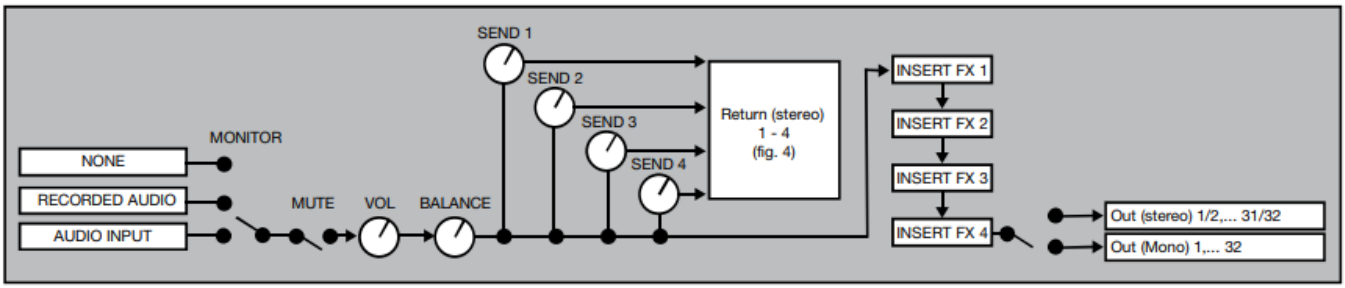
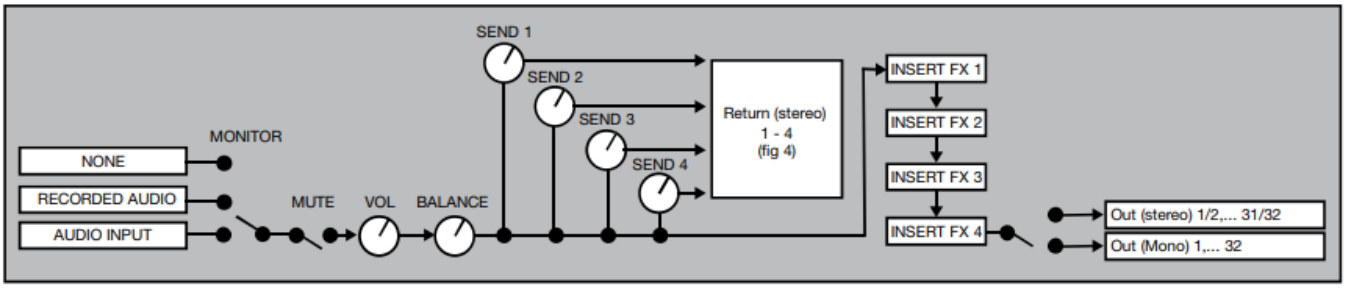
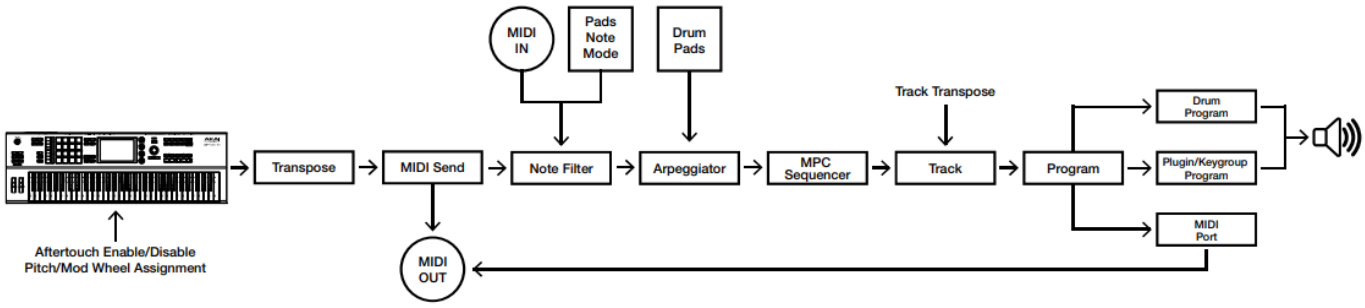


Fig. 8: SAMPLER / LOOPER (Stereo)



MIDI



Trademarks & Licenses

Documents / Resources

	AKAI 541332 MPC Key 61 Standalone Synthesizer Keyboard [pdf] User Guide 541332, MPC Key 61 Standalone Synthesizer Keyboard, 541332 MPC Key 61 Standalone Synthesizer Keyboard

References

- Music Production Hardware & Software | Akai Pro
- Legal
- Support : Akai Professional