iCON ICOI-ISTAGEB

i-Stage Portable Button-Matrix MIDI Controller User Manual

Model: ICOI-ISTAGEB | Brand: iCON

1. INTRODUCTION

The iCON i-Stage is a versatile and portable button-matrix MIDI controller designed for performance and studio applications. It offers a comprehensive set of controls for various digital audio workstations (DAWs) and DJ software, enabling intuitive interaction with your music production environment. This manual provides detailed information on the setup, operation, and maintenance of your i-Stage controller.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

2.1 Key Features

- **48 Velocity-Sensitive Buttons:** Equipped with dual-color (red/blue) LED backlighting for visual feedback.
- **Four Control Modes:** Dedicated modes for DJ, Effect, DAW, and Drummer applications, optimizing control for specific tasks.
- **Extensive Software Compatibility:** Includes factory presets for popular software such as Pro Tools, Cubase, Nuendo, Amplitude, Logic Pro, and Ableton Live.
- **iMap Software:** Bundled software for quick and easy custom MIDI mapping of all controls.
- **Class-Compliant:** No drivers required for Windows XP, Vista (32-bit), Windows 7 (32-bit & 64-bit), Windows 8 (32-bit & 64-bit), and OS X (10.4 and higher).
- **Additional Controls:** Features 17 assignable backlit buttons, a horizontal slider for crossfading, a rotary encoder, and a shift button for expanded functionality.

2.2 Components and Controls Layout

The i-Stage controller features a logical layout of its buttons and controls, designed for intuitive interaction. Familiarize yourself with the main components as illustrated below.

Figure 2.1: Top view of the i-Stage controller, showcasing the 48 velocity-sensitive button matrix with red illumination, the rotary encoder, and mode selection buttons on the left.
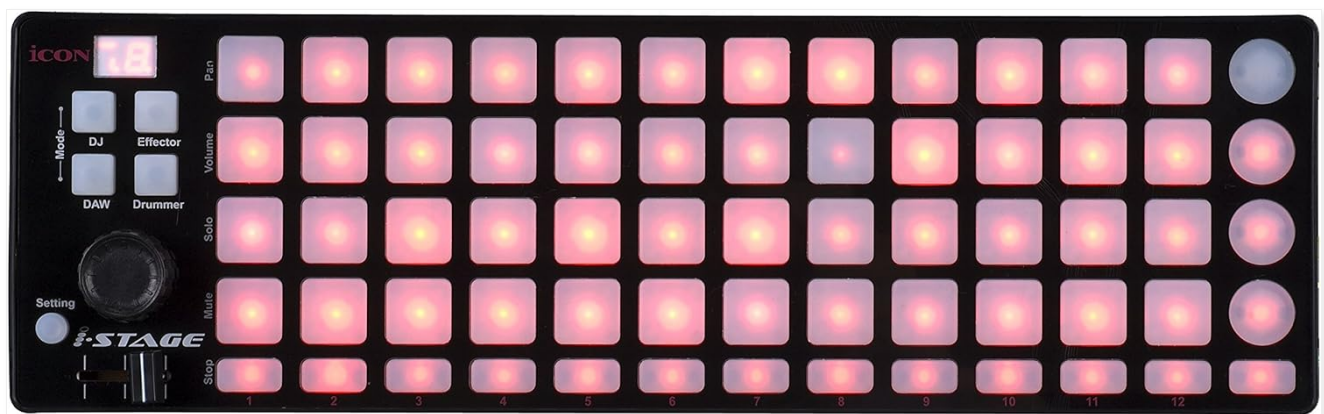

Figure 2.2: Overhead view of the i-Stage, providing a clear perspective of all 48 main buttons, the 17 assignable backlit buttons (Mode, DJ, Effector, DAW, Drummer, Volume, Pan, Solo, Mute, Stop, Setting, Shift, and others), the horizontal slider, and the rotary encoder.

