M-AUDIO Axiom 25

M-Audio Axiom 25 25-Key USB MIDI Keyboard Controller Instruction Manual

Model: Axiom 25

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The M-Audio Axiom 25 is a compact 25-key USB MIDI keyboard controller designed for music production and performance. It features a semi-weighted keybed, dynamic trigger pads, and an assignable control surface for comprehensive control over your music software and MIDI equipment.

Image: M-Audio Axiom 25 25-Key USB MIDI Keyboard Controller, top view.

Key Features:

- **25 Piano-Style Semi-Weighted Keys with Aftertouch:** Provides expressive playability.

- **8 Comfortable, Dynamic Trigger Pads:** Ideal for beat programming and sample triggering.
- **8 Knobs, 1 Slider, 9 Buttons:** Assignable controls for real-time manipulation of software parameters.
- **Direct Link Mode:** Offers automatic mapping to common Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) functions, including transport, mixer, track pan, and virtual instrument parameters.
- **Angled Top Panel with Backlit LCD:** Ensures easy viewing in various environments.

2. SETUP

2.1 Connecting the Controller

The M-Audio Axiom 25 is a USB-powered device. Connect the controller to your computer using a standard USB cable. The device will draw power directly from the USB connection.

2.2 Driver and Software Installation

For optimal performance and full functionality, it is recommended to install the latest drivers and any accompanying software. Please visit the official M-Audio website (www.m-audio.com) to download the most current drivers and any bundled software, such as Ignite Music Creation Software.

Follow the on-screen instructions provided by the installer. In some cases, your operating system may automatically install generic drivers, but manufacturer-specific drivers often provide enhanced features and stability.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Keyboard Keys

The Axiom 25 features 25 semi-weighted keys with aftertouch. These keys are velocity-sensitive, meaning the volume and character of the sound will vary based on how hard you press them. Aftertouch allows for additional expressive control by applying pressure to a key after it has been pressed.

3.2 Dynamic Trigger Pads

The 8 dynamic trigger pads are designed for intuitive beat programming and triggering one-shot samples. These pads are also velocity-sensitive, allowing for nuanced rhythmic performances.

Image: Close-up of the dynamic trigger pads and assignable knobs on the M-Audio Axiom 25.

3.3 Assignable Control Surface

The controller includes 8 rotary encoder knobs, 1 slider, and 9 buttons. These controls are assignable, allowing you to map them to various parameters within your DAW or virtual instruments. The backlit LCD provides visual feedback for parameter values.

Image: Close-up of the pitch bend and modulation wheels on the M-Audio Axiom 25.

3.4 Pitch Bend and Modulation Wheels

Use the pitch bend wheel to momentarily raise or lower the pitch of notes for expressive effects. The modulation wheel can be assigned to control various parameters, such as vibrato, filter cutoff, or other effects, adding dynamic movement to your sounds.

3.5 Octave and Transpose Buttons

The dedicated Octave Up/Down buttons allow you to shift the entire keyboard range up or down in octaves, extending the playable range beyond the 25 physical keys. Transpose buttons enable shifting the pitch in semitone increments.

3.6 DAW Integration (Direct Link Mode)

The Axiom 25 features Direct Link mode, which provides seamless, automatic mapping to common functions in popular DAWs such as Pro Tools, Logic, Cubase, Live, and Reason. This eliminates the need for complex manual setup, allowing you to control transport (play, stop, record), mixer functions (volume, pan), and virtual instrument parameters directly from the controller.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1 Cleaning

To clean your M-Audio Axiom 25, use a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the finish and electronic components. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth with mild soap can be used, ensuring no liquid enters the device.

4.2 Storage

Store the controller in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. When not in use, it is advisable to cover the unit to protect it from dust and debris.

4.3 Handling

Handle the controller with care. Avoid dropping it or subjecting it to strong impacts, which can damage internal components or the keybed. Do not place heavy objects on top of the unit.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

5.1 No Sound or Intermittent Connection

- **Check USB Connection:** Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the Axiom 25 and your computer. Try a different USB port or cable.
- **Power Source:** Verify that your computer's USB port is providing sufficient power. If using a USB hub, ensure it is a powered hub.
- **Driver Installation:** Confirm that the correct drivers for the Axiom 25 are installed. Reinstalling drivers from the M-Audio website may resolve issues.
- **DAW Settings:** Check your DAW's MIDI settings to ensure the Axiom 25 is recognized and enabled as a MIDI input device.

5.2 Pad Responsiveness/Latency

- **Pad Sensitivity:** The pads are dynamic. Adjust the pad sensitivity settings on the controller or within your DAW to match your playing style.
- **Audio Latency:** High audio latency can cause a delay between hitting a pad/key and hearing the sound. Ensure your audio interface drivers (e.g., ASIO drivers on Windows) are up-to-date and configured for low latency in your DAW.

5.3 Knob Sensitivity

- **Encoder Modes:** The rotary knobs may have different sensitivity behaviors (e.g., acceleration, linear). Consult the full user manual for detailed instructions on adjusting these settings to suit your preference.

5.4 Direct Link Mode Issues

- **DAW Compatibility:** While Direct Link is designed for major DAWs, specific versions or updates of your DAW might affect its functionality. Check M-Audio's support resources for known compatibility issues or updates.
- **Firmware Updates:** Ensure your Axiom 25 has the latest firmware installed, as updates often include bug fixes and improved compatibility.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	M-AUDIO
Model Name	Axiom
Number of Keyboard Keys	25
Connectivity Technology	USB
Hardware Interface	USB
Compatible Devices	Cubase, Fruity Loops, Pro-Tools, Reason, any kind of recording or beat making program
Supported Software	Pro Tools, Logic, Cubase, Live, Reason
Computer Platform	Windows 7, MAC
Material Type	Plastic, Rubber
Item Weight	7.1 pounds
Product Dimensions	18.7 x 2.9 x 11.7 inches
Color Name	Black
Date First Available	July 8, 2010

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the documentation included with your product or visit the official M-Audio website. M-Audio provides customer support and resources for product registration, driver downloads, and troubleshooting.

Official Website: www.m-audio.com