KORG NANOKEY-ST

KORG nanoKEY Studio Mobile MIDI Keyboard Controller User Manual

Model: NANOKEY-ST | Brand: KORG

1. Introduction

The KORG nanoKEY Studio is a compact and versatile MIDI keyboard controller designed for mobile music production. It offers a comprehensive set of controls including keys, pads, knobs, and an X-Y touch pad, all integrated into a portable form factor. With both USB and Bluetooth LE connectivity, it provides flexibility for use with various devices such as computers, smartphones, and tablets, enabling creative expression anywhere.

2. Product Overview

The nanoKEY Studio combines essential MIDI control elements in a sleek, black design. Its intuitive layout facilitates seamless interaction with your music software.

Key Features:

- **25 Low-profile Keys:** Velocity-sensitive for expressive melodic input.
- **8 Velocity-sensitive Pads:** Ideal for drumming, triggering samples, or playing chords.
- **X-Y Touch Pad:** Provides dynamic control over pitch bend, modulation, and effects.
- **8 Knobs:** Assignable for precise control of various parameters in your software.
- **USB/Bluetooth LE Connectivity:** Offers flexible connection options for diverse setups.

Figure 2.1: The KORG nanoKEY Studio Mobile MIDI Keyboard Controller, showcasing its compact design and control layout.

Figure 2.2: A top-down view of the KORG nanoKEY Studio, highlighting its keys, pads, knobs, and X-Y touchpad for a clear understanding of its interface.

3. Setup

3.1 What's in the Box

- KORG nanoKEY Studio Unit
- USB Cable
- 2 x AA Batteries (for standalone operation)

3.2 Powering the Unit

The nanoKEY Studio can be powered in two ways:

- **USB Bus Power:** Connect the unit to a computer or USB power adapter using the provided USB cable.
- **Battery Power:** Insert 2 AA batteries into the battery compartment on the underside of the unit.

3.3 Connecting via USB

To connect the nanoKEY Studio to your computer or compatible device via USB:

1. Ensure your computer's operating system is up to date.
2. Connect one end of the supplied USB cable to the USB port on the nanoKEY Studio.
3. Connect the other end of the USB cable to an available USB port on your computer or device.
4. The unit should be automatically recognized by your system as a MIDI device.

