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Akai Professional MPC5000

Akai MPC5000 Music Production Center User Manual

Model: MPC5000

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1. Introduction

The Akai MPC5000 Music Production Center is a comprehensive standalone workstation designed for beat production, sampling, sequencing, and synthesis. It integrates a powerful hardware platform with a versatile software environment, offering a complete solution for music creation.

Key features include an 8-track streaming hard disk recorder, a 20-voice, 3-oscillator virtual analog synthesizer with arpeggiator, and a 64-voice drum/phrase sampler. The MPC5000 also boasts a new sequencing engine with 960 ppq resolution, advanced pad and track muting/mixing capabilities, and a robust FX engine with 4 buses and 2 effects per bus. Its large display provides clear waveform visualization and detailed parameter editing.



Figure 1.1: Front view of the Akai MPC5000 Music Production Center, showing the main pads, Q-link controls, and display.

2. Setup

2.1 Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the MPC5000 from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage that may have occurred during transit. Retain all packaging materials for future transport or storage.

2.2 Power Connection

1. Ensure the MPC5000's power switch is in the OFF position.
2. Connect the included power cable to the AC IN port on the rear panel of the unit.
3. Plug the other end of the power cable into a standard AC power outlet.

2.3 Audio Connections

The MPC5000 offers various audio input and output options:

- **Stereo Output:** Connect the STEREO OUT (L/R) jacks to your mixer, audio interface, or monitoring system.
- **Assignable Mix Outputs:** Use the ASSIGNABLE MIX OUT jacks for routing individual tracks or programs to external effects or a multi-channel mixer.
- **Record Input:** Connect external audio sources (e.g., microphones, instruments) to the RECORD IN (L/R) jacks for sampling.
- **Phono Input:** A dedicated PHONO IN with a turntable preamp is included for direct connection of turntables.

2.4 MIDI and USB Connections

- **MIDI:** Connect MIDI devices (keyboards, sound modules) to the MIDI IN and MIDI OUT ports for external control or synchronization.

- **USB:** Use the USB Type B port to connect the MPC5000 to a computer for data transfer (e.g., samples, sequences) or for use as a MIDI interface.



Figure 2.1: Rear panel of the Akai MPC5000, showing power input, USB, MIDI, and various audio input/output connections.

2.5 Optional CD/DVD Drive and Memory Expansion

The MPC5000 supports an optional internal CD/DVD drive for burning audio or data CDs. Memory can be expanded up to 192MB RAM for increased sampling time and performance.



Figure 2.2: Side view of the Akai MPC5000, illustrating the optional CD/DVD drive bay and the Compact Flash card slot for data storage.

3. Operating Instructions

3.1 Powering On and Initializing

After connecting all necessary cables, press the POWER ON switch located on the rear panel. The unit will display an initialization screen as the operating system loads.



Figure 3.1: The MPC5000 display during system initialization, showing the Akai Professional logo and system version.

3.2 User Interface Overview

The MPC5000 features a large LCD display, 16 velocity-sensitive pads, Q-Link knobs, and various navigation and function buttons.

- **Pads:** Used for triggering samples, notes, and sequences.
- **Q-Link Knobs:** Assignable rotary encoders for real-time control of parameters such as filter cutoff, resonance, and effects.
- **Display:** Provides visual feedback for all operations, including waveform editing, sequencing, and mixer settings.
- **Navigation Buttons:** Cursor keys and a data wheel allow for menu navigation and parameter adjustment.



Figure 3.2: Close-up of the MPC5000's main control section, featuring the data wheel, cursor buttons, and various function keys.



Figure 3.3: Detail of the MPC5000's Q-Link knobs, which provide assignable real-time control over various parameters.

3.3 Core Functionalities

- **Sampling:** Record audio through the inputs, then chop, edit, and assign samples to pads. Chop Shop 2.0 supports stereo chops and Patched Phrases.

