Akai Professional MPK249

AKAI Professional MPK249 User Manual

USB MIDI Keyboard Controller with 49 Semi-Weighted Keys

INTRODUCTION

The Akai Professional MPK249 is a 49-key performance pad and keyboard controller designed for comprehensive workstation control. It integrates deeply with software, offers enhanced workflow, and incorporates core technologies from the renowned MPC workstations. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your MPK249 controller.

Figure 1: Front view of the AKAI Professional MPK249 USB MIDI Keyboard Controller.

SETUP

The MPK249 is designed for hassle-free plug-and-play connectivity with your Mac or PC. Follow these steps for

initial setup:

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the MPK249 from its packaging. Ensure all components are present.

2. **Power Connection:** The MPK249 is USB-powered, meaning it draws power directly from your computer via the USB cable. No external power adapter is typically required for basic operation.

3. **USB Connection:** Connect one end of a standard USB cable (Type B to Type A) to the USB port on the rear of the MPK249 and the other end to an available USB port on your computer.

4. **Driver Installation (if necessary):** For most modern operating systems, the MPK249 will be recognized automatically as a class-compliant MIDI device. If prompted, follow the on-screen instructions for driver installation. Refer to the official Akai Professional website for the latest drivers if automatic installation fails.

5. **Software Installation:** The MPK249 comes with a professional production software package. This typically includes Ableton Live Lite, Hybrid 3 by AIR Music Tech, and Xpand2 (available via download). Install these applications as per their respective instructions to fully utilize the controller's capabilities. MPC Beats software is also included.

6. **MIDI Connections (Optional):** For connecting to external MIDI hardware, use standard 5-pin MIDI cables to connect the MIDI OUT of the MPK249 to the MIDI IN of your external device, and vice-versa for MIDI IN.

Figure 2: Rear panel of the MPK249, highlighting USB and MIDI connectivity options.

OPERATING THE MPK249

The MPK249 offers a wide range of controls for expressive performance and precise software integration.

Keyboard Keys

The controller features 49 semi-weighted, velocity-sensitive full-size keys with aftertouch. This provides a responsive and natural feel for playing melodies, chords, and basslines. The velocity sensitivity allows for dynamic expression based on how hard or soft you press the keys, while aftertouch enables continuous control over parameters after a key is pressed down.

Figure 3: Demonstrating key playability on the MPK249.

MPC-Style Pads

Equipped with 16 RGB-illuminated MPC-style pads, the MPK249 is ideal for triggering samples, loops, one-shots, and drum patterns. Each pad has 4 banks, expanding the total number of accessible pads to 64. Key features include:

- **Note Repeat:** Automatically repeats notes at a specified rate while the pad is held down.
- **MPC Full Level:** Ensures all pad strikes trigger at maximum velocity, providing consistent volume.
- **Tap Tempo:** Allows you to set the tempo by tapping a button.

Figure 4: Close-up view of the responsive, RGB-illuminated MPC pads.

Assignable Q-Link Controls

The MPK249 features 24 assignable Q-Link controllers, comprising 8 control knobs, 8 faders, and 8 switches. These are engineered for seamless mapping to parameters within your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) or virtual instruments. With 3 banks, you can access up to 24 unique assignments for each type of controller (knobs, faders, switches).

Transport Controls

Dedicated transport buttons (Play, Stop, Record, etc.) are included for direct control over your DAW's playback and recording functions, enhancing workflow efficiency.

Arpeggiator and Time Division

The built-in arpeggiator allows for automatic creation of melodic patterns from held notes. The Time Division feature enables precise control over the timing and rhythm of arpeggiated notes and Note Repeat functions.

MAINTENANCE

Proper care and maintenance will ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your MPK249 controller.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down 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 or solvents.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the MPK249 in a clean, dry environment, away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust. Consider using a dust cover.
- **Handling:** Always handle the controller with care. Avoid dropping it or placing heavy objects on top of it. Do not force connections.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your MPK249, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power/Not Recognized:**
  - Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the MPK249 and your computer.
  - Try a different USB port on your computer.
  - Try a different USB cable.
  - Restart your computer.
  - Verify that the necessary drivers are installed and up to date. Check the Akai Professional website for the latest drivers.

- **Pads/Keys Not Responding:**
  - Check your DAW or software settings to ensure the MPK249 is selected as the MIDI input device.
  - Verify that the correct MIDI channel is selected in your software and on the MPK249 (if applicable).
  - Ensure no "Local Off" setting is enabled on the controller, which would prevent it from sending MIDI data internally.

- **Controls Not Mapping Correctly:**
  - Refer to your DAW's manual for instructions on MIDI mapping and controller setup.
  - Ensure the MPK249's Q-Link banks are correctly selected for the parameters you wish to control.

For more detailed troubleshooting or specific technical issues, please consult the official Akai Professional User Guide or User Manual PDFs available online:

User Guide (PDF)
User Manual (PDF)

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	MPK249
Number of Keyboard Keys	49 (Semi-weighted, velocity-sensitive, with aftertouch)
Pads	16 RGB-illuminated MPC-style pads (4 banks for 64 total)
Q-Link Controllers	8 assignable control knobs, 8 faders, 8 switches (3 banks for 24 total of each)

Feature	Detail
Connectivity Technology	USB, 5-pin MIDI In/Out
Power Source	USB power (no power adapter required)
Compatible Devices	PC
Supported Software	Ableton Live, MPC Beats, Hybrid 3, Xpand2
Item Weight	12.6 pounds
Product Dimensions	12.28 x 29.06 x 3.39 inches
Material Type	Plastic
Special Features	Studio Recording, Velocity Sensitive Key, MPC Note Repeat, Arpeggiator, MPC Full Level, Tap Tempo, Time Division

WARRANTY

The AKAI Professional MPK249 is covered by a manufacturer's limited warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Akai Professional website for detailed terms and conditions regarding warranty coverage, duration, and claims procedures. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty validation.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or to download the latest software and drivers, please visit the official Akai Professional website or contact their customer support team.

Akai Professional Store: https://www.amazon.com/stores/AkaiProfessional/page/9C66C44F-4429-4C6D-B270-34D31089A7E8

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