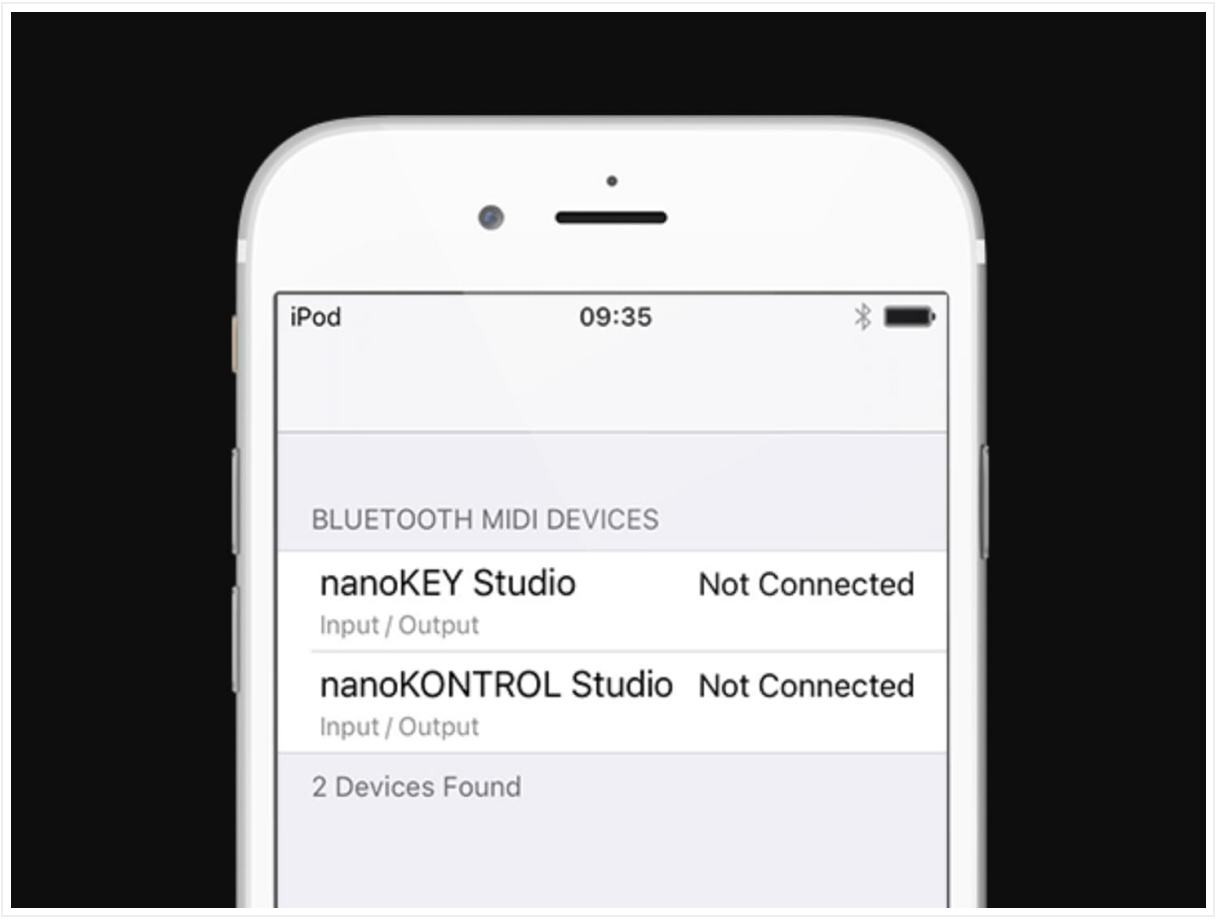

Figure 3.1: The KORG nanoKEY Studio connected via USB to a laptop, illustrating a typical wired setup for music production.

3.4 Connecting via Bluetooth LE

For wireless connectivity with Bluetooth LE compatible devices:

1. Ensure the nanoKEY Studio is powered on (using batteries or USB).
2. Activate Bluetooth on your host device (smartphone, tablet, or computer).
3. On the nanoKEY Studio, press the **Wireless** button to enable Bluetooth pairing mode. The LED indicator will flash.

4. On your host device, open your music application or system Bluetooth settings and select the nanoKEY Studio from the list of available MIDI devices to pair.