- **Sequencing:** Create patterns and songs using the 960 ppq resolution sequencer. Features include 64 continuous sample tracks, pad and track muting, and mixing.
- **Virtual Analog Synthesizer:** Utilize the built-in 3-oscillator, 20-voice virtual analog synth with arpeggiator. Over 300 presets are included.
- **Effects:** Apply over 40 different effects using the modular 4-bus effects processor, with 2 effects available per bus.
- **8-Track Hard Disk Recording:** Record audio directly to the internal hard drive, allowing for full song production and mixing within the unit.
- **Sample Playback Modes:** Supports Random and Cycle sample playback in addition to velocity zone play.

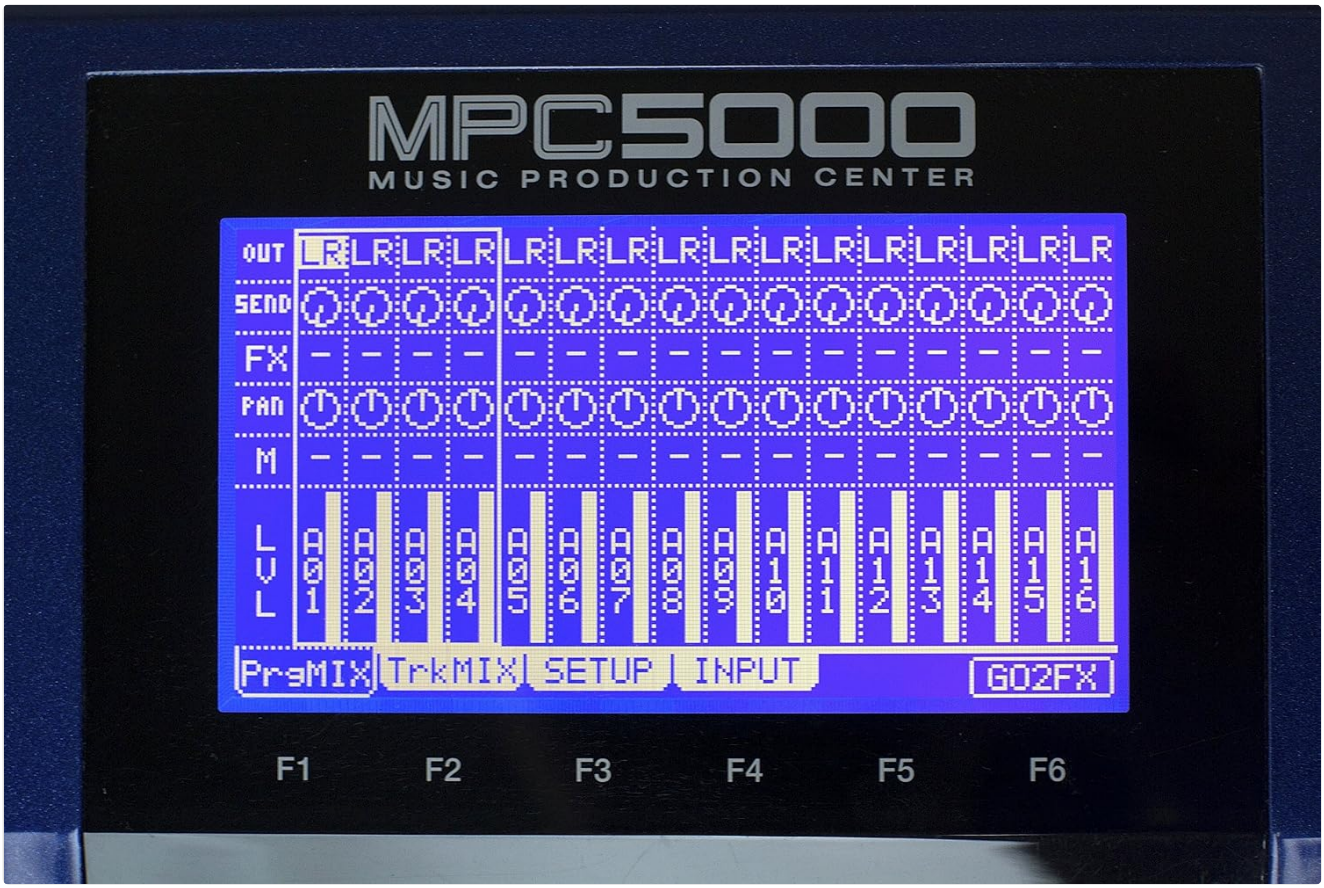


Figure 3.4: The MPC5000's display illustrating the mixer and routing interface, allowing for detailed control over audio paths and levels.