- **Button Matrix:** The central grid of 48 velocity-sensitive buttons. These are the primary interface for triggering notes, clips, or samples.
- **Mode Buttons:** Located on the left, these buttons (DJ, Effect, DAW, Drummer) switch the controller's operational mode.
- **Rotary Encoder:** A continuous knob for precise control over parameters such as volume, pan, or effect values.
- **Horizontal Slider:** Typically used for crossfading between tracks in DJ mode or controlling other continuous parameters.
- **Assignable Backlit Buttons:** Various buttons around the main matrix and on the left side provide additional assignable functions, with backlighting for status indication.
- **Shift Button:** Used in combination with other buttons to access secondary functions or control layers.

3. SETUP

3.1 System Requirements

Ensure your computer meets the following minimum requirements for optimal performance:

- **Operating System:** Windows XP, Vista (32-bit), Windows 7 (32-bit & 64-bit), Windows 8 (32-bit & 64-bit), or OS X (10.4 and higher).
- **Available USB Port:** A standard USB 2.0 or 3.0 port.
- **Music Production Software:** Compatible DAW or DJ software (e.g., Ableton Live, Traktor, Cubase, Logic Pro, Pro Tools, Studio One).

3.2 Connecting the i-Stage

1. Locate an available USB port on your computer.
2. Connect the supplied USB cable to the i-Stage controller and then to your computer.
3. The i-Stage is class-compliant and does not require additional drivers for basic functionality. Your operating system should automatically recognize the device.
4. The buttons on the i-Stage will illuminate upon successful connection, indicating power.

3.3 Software Installation and Configuration

While the i-Stage is class-compliant, installing the iMap software is recommended for advanced customization and firmware updates. The i-Stage also comes bundled with Amplitude software.

1. **iMap Software:**

   - Download the latest iMap software from the official iCON website.
   - Follow the on-screen instructions to install the software.
   - Use iMap to customize MIDI assignments for all buttons, sliders, and encoders on the i-Stage.

2. **Bundled Software (Amplitude):**

   - Refer to the included documentation or download instructions for Amplitude to install and activate it.

3. **DAW/DJ Software Configuration:**

   - Open your preferred DAW or DJ software (e.g., Ableton Live, Traktor).
   - Navigate to the MIDI/Controller settings or preferences within your software.
   - Select "i-Stage" as a MIDI input device.
   - For software with factory presets (e.g., Ableton Live, Cubase), select the appropriate i-Stage control surface profile if available. The i-Stage supports Mackie Control and HUI protocols for automatic mapping.
   - If no direct profile is available, you can manually map controls using your software's MIDI learn function.

4. OPERATION

4.1 Control Modes

The i-Stage features four distinct control modes, each optimized for specific applications. Switch between modes using the dedicated buttons on the left side of the controller.

- **DJ Mode:** Designed for DJ software, this mode typically controls clips, effects, and crossfading. In Ableton Live, it controls clips.
- **Effect Mode:** Optimizes the button matrix and controls for manipulating effects parameters. In Ableton Live, it controls devices.
- **DAW Mode:** Configured for digital audio workstation control, often mapping to mixer functions like volume,

pan, and track arming. In Ableton Live, it controls the mixer.

- **Drummer Mode:** Ideal for triggering drum samples and percussion. The 48 buttons function as a drum rack. In Ableton Live, it controls the Drum Rack.

All four modes can be utilized across various DAWs and DJ software, with specific mappings depending on the software's capabilities and your custom configurations.

4.2 Using the Button Matrix

The 48 velocity-sensitive buttons are the core of the i-Stage. Their function varies based on the selected control mode and your software's mapping. They respond to touch pressure, allowing for expressive control over velocity-sensitive instruments or parameters.

4.3 Assignable Controls and Shift Function

The 17 assignable backlit buttons, horizontal slider, and rotary encoder provide additional layers of control. Use the **Shift** button in conjunction with other controls to access secondary functions or alternate parameter assignments, effectively doubling the number of available controls.