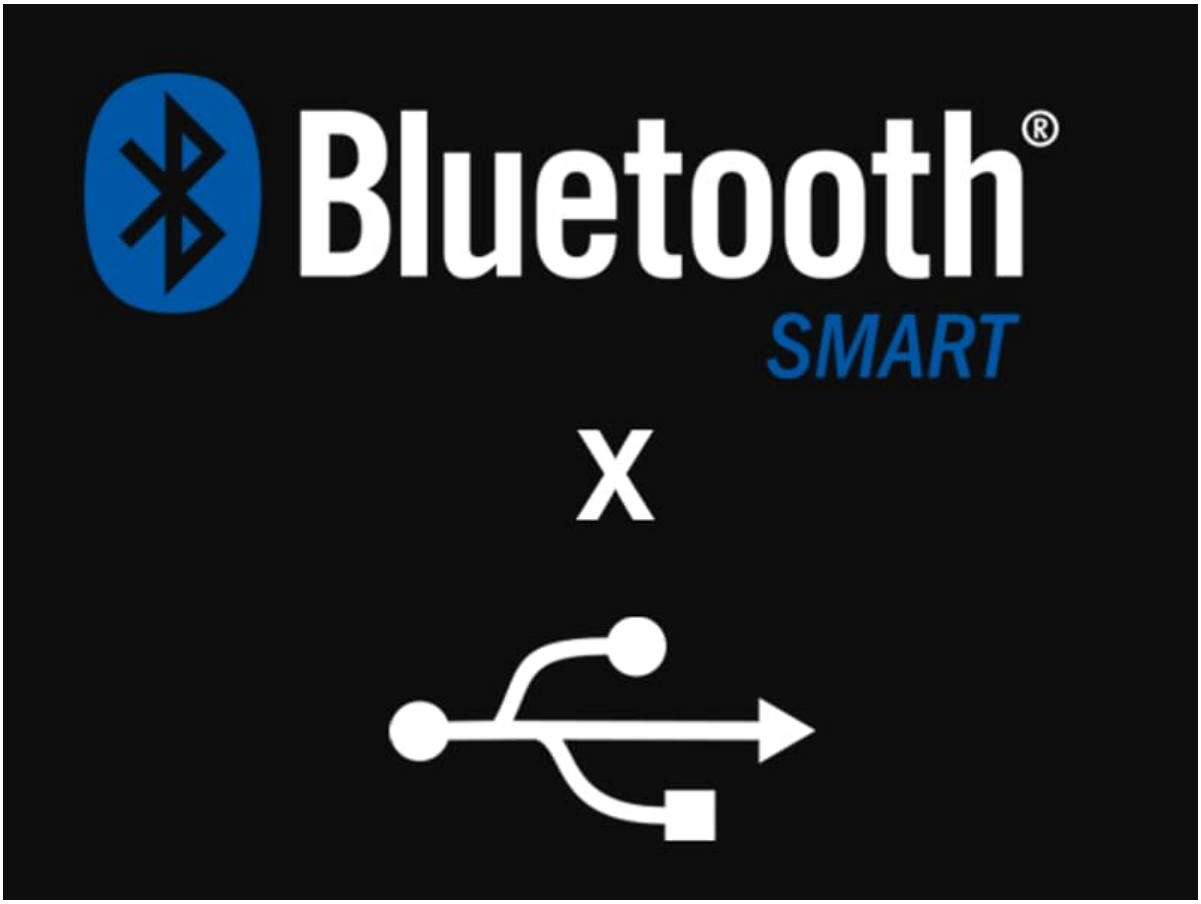

Figure 3.2: The KORG nanoKEY Studio connected wirelessly to a tablet, demonstrating the convenience of Bluetooth LE for mobile music creation.

4. Operating Instructions

4.1 Low-profile Keys

The 25 low-profile keys are velocity-sensitive, allowing for dynamic and expressive melodic input. Use the **Octave +/-** buttons to shift the keyboard's range across multiple octaves.

4.2 Velocity-sensitive Pads

The 8 velocity-sensitive pads are ideal for triggering drum sounds, samples, or playing chords. Their responsiveness allows for nuanced performances.

Figure 4.1: A close-up of the KORG nanoKEY Studio's keys and pads, showing the illuminated pads indicating active status or velocity response.

4.3 X-Y Touch Pad

The X-Y touch pad provides a unique way to control parameters in real-time. It can be assigned to functions like pitch bend, modulation, or various effects, offering dynamic and fluid expression. Use the dedicated **X-Y** and **Pitch/Mod** buttons to toggle its functionality.

