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Alesis Trigger I/O

Alesis Trigger I/O User Manual

Model: Trigger I/O

Introduction

The Alesis Trigger I/O is an advanced electronic percussion interface designed to seamlessly connect your electronic drum pads or acoustic drum triggers to MIDI-compatible sound modules and computer software. This device converts the physical input from your percussion performance into MIDI note messages, allowing you to control a vast array of sounds from synthesizers, drum modules, or digital audio workstations (DAWs) on your computer. With both MIDI Out and USB connectivity, the Trigger I/O offers versatile integration into any studio or live setup. It comes bundled with FXPansion's BFD Lite, a professional software drum module featuring high-quality acoustic and electronic drum kit libraries, enabling immediate use and creative exploration.

Key Features

- **10 TRS Trigger Inputs:** Supports both single and dual-zone trigger inputs, compatible with various manufacturer pad triggers, including Alesis, Roland, and Yamaha.
- **20 Programmable Presets:** Allows for storing and recalling various setup configurations, optimizing workflow for different performances or instruments.
- **Bundled Software:** Includes FXPansion's BFD Lite software drum module for Mac and PC, offering professional-quality acoustic and electronic drums in standalone, VST, AU, and DXi plug-in formats.
- **Customizable Trigger Settings:** Provides extensive control over parameters such as Gain, Assignment of MIDI Channels, Note Numbers, Crosstalk, Velocity Curve, Threshold, Re-trigger Time, and Pad Type for precise response.

Setup Guide

Follow these steps to set up your Alesis Trigger I/O for optimal performance.

1. Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove all components from the packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage during transit. Ensure all listed accessories are present.

2. Connecting the Trigger I/O

The Trigger I/O offers flexible connectivity options for various setups.



Figure 1: Rear panel of the Alesis Trigger I/O, displaying the 10 TRS trigger inputs, USB port, MIDI OUT, and power input.

1. **Power Connection:** Connect the included 9VAC/500mA power adapter to the "POWER" input on the rear panel of the Trigger I/O. Plug the adapter into a suitable power outlet.
2. **Trigger Inputs:** Connect your electronic drum pads or acoustic drum triggers to the 10 TRS (Tip/Ring/Sleeve) inputs labeled 1-10 on the rear panel. Ensure secure connections for reliable triggering.
3. **USB Connection (for Computer):** For computer-based setups, connect a standard USB cable from the Trigger I/O's USB port to an available USB port on your Mac or PC. This connection provides both data transfer and power (if not using the AC adapter).
4. **MIDI Out Connection (for Hardware Modules):** If connecting to an external MIDI sound module or synthesizer, use a standard 5-pin MIDI cable to connect the Trigger I/O's "MIDI OUT" port to the MIDI IN port of your hardware device.

3. Software Installation (BFD Lite)

If you plan to use the bundled FXPansion BFD Lite software, install it on your computer according to the instructions provided with the software. Ensure your computer meets the minimum system requirements for BFD Lite.

Operating Instructions

Understanding the front panel controls and settings is key to customizing your Trigger I/O experience.



Figure 2: Front panel of the Alesis Trigger I/O, featuring the LED display, Value buttons, Function button, and Kit/Pad Setup indicators.

Front Panel Controls

- **VALUE Buttons (Up/Down):** Used to adjust parameter values displayed on the LED screen.
- **FUNCTION Button:** Cycles through different editable parameters within the selected mode (Kit or Pad Setup).
- **KIT/PAD SETUP Indicators:** LEDs indicate whether you are in Kit editing mode or Pad Setup editing mode.
- **LED Display:** Shows the current parameter and its value.
- **ACTIVITY Indicator:** Lights up when a trigger input is detected.
- **TRIG B Indicator:** Lights up when the 'B' zone of a dual-zone pad is triggered.

Navigating Settings

The Trigger I/O allows for detailed customization of each trigger input. You can adjust settings globally (Kit mode) or for individual pads (Pad Setup mode).

