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Akai Professional MPX8

AKAI Professional MPX8 User Manual

Portable Sample Pad Controller

Model: MPX8

1. INTRODUCTION

The AKAI Professional MPX8 is a portable sample pad controller designed to put sound samples at your fingertips. It allows you to load virtually any sound sample via a standard SD or SDHC card (sold separately) and assign it to any of its eight backlit velocity- and pressure-sensitive pads. This versatile device can be used in the studio, live on stage, or on air, offering robust performance in a compact and durable design.

The MPX8 also features USB MIDI and standard MIDI inputs and outputs, enabling control over music software on your laptop or external MIDI gear. An included sample kit editor simplifies arranging, tuning, and adding reverb to your samples before loading them onto the device. Additionally, it comes with a built-in library of popular sounds and samples, along with access to a free Akai Pro loop library download.

AKAI
PROFESSIONAL

MPX8

VERSATILE SAMPLE PAD CONTROLLER



- **PORTABLE SAMPLE PLAYER**
- **MOBILE FINGER DRUMMING**
- **BEAT-MAKING CONTROLLER**
- **MIDI PAD CONTROLLER**
- **STANDALONE BEAT PERFORMANCES**
- **CONTROL EXTERNAL MIDI HARDWARE**

Image 1: The AKAI Professional MPX8, highlighting its versatility as a sample pad controller, portable sample player, mobile finger drumming, beat-making controller, MIDI pad controller, and its ability to control external MIDI hardware.

2. SETUP

2.1. Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove all components from the packaging. Ensure all items listed in the 'What's in the Box' section are present and in good condition. If any items are missing or damaged, contact Akai Professional support immediately.

2.2. Power Connection

Connect the included power adapter to the MPX8's power input and then to a suitable power outlet. The unit will power on automatically.

2.3. SD Card Insertion

The MPX8 requires an SD or SDHC card (sold separately) to load and store samples. Insert the SD card into the dedicated SD card slot on the top of the unit. Ensure it is inserted correctly until it clicks into place.



ON-BOARD SD CARD SLOT (SD CARD SOLD SEPARATELY)

Image 2: Close-up view of the AKAI Professional MPX8's on-board SD card slot, where an SD or SDHC card (sold separately) can be inserted to load and store samples.

2.4. Audio Connections

For audio output, connect the MPX8's (2) balanced 1/4-inch outputs (6.35mm) to your mixer, audio interface, or powered speakers. For private monitoring, connect headphones to the 1/8-inch headphone output (3.5mm).



**2 STEREO 1/4"
LINE OUTPUTS**

**1/8" HEADPHONE
OUTPUT**

Image 3: Diagram illustrating the AKAI Professional MPX8's audio connectivity, showing the two stereo 1/4-inch line outputs and the 1/8-inch headphone output.

2.5. MIDI/USB Connections

To connect the MPX8 to a computer or other MIDI devices, use the included USB cable. The MPX8 features USB MIDI for computer connectivity and standard MIDI inputs and outputs (via the included 1/8"-to-MIDI adapter) for external MIDI gear.



USB MIDI + STANDARD MIDI INPUTS AND OUTPUTS

Image 4: A close-up of the AKAI Professional MPX8's rear panel, showing the USB port and the MIDI In/Out ports with connected 1/8-inch to MIDI adapters.

3. OPERATING THE MPX8

3.1. Loading Samples

Samples are loaded from an SD or SDHC card. Prepare your samples as .WAV files using the included sample kit editor on your Mac or PC. Once prepared, transfer them to your SD card and insert it into the MPX8. Use the device's controls to navigate and select samples for assignment to the pads.

3.2. Pad Performance

The MPX8 features eight backlit velocity- and pressure-sensitive pads. These pads are ideal for triggering drum sounds, melodies, basslines, and other samples. The velocity sensitivity allows for dynamic performance, responding to how hard you strike the pads.



8 BACKLIT VELOCITY- AND PRESSURE-SENSITIVE MPC PADS

Image 5: A close-up view of the AKAI Professional MPX8's eight backlit velocity- and pressure-sensitive MPC pads, showing their illuminated state during use.

