M-Audio Axiom Pro 61

M-Audio Axiom Pro 61 Advanced 61-Key USB MIDI Controller User Manual

Model: Axiom Pro 61

Introduction

The M-Audio Axiom Pro 61 is an advanced 61-key USB MIDI controller designed to provide comprehensive control over your digital audio workstation (DAW) and software instruments. It features premium TruTouch action keys and proprietary HyperControl MIDI mapping technology, ensuring seamless integration and real-time synchronization with your software's active parameters. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Axiom Pro 61.



Figure 1: M-Audio Axiom Pro 61 Advanced 61-Key USB MIDI Controller. This image displays the full view of the white 61-key MIDI controller, highlighting its keyboard, control surface with knobs, sliders, and pads, and the central LCD display.

Setup

Follow these steps to set up your M-Audio Axiom Pro 61:

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the Axiom Pro 61 from its packaging. Verify that all components listed in the "What's in the Box" section are present.
2. **Software Installation:** Insert the Axiom Pro Installation CD-ROM and Software Bundle Disc into your computer's drive. Follow the on-screen instructions to install necessary drivers and bundled software. Ensure your operating system is compatible.
3. **USB Connection:** Connect one end of the provided USB cable to the USB port on the Axiom Pro 61 and the other end to an available USB port on your computer. The unit can be powered via USB.
4. **External MIDI Devices (Optional):** If connecting external MIDI devices, use standard MIDI cables to connect the MIDI Out port of the Axiom Pro 61 to the MIDI In port of your external device, and vice-versa for MIDI In.
5. **Pedal Jacks (Optional):** Connect sustain or expression pedals to the dual assignable pedal jacks on the Axiom Pro 61 for additional control.
6. **Power On:** Once connected, the Axiom Pro 61 should power on automatically via USB. The graphic LCD will illuminate.
7. **DAW Configuration:** Open your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software (e.g., Pro Tools, Cubase, Logic, Reason). Refer to your DAW's manual for instructions on configuring MIDI controllers and enabling HyperControl technology.

Operating Instructions

The Axiom Pro 61 offers extensive control capabilities. Familiarize yourself with its features for optimal performance.

HyperControl Technology

HyperControl automatically maps the keyboard's 65 controls to commonly accessed parameters in supported DAWs and software instruments. This technology ensures a constant two-way link, keeping the keyboard's controls synchronized with your software's active parameters. The intuitive graphic LCD updates in real-time, preventing parameter jumps.

- **Mixer/Instrument Modes:** Toggle instantly between Mixer and Instrument control modes using the dedicated button.
- **Softkeys:** The graphic LCD's four dedicated softkeys update continually to reflect mapped parameters, grouping similar controls for easy access.
- **Track Navigation:** Use dedicated Track buttons to sequentially navigate your mixer and instantly map software instruments within the selected track.

DAW Transport and Track Navigation

The six dedicated transport buttons provide immediate hands-on access to your host DAW's playback and recording controls (Play, Stop, Record, Fast Forward, Rewind, Loop). A transport-only mode allows you to access DAW transports and track navigation via HyperControl while creating custom MIDI assignments for other controls.

Expressive Playability

The Axiom Pro 61 features an M-Audio TruTouch keybed with professional semi-weighted action and advanced high-speed keybed scanning technology for an ultra-expressive playing experience. Assignable aftertouch provides an additional layer of expression and control.

Complete MIDI Control

The Axiom Pro 61 boasts 65 MIDI-assignable controls:

- **Trigger Pads:** Eight velocity-sensitive trigger pads, integrating M-Audio Trigger Finger technology, are ideal for laying down rhythm tracks or triggering loops and samples.
- **Rotary Encoders:** Eight rotary encoder knobs allow for smooth control of parameters such as filters, EQ, and panning.
- **Sliders:** Nine 40mm sliders, each with its own fully assignable button, feature auto-mute to prevent jumping. These are excellent for controlling mixes or virtual organ drawbars.
- **Buttons:** 12 fully assignable buttons in a keypad arrangement, along with a data/octave button.
- **Pitch Bend and Mod Wheels:** Standard pitch bend and modulation wheels for expressive performance.
- **Aftertouch:** Assignable aftertouch for added control.
- **Pedal Jacks:** Dual assignable pedal jacks for connecting external pedals.

