

Alesis V61

Alesis V61 - 61 Key USB MIDI Keyboard Controller Instruction Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

The Alesis V61 is a powerful and intuitive MIDI controller designed to provide comprehensive command over your music software. Featuring 61 full-size, velocity-sensitive keys, it offers an expansive melodic range suitable for various musical applications. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your V61 controller.

Key Features:

- 61 full-sized, velocity-sensitive square-front keys for playing virtual instruments.
- 8 velocity- and pressure-sensitive backlit pads for beat production and clip launching.
- 4 assignable knobs and 4 assignable buttons for interfacing with music software, offering seamless visual feedback via illuminated controls.
- Octave Up and Down buttons to access the full keyboard range.
- Pitch and modulation wheels for expressive, creative control.
- Includes a premium software suite: ProTools | First Alesis Edition, Ableton Live Lite 9, Eleven Lite, plus Mini Grand, DB-33, and Xpand!2 virtual instrument software by Air Music Tech.



Figure 1: Alesis V61 61-Key USB MIDI Keyboard Controller, top-down view.



Figure 2: Alesis V61 61-Key USB MIDI Keyboard Controller, front view showing keys and controls.

2. SETUP

2.1 Connecting the V61

The Alesis V61 is a class-compliant USB device, meaning it does not require special drivers for basic functionality with Windows or macOS. For optimal performance and access to advanced features, it is recommended to install any provided software and register your product.

1. Connect the V61 to your computer using a standard USB cable. The V61 is powered via USB, so no external power adapter is typically needed.
2. If you plan to use a sustain pedal, connect it to the 1/4-inch TS input labeled "SUSTAIN" on the rear panel of the V61.



Figure 3: Rear panel of the Alesis V61, showing the USB port and Sustain pedal input.

2.2 Software Installation

Your Alesis V61 includes a comprehensive software package to enhance your music production experience. Follow the instructions provided with your product registration to download and install the following:

- **ProTools | First Alesis Edition:** A tailored digital audio workstation (DAW) for recording and production.
- **Ableton Live Lite 9:** A revolutionary music production solution for composing, recording, remixing, and improvising.
- **Eleven Lite:** For authentic-sounding guitar tracks and high-quality effects.
- **Xpand!2 by AIR Music Tech:** A powerful multi-timbral virtual instrument with over 2000 studio-grade sounds.
- **Mini Grand by AIR Music Tech:** A virtual piano instrument with seven acoustic piano sounds.
- **DB-33 Tonewheel Organ by AIR Music Tech:** A virtual organ recreating classic tonewheel sounds.

