Akai Professional MPD226

AKAI Professional MPD226 USB MIDI Controller User Manual

Model: MPD226 | Brand: Akai Professional

1. Introduction

The AKAI Professional MPD226 is a feature-packed USB MIDI Controller designed for music production. It offers a responsive user experience with ultra-sensitive Thick Fat MPC pads and an expanded control set. This controller is ideal for integrating with various digital audio workstations (DAWs) on Mac, PC, or iOS devices, providing comprehensive control over your music production workflow.



Image: Front view of the AKAI Professional MPD226 USB MIDI Controller, showcasing its pads, knobs, and faders.

2. What's in the Box

Your AKAI Professional MPD226 package includes the following items:

- MPD226 Unit
- USB Cable
- (2) 1/8”-to-MIDI Adapters
- Software Download Cards
- User Guide
- Safety & Warranty Manual

3. Setup

Follow these steps to set up your MPD226 controller:

1. **Connect to Power and Computer:** Connect the MPD226 to your computer using the included USB cable. The unit is powered via USB, eliminating the need for an external power adapter for most operations.
2. **MIDI Connections (Optional):** If you plan to connect external MIDI gear, use the included 1/8”-to-MIDI adapters to connect to your MIDI devices' In and Out ports.
3. **Software Installation:** Use the provided software download cards to access and install the included production software package, which typically includes Ableton Live Lite, Drum Synth 500 by AIR Music Tech, and MPC Beats.
4. **Driver Installation:** The MPD226 is plug-and-play for Mac and PC, meaning drivers are usually not required. However, ensure your operating system is up to date for optimal performance.



Image: Rear view of the MPD226, showing the USB port, MIDI In/Out, and power input.

Software Overview: MPC Beats

The MPD226 comes bundled with MPC Beats, a powerful beat-making software based on the legendary MPC workflow. This software allows you to program drum patterns, chop and edit samples, record melodic instruments, and much more. It includes a producer kits library, over 80 AIR Audio FX, and is compatible with all USB MIDI controllers. MPC Beats can work standalone or as a plugin within any DAW.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: An official overview of MPC Beats software, demonstrating its features for beat making, sample editing, and instrument recording.

4. Operating Instructions

The MPD226 offers a versatile set of controls for dynamic performance and precise control over your music.

4.1. Thick Fat MPC Pads

The controller features 16 RGB illuminated velocity and pressure-sensitive MPC pads. These pads are designed for expressive beat production and can be assigned to various sounds and functions. Easily accessible dedicated controls for 4 pad banks provide a total of 64 assignable pads.



Image: Close-up view of the RGB illuminated pads on the MPD226, showing their vibrant colors.

4.2. Assignable Controls

The MPD226 includes 4 assignable faders, 4 assignable Q-Link knobs, and 4 assignable Q-Link buttons. These controls are arranged in three banks, offering a total of 36 assignable controls. This expanded control set allows you to maximize your sound and gain increased control over effects and parameters within your software.



Image: Close-up view of the faders and Q-Link knobs on the MPD226.

4.3. Classic MPC Features

The MPD226 incorporates classic MPC functions such as Note Repeat, MPC Swing, 16 Level, Full Level, and Tap Tempo. These features provide immersive expressive performances and are essential tools for modern beat production.

4.4. iOS Connectivity

For mobile production, the MPD226 supports iOS connectivity. You can control your iOS apps and expand your pad control capabilities using a Camera Connection Kit (sold separately).

5. Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your AKAI Professional MPD226, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the surface of the unit. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or strong detergents, as they may damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the MPD226 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, excessive heat, or moisture.
- **Handling:** Handle the unit with care. Avoid dropping it or subjecting it to strong impacts, which can damage the internal circuitry or external controls.
- **Cable Management:** Ensure all cables are connected securely and are not under undue strain. Avoid sharp bends or kinks in the USB and MIDI cables.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your MPD226, refer to the following common troubleshooting tips:

- **No Power/Not Recognized:**
  - Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the MPD226 and your computer.
  - Try a different USB port on your computer.
  - If using a USB hub, try connecting directly to the computer or using a powered USB hub.
  - Restart your computer and the MPD226.
- **Pads Not Responding/Double Triggers:**
  - Check the pad sensitivity settings within the MPD226 editor software. Adjust the threshold and curve to suit your playing style.
  - Ensure the correct pad bank is selected.
  - Verify that the pads are mapped correctly to your software's drum samples or instruments.
- **Software Freezing/Crashing:**
  - Ensure your DAW and MPD226 firmware are up to date.
  - In your DAW's MIDI settings, try disabling

Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question