ASCII Messages for DAW Keyboard Shortcuts

Any button on the Axiom Pro 61 can be assigned to send ASCII messages, allowing you to trigger QWERTY keyboard shortcuts within your host DAW. This enables control over functions like Copy, Paste, Duplicate, or New Track directly from the controller.

Memory Locations

The Axiom Pro 61 includes 50 memory locations, each with four quick-access profiles of controller assignments. This allows for easy creation and management of an extensive library of presets.

Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your M-Audio Axiom Pro 61, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the surface of the controller. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth with mild soap can be used, but ensure no liquid enters the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Dust Protection:** When not in use, cover the Axiom Pro 61 with a dust cover to prevent dust and debris from accumulating on the keys, sliders, and knobs.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity.
- **Handling:** Handle the controller with care. Avoid dropping it or subjecting it to strong impacts. When transporting, use a padded case.
- **Cable Management:** Ensure USB and MIDI cables are not kinked or strained. Disconnect cables by pulling the plug, not the cable itself.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Axiom Pro 61, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No Power / Unit Not Responding	• Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the Axiom Pro 61 and your computer. • Try a different USB port on your computer. • If using a USB hub, ensure it is powered and functioning correctly. • Check if the computer is providing sufficient power via USB.

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No Sound / MIDI Data Not Transmitting	• Verify that the Axiom Pro 61 is recognized by your DAW's MIDI settings. • Ensure the correct MIDI input is selected for your tracks in the DAW. • Check that software instruments are loaded and active. • Confirm that the volume levels in your DAW and on your audio interface are adequate.
HyperControl Not Working	• Ensure you have installed the latest drivers and HyperControl software for your operating system and DAW. • Verify that HyperControl is enabled and configured correctly within your DAW's preferences. • Check for any firmware updates for the Axiom Pro 61 on the M-Audio website. • Some older or 64-bit versions of DAWs might have limited HyperControl support; consult M-Audio's support resources.
Sticky Keys / Controls	• Dust or debris might be interfering with the mechanism. Try cleaning around the affected area with compressed air. • Avoid spilling liquids on the unit. • If the issue persists, professional servicing may be required.
Parameter Jumps on Controls	• Ensure the auto-mute feature on sliders is functioning as expected. • This can sometimes indicate a software synchronization issue; restart your DAW and the Axiom Pro 61.

If these steps do not resolve your issue, please refer to the M-Audio support website or contact customer service.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	Axiom Pro 61
Keys	61-Note TruTouch, semi-weighted piano style professional action keybed
Controls	65 MIDI assignable controls total (8 velocity-sensitive trigger pads, 8 rotary encoders, 9 x 40mm sliders with assignable buttons, 12 assignable buttons, pitch bend and mod wheels, assignable aftertouch, dual assignable pedal jacks)
Connectivity	USB, MIDI In, MIDI Out
Power	USB Bus Powered
Dimensions (L x W x H)	38.4 x 11.2 x 2.6 inches (97.5 x 28.4 x 6.6 cm)
Weight	18 pounds (8.16 kg)
Compatible Devices	PC
Supported Software (Examples)	Avid Pro Tools, Cubase, Logic, Reason (HyperControl support varies by DAW version)
Memory Locations	50 onboard memory locations, each with four quick-access profiles

Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official M-Audio website. M-Audio provides technical support and resources for their products.

- **Online Support:** Visit the M-Audio support page for FAQs, driver downloads, and troubleshooting guides.
- **Contact Support:** Contact M-Audio customer service for further assistance. Contact details can typically be found on their official website.
- **Product Registration:** Register your product online to receive updates and support.

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Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

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