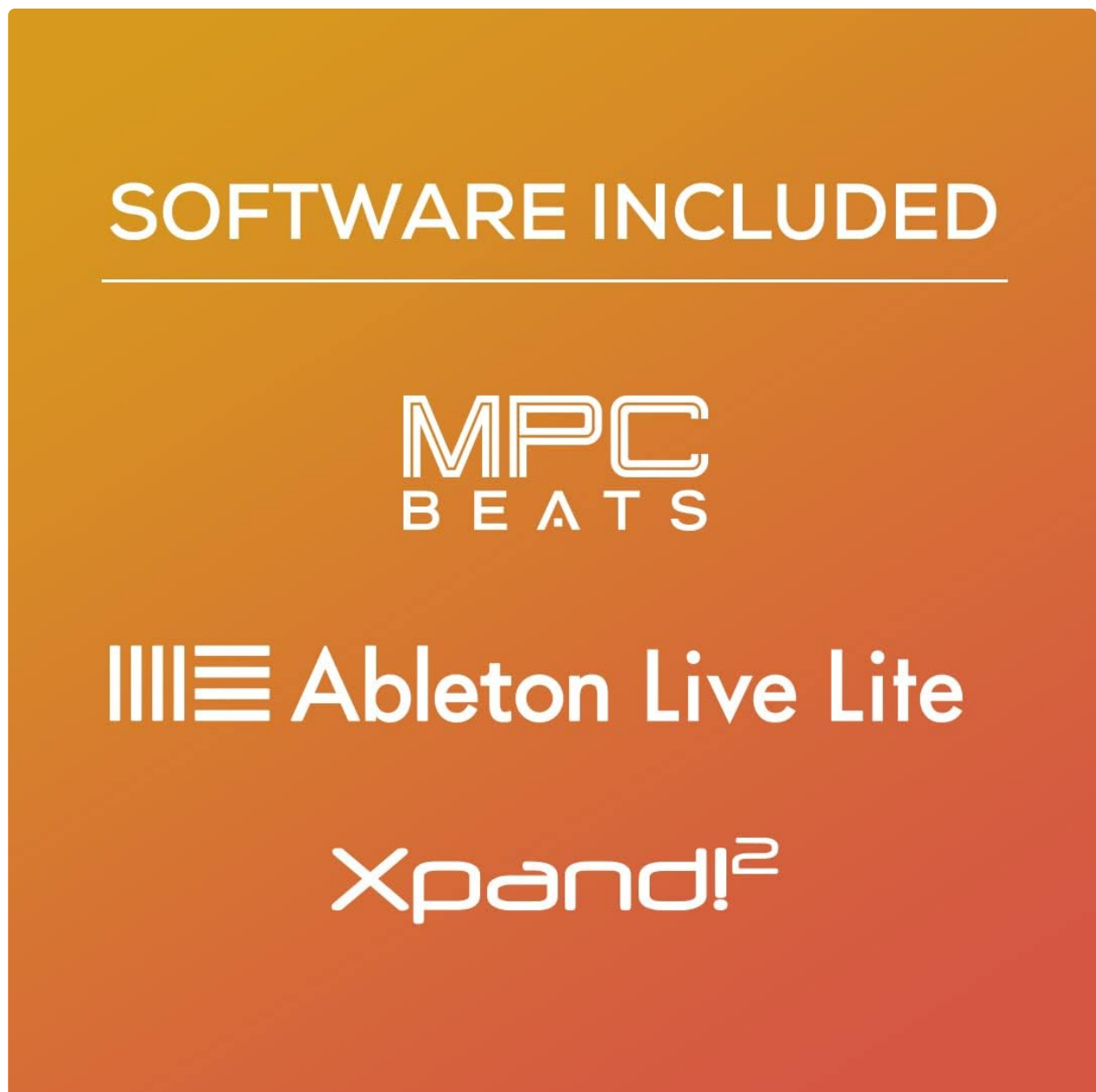


Figure 4: Overview of the professional software suite included with the Alesis V61.

2.3 DAW Configuration

After installing the software, open your preferred DAW (e.g., ProTools | First, Ableton Live Lite). Navigate to the MIDI/Controller settings within your DAW's preferences and ensure that the Alesis V61 is recognized and enabled as a MIDI input device. Refer to your DAW's documentation for specific instructions on configuring MIDI devices.



Figure 5: Alesis V61 integrated into a music production studio setup.

3. OPERATING THE V61

3.1 Keys and Octave Buttons

The V61 features 61 full-sized, velocity-sensitive keys. Velocity sensitivity means the volume and timbre of the sound produced will vary based on how hard or soft you press the keys. Use the **Octave Up** and **Octave Down** buttons to shift the keyboard's range, allowing you to access the full melodic spectrum for bass lines, chords, and melodies.



Figure 6: Hands playing the velocity-sensitive keys of the Alesis V61.

3.2 Pitch and Modulation Wheels

The **Pitch Bend Wheel** allows you to momentarily raise or lower the pitch of the notes you are playing, adding expressive bends. The **Modulation Wheel** can be assigned to control various parameters within your software, such as vibrato, filter cutoff, or other effects, providing dynamic control over your sound.

3.3 Assignable Knobs and Buttons

The V61 includes four assignable knobs and four assignable buttons. These controls can be mapped to manipulate parameters within your virtual instruments and effect plugins. This allows for hands-on control over aspects like filter open/close, volume levels, effect activation, and parameter tweaking, enhancing your performance and sound design capabilities. The illuminated buttons and knobs provide clear visual feedback on their status.



Figure 7: Close-up view of the assignable knobs, buttons, and octave controls.

3.4 Velocity-Sensitive Backlit Pads

The eight velocity- and pressure-sensitive backlit pads are ideal for finger drumming, triggering samples, or launching clips in your DAW. The pads respond to the force with which you strike them, allowing for dynamic and expressive rhythmic performances. Their backlighting provides visual cues, especially in low-light environments.