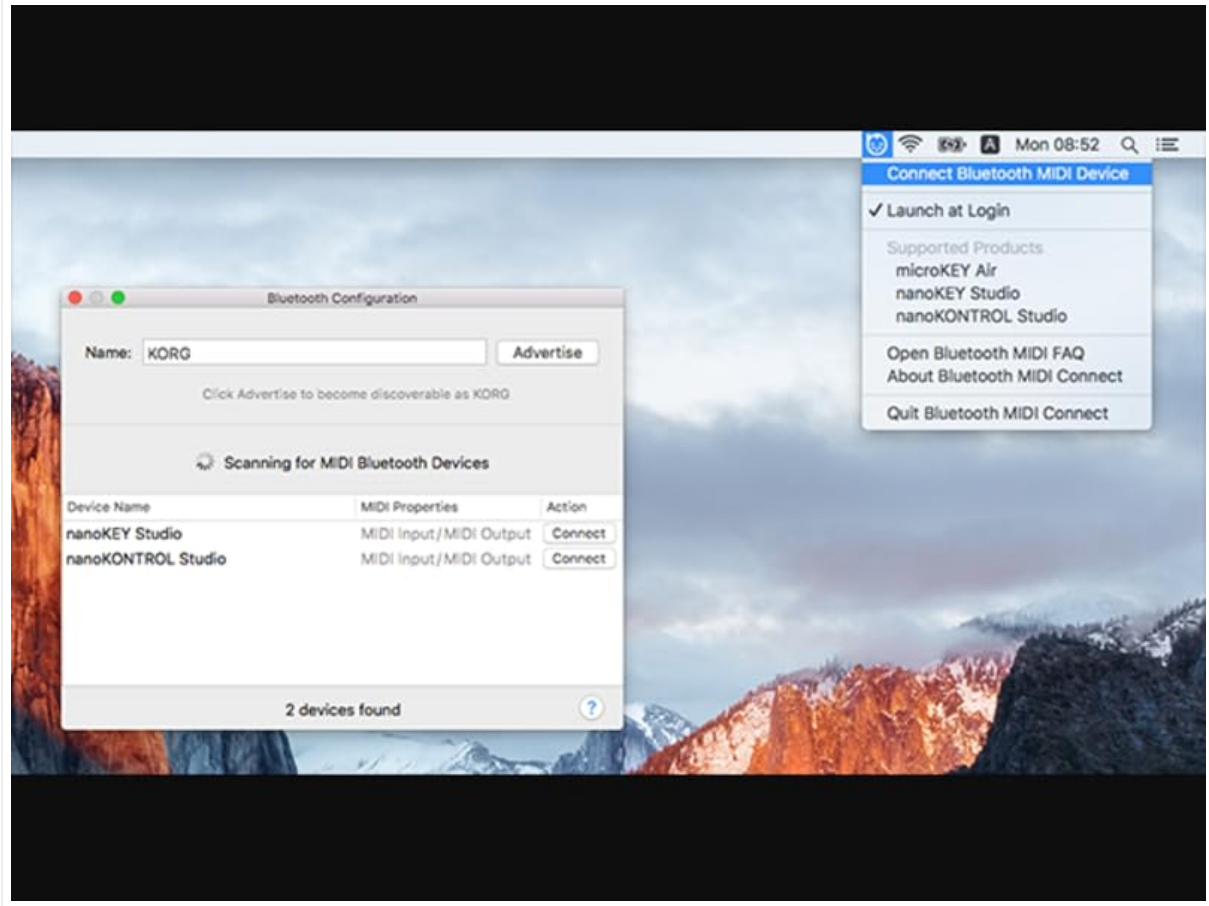

Figure 4.2: A detailed view of the KORG nanoKEY Studio's X-Y touch pad and its surrounding control buttons, illustrating its central role in dynamic parameter manipulation.

4.4 Knobs

The 8 assignable knobs offer continuous control over parameters such as filter cutoff, resonance, or effect send levels. These can be customized using the Korg Kontrol Editor software.

Figure 4.3: A close-up of the KORG nanoKEY Studio's assignable knobs, designed for precise parameter adjustments during music production.

4.5 Control Buttons

Dedicated buttons provide quick access to various functions:

- **Octave +/-:** Adjusts the keyboard's octave range.
- **Sustain:** Toggles sustain for notes played.
- **Touch Scale:** Enables scale quantization for the X-Y pad.
- **Scene:** Switches between different control setups (scenes).
- **Shift/Tap:** Accesses secondary functions or tap tempo.
- **Arp:** Activates the arpeggiator.
- **Chord Pad:** Enables chord mode for the pads.

- **Easy Scale Guide:** Assists in playing in specific scales.
- **Wireless:** Toggles Bluetooth LE connectivity.

5. Software Integration

The KORG nanoKEY Studio is designed to integrate seamlessly with various music production software and applications. For advanced customization of its controls, KORG provides the Kontrol Editor software, allowing users to assign specific MIDI messages to keys, pads, knobs, and the X-Y pad.
The device is compatible with Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) and music creation apps on platforms like the Apple App Store, offering a wide range of possibilities for musicians and producers.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 5.1: An official product video demonstrating the KORG nanoKEY Studio MIDI Controller in use, highlighting its features and functionality.

6. Maintenance

6.1 Cleaning

To clean your nanoKEY Studio, use a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the surface. Do not allow liquids to enter the unit.

6.2 Battery Replacement

If using battery power, replace the 2 AA batteries when the power indicator light dims or the unit becomes unresponsive. Ensure correct polarity when inserting new batteries.

7. Troubleshooting

7.1 No Power/Unresponsive Unit

- **USB Connection:** Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the nanoKEY Studio and your host device. Try a different USB port or cable.
- **Battery Power:** Check if the batteries are correctly inserted and not depleted. Replace with fresh AA batteries if necessary.

7.2 No MIDI Signal

- **Software Settings:** Verify that your music software (DAW/app) is configured to recognize and receive MIDI input from the nanoKEY Studio.
- **Bluetooth Connection:** If using Bluetooth, ensure the device is properly paired and selected as a MIDI input in your software. Try re-pairing the device.
- **Drivers:** While generally plug-and-play, ensure any necessary drivers or software (like Korg Kontrol Editor) are installed and up to date if experiencing issues on a computer.

8. Specifications

Item Weight	1.49 pounds
Product Dimensions	13.5 x 6.81 x 1.65 inches
Item Model Number	NANOKEY-ST

Batteries	2 AA batteries required (included)
Connectivity Technology	USB, Bluetooth LE
Special Feature	Backlit Pad, Compact, Lightweight
Number of Keys	25

9. Warranty and Support

The KORG nanoKEY Studio comes with a 3-year warranty. For technical support, troubleshooting assistance, or warranty claims, please refer to the official KORG website or contact their customer support directly. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty validation.