3.3. Sample Editing and Kit Management

Utilize the included sample kit editor software on your computer to arrange, tune, and add reverb to your samples. This software allows for easy drag-and-drop functionality and instantly converts samples to compatible .WAV files. You can save custom sample sets for quick recall on the MPX8.



AKAI PROFESSIONAL MPX8

PORTABLE SAMPLE PAD CONTROLLER

Image 6: A close-up of the AKAI Professional MPX8's display screen, showing information about a loaded kit and sample parameters like tune, reverb, and pan. The image also highlights the inclusion of a loop library and internal kits.

3.4. MIDI Control

The MPX8 can function as a MIDI controller. Connect it via USB to your computer to control music software (DAWs, virtual instruments) or use the 1/8"-to-MIDI adapter to control external MIDI hardware. Refer to your software or external device's manual for specific MIDI mapping instructions.

4. FEATURES

- **Sample Playback:** Load and playback virtually any mono or stereo sample via standard SD or SDHC card.
- **Finger Drumming Essentials:** Eight backlit velocity- and pressure-sensitive pads, ideal for triggering drum sounds, melodies, basslines and more.
- **Control Anything:** Control everything from music software on your laptop to outboard MIDI gear using MPX8's onboard USB MIDI plus standard MIDI inputs and outputs.
- **Tweak Your Sound:** Edit your samples and make them your own using MPX8's sample kit editor (PC & MAC) featuring tuning and reverb controls; save sample sets for instant easy recall.
- **Connectivity Covered:** (2) Balanced 1/4-inch outputs (6.35mm) and 1/8-inch headphone output (3.5mm)

connects MPX8 to virtually all studio and live equipment.

- **Pro Sounds Included:** Includes a FREE professional Loop Library download from Akai Pro, plus a large library of standard samples built in.

5. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your AKAI Professional MPX8, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Do not use abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents, as they may damage the finish.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the MPX8 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust or moisture.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts. Do not place heavy objects on top of the MPX8.
- **Power Off:** Always power off the unit and disconnect the power adapter when not in use for extended periods or during electrical storms.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your AKAI Professional MPX8, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the power adapter is securely connected to both the MPX8 and a working power outlet. Try a different outlet if necessary.
- **No Sound Output:** Check all audio cable connections. Ensure the volume knob on the MPX8 is turned up. Verify that your connected speakers or headphones are powered on and functioning correctly.
- **Pads Not Responding:** Ensure the unit is powered on. If using custom samples, verify that the SD card is properly inserted and the samples are correctly loaded and assigned to the pads.
- **MIDI Connectivity Issues:** Confirm that the USB cable or 1/8"-to-MIDI adapter is correctly connected. Check your computer's device manager or MIDI settings to ensure the MPX8 is recognized. Verify MIDI settings in your software.
- **Samples Not Loading from SD Card:** Ensure the SD card is formatted correctly (FAT32 recommended) and that the sample files are in the compatible .WAV format. Try re-saving samples using the sample kit editor.

If problems persist after attempting these steps, please refer to the official Akai Professional support resources or contact customer service.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Item Weight	15.8 ounces
Product Dimensions	11.61 x 4.06 x 1.2 inches
Item Model Number	MPX8
Compatible Devices	Laptop
Connector Type	USB
Hardware Interface	USB
Supported Software	Ableton Live
Musical Style	Electronic
Size	8-pad
Hardware Platform	USB-MIDI generic/standard
Special Feature	Backlit Drum Pad, Digital Display, Portable, Programmable, Touch Sensitive Pad

8. WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

The AKAI Professional MPX8 package includes the following items:

- MPX8 Controller
- MPX8 Sample Kit Editor (Download)
- Loop Library (Download)
- (3.5mm) 1/8"-to-MIDI Adapter
- USB Cable
- Power Adapter
- User Manual
- Safety & Warranty Manual

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the included Safety & Warranty Manual. For additional support, product registration, and software downloads, visit the official Akai Professional website or their Amazon Brand Store:

Visit the Akai Professional Store on Amazon

You can also download the comprehensive User Guide in PDF format for more in-depth information:

Download AKAI Professional MPX8 User Guide (PDF)