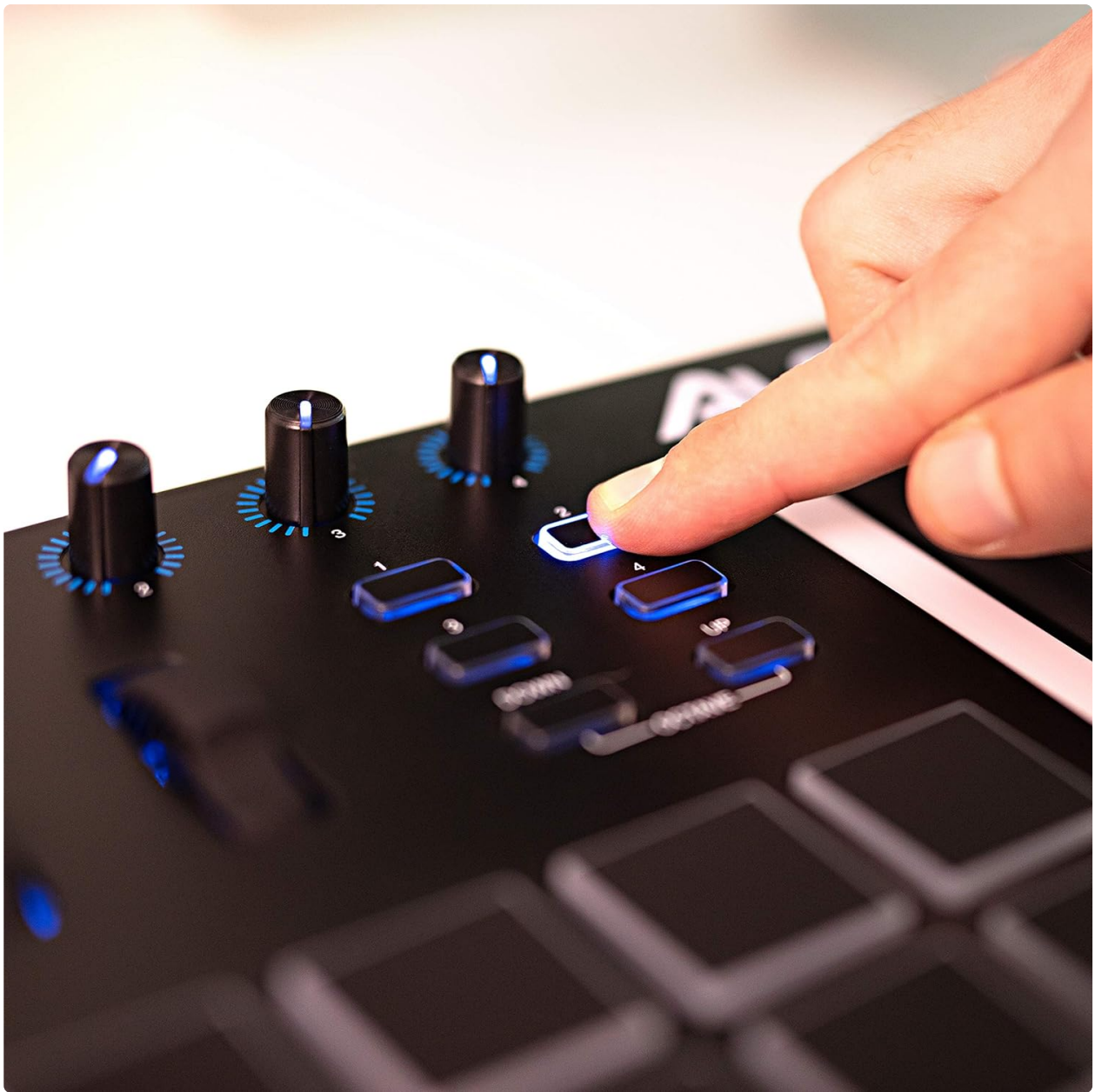


Figure 8: Hand interacting with the velocity-sensitive backlit pads.

3.5 Software Integration

The included software suite is designed to integrate seamlessly with your V61. Use the assignable controls to manipulate parameters within Xpand!2, Mini Grand, DB-33, and Eleven Lite. ProTools | First Alesis Edition and Ableton Live Lite provide the environment to record, arrange, and mix your musical ideas, with the V61 acting as your primary input device.

3.6 General MIDI Controller Usage

MIDI controllers like the Alesis V61 allow you to control various software instruments and effects within your digital audio workstation (DAW). They translate your physical actions (key presses, knob turns, pad hits) into MIDI data, which your computer's software then interprets to produce sound or modify parameters. This provides a tactile and expressive way to interact with your virtual studio.

Video 1: An overview of MIDI controllers and their general functionality. This video demonstrates how MIDI controllers interact with music software to produce and manipulate sounds.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1 Cleaning

To clean your Alesis V61, use a soft, dry cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or harsh chemicals, as these can damage the finish and electronic components. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed immediately by a dry cloth.

4.2 Storage and Handling

Store the V61 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. Avoid placing heavy objects on the controller. When transporting, use a padded case to protect it from physical damage.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

5.1 No Sound Output

- **Check USB Connection:** Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the V61 and your computer.
- **DAW MIDI Settings:** Verify that the Alesis V61 is enabled as a MIDI input device in your DAW's preferences. Ensure the correct virtual instrument track is selected and armed for recording/input.
- **Software Instrument Loaded:** Confirm that a virtual instrument or sound is loaded and active within your DAW.
- **Volume Levels:** Check the volume levels on your V61, within your DAW, and on your computer's audio output.

5.2 Controls Not Responding

- **MIDI Mapping:** Ensure that the assignable knobs and buttons are correctly mapped to the desired parameters in your software. Some software may require manual MIDI learn functions.
- **Software Compatibility:** Verify that your software is compatible with MIDI controllers and that any necessary drivers or updates are installed.

5.3 Intermittent Connection

- **USB Port:** Try connecting the V61 to a different USB port on your computer. Avoid using unpowered USB hubs.
- **USB Cable:** Test with a different USB cable to rule out a faulty cable.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Item Weight	7.48 pounds
Product Dimensions	9.6 x 44.1 x 4.53 inches
Item Model Number	V61
Color Name	Black

Compatible Devices	Devices with a USB port, such as computers and laptops running Windows or MacOS
Connector Type	USB
Hardware Interface	USB
Supported Software	Ableton Live (and other DAWs with MIDI support)
Musical Style	Electronic
Number of Keyboard Keys	61
Special Feature	Keyboard Controller, Velocity Sensitive Key

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, technical support, and additional resources, please visit the official Alesis website or contact their customer service. Product registration is recommended to ensure you receive the latest updates and support.

Video 2: A brief overview of an Alesis keyboard, showcasing its design and features.