4. Maintenance

4.1 Cleaning

To maintain the appearance and functionality of your MPC5000, regularly clean the unit. Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the exterior. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth with mild soap can be used, followed by a dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or harsh chemicals, as these can damage the finish and components.

4.2 Software Updates

Periodically check the Akai Professional website for official firmware and operating system updates. Keeping your MPC5000's software up-to-date can improve performance, add new features, and resolve known issues. Follow the instructions provided with the update package carefully.

4.3 Storage

When not in use for extended periods, store the MPC5000 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and

extreme temperatures. It is recommended to use the original packaging or a dedicated protective case to prevent dust accumulation and physical damage.

5. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Akai MPC5000.

5.1 Unit Does Not Power On

- **Check Power Cable:** Ensure the power cable is securely connected to both the MPC5000's AC IN port and a working power outlet.
- **Power Switch:** Verify that the POWER ON switch on the rear panel is in the ON position.
- **Outlet Functionality:** Test the power outlet with another device to confirm it is supplying power.

5.2 Display Issues (e.g., Blank Screen, Fading)

- **Contrast/Brightness:** Check the display contrast and brightness settings, if available, in the system menu.
- **Power Cycle:** Turn the unit off, wait a few seconds, and then turn it back on.
- **Environmental Factors:** Ensure the unit is not exposed to extreme temperatures or direct sunlight, which can affect LCD performance.

5.3 Audio Output Problems

- **Cable Connections:** Verify all audio cables are correctly and securely connected to the appropriate output jacks on the MPC5000 and input jacks on your mixer/interface.
- **Volume Levels:** Check the master volume on the MPC5000 and the input levels on your receiving device.
- **Mixer Settings:** Ensure tracks and programs are routed correctly within the MPC5000's internal mixer and that their levels are not muted or set too low.

5.4 System Instability or Freezing

- **Firmware Update:** Ensure your MPC5000 is running the latest official firmware. Outdated or buggy firmware can cause instability.
- **Reset:** If the unit freezes, power cycle it. For persistent issues, a factory reset might be necessary (consult the full manual for instructions, as this will erase user data).
- **Memory:** If you have expanded RAM, ensure it is correctly installed and compatible.

6. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	MPC5000
Dimensions (W x D x H)	18 x 16-1/16 x 3-3/8 inches (approx. 45.7 x 40.8 x 8.6 cm)
Weight	18.2 pounds (approx. 8.26 kg)
RAM Size	64MB built-in, expandable up to 192MB
Digital Audio Capacity	80GB (internal hard drive)

Feature	Detail
Synth Engine	3-oscillator virtual analog, 20-voice polyphony, with arpeggiator
Sampler	64-voice drum/phrase sampler, Chop Shop 2.0, Random/Cycle playback
Effects	Modular 4-bus effects processor, over 40 effects
Sequencer Resolution	960 ppq (parts per quarter note)
Recording	8-track streaming hard disk recording
Connectivity	USB Type B, MIDI In/Out (x2), Audio In (L/R), Stereo Out (L/R), Assignable Mix Out (x8), Phono In (L/R) with preamp
Optional Features	CD/DVD drive
Display	Large LCD (twice the size of MPC2500/1000)

7. Support and Warranty

7.1 Technical Support

For technical assistance, troubleshooting beyond this manual, or inquiries regarding parts and service, please contact Akai Professional customer support. Visit the official Akai Professional website for contact information, FAQs, and additional resources.

7.2 Product Warranty

Information regarding the warranty period and terms for your Akai MPC5000 can typically be found in the warranty card included with your product or on the official Akai Professional website. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

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