4.4 Custom Mapping with iMap Software

For advanced users or specific workflow requirements, the included iMap software allows for comprehensive customization of every control on the i-Stage. You can assign specific MIDI messages (Note On/Off, Control Change, Program Change) to each button, slider, and encoder, tailoring the controller precisely to your needs for any MIDI application.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Cleaning

To maintain the appearance and functionality of your i-Stage controller:

- Disconnect the device from your computer before cleaning.
- Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to wipe down the surface.
- For stubborn marks, slightly dampen the cloth with water. Avoid using harsh chemicals, abrasive cleaners, or solvents, as these can damage the finish and internal components.
- Do not allow liquids to enter the device.

5.2 Storage

When not in use, store the i-Stage in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust or humidity. Consider using a protective case if transporting the device frequently.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your i-Stage controller, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power/Lights:**
  - Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the i-Stage and your computer.
  - Try a different USB port on your computer.
  - Test with a different USB cable if available.

- **Not Recognized by Computer:**

- Verify that your operating system is up to date.
- Restart your computer.
- Check your computer's Device Manager (Windows) or System Information (macOS) to see if the i-Stage is listed under MIDI devices.

- **Not Responding in Software:**

  - Ensure the i-Stage is selected as a MIDI input device in your DAW/DJ software's preferences.
  - Verify that MIDI input is enabled for the tracks or channels you are trying to control.
  - Check if the correct control mode (DJ, Effect, DAW, Drummer) is selected on the i-Stage.
  - If using custom mappings, ensure they are correctly loaded in iMap and your software.
  - Try resetting your software's MIDI preferences.

- **Buttons Not Illuminating Correctly:**

  - Some software may send MIDI feedback to control button illumination. Ensure MIDI output feedback is enabled in your software if you expect specific lighting behavior.
  - Check iMap settings for any illumination preferences.

If problems persist, consult the iCON support website for updated drivers, firmware, and additional troubleshooting resources.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Value
Model Number	ICOI-ISTAGEB
Brand	iCON
Item Weight	2 pounds (approx. 0.91 kg)
Product Dimensions	13 x 4 x 1 inches (approx. 33 x 10.2 x 2.5 cm)
Connectivity Technology	USB
Hardware Interface	USB
Compatible Devices	Windows PC, Mac, Music Production Software
Supported Software	Ableton Live (and others via iMap/MIDI)
Number of Buttons	48 velocity-sensitive matrix buttons + 17 assignable backlit buttons (Total 65 assignable controls)
Special Feature	Portable, Dual-color LED backlighting

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

iCON products are designed for reliability and performance. For information regarding warranty coverage, technical

support, and service, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official iCON Pro Audio website. The website typically provides FAQs, driver downloads, firmware updates, and contact information for customer service.

Online Resources: www.iconproaudio.com

Related Documents - ICOI-ISTAGEB

	ICON Qcon Pro USB-MIDI Controller Station User Manual Comprehensive user manual for the ICON Qcon Pro USB-MIDI Controller Station, detailing its features, operation, software installation, connections, and technical specifications for music production.
	Qcon EX G2 MIDI/Audio Control Surface Quick Start Guide A quick start guide for the iCON Qcon EX G2 MIDI/Audio control surface, detailing setup and configuration for various Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) like Logic Pro, Pro Tools, Cubase, Ableton Live, and more.
	ICON Qcon Pro USB-MIDI Controller Station User Manual Comprehensive user manual for the ICON Qcon Pro USB-MIDI Controller Station, detailing its features, operation, software installation, connections, and technical specifications for music production.
	ICON Pro Audio P1-M Руководство пользователя Подробное руководство пользователя для MIDI-контроллера ICON Pro Audio P1-M, охватывающее функции, настройку, программное обеспечение iMapTM и совместимость с различными цифровыми аудио рабочими станциями (DAW).
	ICON iKeyboard Nano Series User Manual: MIDI Controller Keyboard Guide Comprehensive user manual for the ICON iKeyboard Nano series (3, 4, 5, 6, 8 Nano) MIDI controller keyboards. Covers setup, features, software installation, firmware upgrades, and troubleshooting.

[ICON iKeyboard Nano Series: USB MIDI Controller Keyboard User Manual](#)
Comprehensive user manual for the ICON iKeyboard Nano series of USB MIDI controller keyboards, covering features, setup, software installation, MIDI functions, firmware upgrades, specifications, and support.