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### M-Audio Axiom 49 (2nd gen)

# M-Audio Axiom 49-Key USB Keyboard Controller User Manual

Model: Axiom 49 (2nd gen)

## INTRODUCTION

The M-Audio Axiom 49 controller is an advanced 49-key semi-weighted USB MIDI controller designed to integrate seamlessly with music software and MIDI gear. It features piano-style, semi-weighted keys for a satisfying playing experience, large dynamic trigger pads for beat programming, and encoder knobs, faders, and buttons for real-time control. The DirectLink mode provides automatic access to common Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) functions, simplifying setup and operation.

This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your Axiom 49 controller to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

## PRODUCT OVERVIEW



Figure 1: Angled view of the M-Audio Axiom 49-Key USB Keyboard Controller, showcasing its sleek design, keys, and control surface.



Figure 2: Top-down view of the M-Audio Axiom 49-Key USB Keyboard Controller, highlighting the layout of its 49 keys, 9 faders, 8 rotary encoders, 8 trigger pads, and LCD display.

The Axiom 49 features a comprehensive control surface including 49 velocity-sensitive semi-weighted keys with assignable aftertouch, 8 assignable trigger pads, 8 assignable rotary encoder knobs, 9 assignable faders, and 9 assignable buttons with LED lights. It also includes 6 dedicated transport controls and an intuitive custom LCD display for optimal visibility and feedback.

## SETUP

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### Minimum System Requirements

Before connecting your Axiom 49, ensure your computer meets the following minimum system requirements:

- **Windows XP (SP3):** 800 MHz Intel or AMD processor, 256 MB RAM. (Home and Professional Edition only. Windows Media Center Edition is not supported.)
- **Windows Vista (32/64-bit SP1) / Windows 7 (32/64-bit):** 1 GHz Intel or AMD processor, 1 GB RAM, DirectX 10 or higher.
- **Mac OS X 10.5.8 or 10.6.1:** Intel Core Duo processor, 1 GB RAM.
- *Note: CPU requirements may be higher for laptops. Always check the minimum system requirements for your specific software, as they may exceed these specifications.*

### Package Contents

Verify that your package contains the following items:

- Axiom 49 keyboard controller
- USB cable
- Printed quick start guide
- Installer CD-ROM
- PDF user guide (typically on the CD-ROM or available for download)

*Note: An optional power supply is not included but can be used for standalone operation without a computer.*

### Connecting the Controller

1. **Connect USB Cable:** Connect one end of the supplied USB cable to the USB port on the Axiom 49 controller and the other end to an available USB port on your computer. The Axiom 49 is powered directly via the USB bus.
2. **Install Drivers (if necessary):** For Windows XP/Vista/7 and Mac OS X, the Axiom 49 is class-compliant, meaning it typically does not require additional drivers. However, it is recommended to check the M-Audio website ([www.m-audio.com/directlink](http://www.m-audio.com/directlink)) for the latest DirectLink software and any specific driver updates for optimal performance with your DAW.
3. **Connect Pedals (Optional):** If using sustain or expression pedals, connect them to the two assignable pedal inputs on the rear of the Axiom 49.
4. **Connect MIDI Devices (Optional):** If connecting to external MIDI hardware, use standard MIDI cables to connect the MIDI Out of the Axiom 49 to the MIDI In of your external device, and vice-versa if bidirectional communication is needed.

## OPERATING THE AXIOM 49

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### Basic Functions

- **Power On/Off:** Use the on/off rocker switch to power the unit. When connected via USB, it will power on automatically with the computer.
- **Keys:** The 49 piano-style, semi-weighted keys are velocity-sensitive and support assignable aftertouch.

- **Trigger Pads:** The 8 assignable trigger pads are dynamic and ideal for programming beats and triggering samples.
- **Faders and Knobs:** The 9 assignable faders and 8 assignable rotary encoder knobs provide hands-on control over various parameters in your DAW or virtual instruments.
- **LCD Display:** The centrally positioned LCD screen provides informative feedback, including on-screen display of parameters and settings.

## DirectLink Mode

DirectLink mode automatically maps the onboard controls (faders, buttons, encoder knobs) to common parameters in compatible Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) such as Pro Tools, Logic, Cubase, Live, and Reason. This eliminates complex manual setup.

- **Transport Controls:** Use the 6 dedicated transport controls (with LED lights) to manage playback, recording, and navigation within your DAW.
- **Mixer Control:** Faders and encoder knobs can be automatically assigned to mixer parameters like volume, pan, and sends.
- **Track Navigation:** Dedicated track up/down, bank, mute, and solo buttons allow for easy session navigation.

## Instrument Mode

The dedicated Instrument mode button allows you to instantly switch the faders, buttons, and encoders to control parameters of virtual instruments within your DirectLink-compatible host. This provides direct access to synthesis parameters like filter cutoff, LFO rate, and envelope settings without manual configuration.