1. **Selecting a Mode:** Press the FUNCTION button repeatedly to toggle between Kit and Pad Setup modes. The corresponding LED will illuminate.
2. **Kit Mode Parameters:** In Kit mode, you can adjust global settings such as Program Change Message, Pad MIDI Note Number (default for new pads), and Pad MIDI Channel. Use the VALUE buttons to change values.
3. **Pad Setup Mode Parameters:** In Pad Setup mode, you can select an individual pad (1-10) using the VALUE buttons, then press FUNCTION to cycle through its specific parameters:
    - **GAIN:** Adjusts the sensitivity of the trigger input. Higher gain makes the pad more sensitive.
    - **VELOCITY CURVE:** Determines how the playing dynamics (soft to hard hits) translate into MIDI velocity values. Different curves can be selected to match your playing style.
    - **THRESHOLD:** Sets the minimum input level required for a trigger to register. Useful for preventing false triggers.
    - **X-TALK (Crosstalk):** Reduces unwanted triggering from vibrations on adjacent pads.
    - **RETRIGGER TIME:** Sets the minimum time between consecutive triggers from the same pad, preventing double-triggering.
    - **TRIGGER TYPE:** Configures the input for single-zone, dual-zone, or switch-type triggers (e.g., hi-hat pedal).
4. **Saving Presets:** The Trigger I/O features 20 programmable presets. Refer to the full manual for detailed instructions on saving and recalling your custom configurations.

Maintenance

Proper care and maintenance will ensure the longevity and reliable operation of your Alesis Trigger I/O.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as they may damage the finish.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the Trigger I/O in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts. Do not place heavy objects on top of the Trigger I/O.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure the unit has adequate ventilation to prevent overheating. Do not block any ventilation openings.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Alesis Trigger I/O, consult the following common problems and solutions before contacting support.

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No MIDI output or sound from module/software.	• Ensure the Trigger I/O is powered on and connected correctly (USB or MIDI). • Verify that the MIDI channel settings on the Trigger I/O match those of your receiving device/software. • Check the audio output of your sound module or computer. • Confirm that the correct drivers are installed for USB connection (if applicable).
Pad is not triggering or is inconsistent.	• Check the physical connection of the pad to the Trigger I/O input. • Adjust the **GAIN** setting for that specific pad in Pad Setup mode. Increase it if the pad is not sensitive enough. • Adjust the **THRESHOLD** setting. If it's too high, soft hits may not register. • Ensure the **TRIGGER TYPE** setting matches your pad (single-zone, dual-zone, switch).
Double-triggering or false triggers.	• Increase the **RETRIGGER TIME** setting for the affected pad to prevent rapid, unintended re-triggering. • Adjust the **THRESHOLD** setting. A slightly higher threshold can filter out unwanted vibrations. • Adjust the **X-TALK** (Crosstalk) setting to reduce interference from adjacent pads. • If using high-voltage triggers (e.g., +10V), consider using an attenuator to reduce the input level, as excessively hot signals can cause erratic behavior.
Incorrect MIDI notes or velocity response.	• Verify the **PAD MIDI NOTE NUMBER** setting for the pad in Kit or Pad Setup mode. • Experiment with different **VELOCITY CURVE** settings to find one that best translates your playing dynamics.

Specifications

Detailed technical specifications for the Alesis Trigger I/O.

Feature	Detail
Product Dimensions	21.59 x 12.7 x 4.45 cm (8.5 x 5 x 1.75 inches)
Item Model Number	Trigger I/O
Body Material	Wood (as per product data, typically metal/plastic for such devices, but using provided data)
Compatible Devices	Personal Computer, Electronic Drum Pads, Acoustic Drum Triggers, MIDI Sound Modules
Hardware Interface	USB, MIDI (5-pin DIN)

Feature	Detail
Operating System Compatibility	Mac (and PC for BFD Lite)
Item Weight	590 g (1.3 lbs)
Manufacturer	Alesis
Date First Available	7 August 2012
Generic Name	MIDI Interfaces

Warranty Information

Alesis products typically come with a limited manufacturer's warranty. For specific details regarding the warranty period, coverage, and terms and conditions for your Alesis Trigger I/O, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Alesis website. Retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Customer Support

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries regarding your Alesis Trigger I/O, please contact Alesis customer support. You can usually find contact information, FAQs, and additional resources on the official Alesis website (www.alesis.com). Ensure you have your product model number and serial number ready when contacting support.

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