## Customization and Programming

- **Assignable Controls:** All controllers are fully programmable to any MIDI controller number and channel.
- **Zone Buttons:** Use the 4 zone buttons for stacking and splitting sounds on up to 4 MIDI channels.
- **Velocity Curves:** The Axiom 49 offers 4 keybed velocity curves and 3 fixed velocity settings, plus 4 pad velocity curves, 3 fixed settings, and unique 'step' velocity curves for the trigger pads.
- **Pitch Bend and Modulation Wheels:** Assignable pitch bend and modulation wheels provide expressive control.
- **Octave/Transpose:** Dedicated octave up/down and transpose up/down buttons.
- **Memory Locations:** 20 non-volatile memory locations allow you to save your custom configurations. Memory dump via SysEx is supported.
- **Controller Mute:** The Controller Mute function mutes controller output to avoid parameter jumps when switching settings.
- **Snapshot Function:** The Snapshot function transmits all current controller settings.

## MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your M-Audio Axiom 49 controller.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to clean the surface of the controller. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, but ensure no liquid enters the device. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the controller in a clean, dry environment away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust. Consider using a dust cover.
- **Handling:** Handle the controller with care. Avoid dropping it or subjecting it to strong impacts. Do not place heavy objects on top of the unit.
- **Connectivity:** Regularly check USB and MIDI cable connections for wear and tear. Ensure cables are not kinked or strained.
- **Software Updates:** Periodically check the M-Audio website for firmware updates or new DirectLink software

versions to ensure compatibility and access to the latest features.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Axiom 49 controller.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Controller not powering on.	USB cable not connected or faulty; insufficient USB power; power switch off.	Ensure USB cable is securely connected to both the controller and a powered USB port on your computer. Try a different USB port or cable. If using an optional power supply, ensure it is connected and functional. Check the on/off rocker switch.
No sound or MIDI input in DAW.	Incorrect DAW settings; drivers not installed/recognized; MIDI channel mismatch.	Verify that the Axiom 49 is selected as a MIDI input device in your DAW's preferences/settings. Ensure the correct MIDI input channel is selected for your track. Check M-Audio's website for the latest DirectLink software or drivers. Restart your DAW and computer.
Controls (faders, knobs) not mapping correctly in DAW.	DirectLink not active or not supported for your DAW version; manual mapping required.	Ensure DirectLink mode is enabled if your DAW supports it. Visit <a href="http://www.m-audio.com/directlink">www.m-audio.com/directlink</a> for compatible DAWs and setup instructions. If DirectLink is not supported or not working, you may need to manually map controls within your DAW's MIDI learn function.
Keys or pads not responding or double-triggering.	Velocity curve settings; physical debris; sensor issue.	Adjust the keybed or pad velocity curves in the Axiom 49's settings to suit your playing style. Ensure no debris is lodged under keys or pads. If the issue persists, contact M-Audio support.
LCD display is dim or unreadable.	Viewing angle; display settings.	The angled top panel is designed for optimal viewing. Adjust your viewing position. Check if there are any display brightness settings on the unit (refer to the full PDF user guide).

For more detailed troubleshooting or issues not covered here, please refer to the full PDF user guide on the installer CD-ROM or visit the M-Audio support website.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Keys	49 velocity-sensitive, semi-weighted keys with assignable aftertouch
Pads	8 assignable trigger pads
Knobs	8 assignable rotary encoder knobs
Faders	9 assignable faders
Buttons	9 assignable buttons with LED lights, 6 dedicated transport controls with LED lights, 6 edit buttons
Display	Intuitive custom LCD display
Connectivity	USB MIDI interface, standard MIDI In and Out jacks, 2 assignable pedal inputs
Power	Powered via USB or optional power supply

Feature	Detail
Compatibility	Class-compliant with Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Mac OS X
Dimensions (L x W x H)	18.8 x 11.6 x 3.5 inches (47.7 x 29.5 x 9.0 cm)
Weight	6.9 lbs (3.15 kg)
Memory	20 non-volatile memory locations

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

M-Audio products are backed by a manufacturer's warranty. For specific warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the documentation included with your product or visit the official M-Audio website.

For technical support, product registration, and access to the latest drivers and software, please visit the M-Audio support page:

[M-Audio Support Website](#)

When contacting support, please have your product model number (Axiom 49 (2nd gen)) and serial number ready. You may also find helpful resources, FAQs, and community forums on the support website.



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M-AUDIO  
Axiom DirectLink for Cubase  
User Guide

[\[pdf\]](#) Instructions Specifications Documentation Guide Declaration of Conformity

Axiom DirectLink for Cubase User Guide Avid synthmanuals midimanuals 4 Chapter 1 Introduction This guide covers which automatically maps ® controls to common functions in 5 and later 6 2 Installation Configuration Before beginning the installation please make sure is connected host computer Locate double click on installer icon then follow screen instructions 3 Once complete launch Navigate Devices menu Device Setup Click upper right corner of dialog directlink cubase home httpd data media doc manuals m audio axiom 49 2nd gen user 25 c3 zzounds 80 6c0419f16be5a9e7ae68f93589017d94 Axiom DirectLink for Cubase User Guide Legal Notices This guide is copyrighted 2010 by Avid Technology, Inc., with all rights reserved. Under copyright laws, this guide may not be duplicated in whole or in part without the written consent of Avid Technology, Inc. Avid, M-Audio and Axiom are either...

lang:en **score:31** filesize: 784.99 K page\_count: 15 document date: 2010-07-09