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Nektar SE49

Nektar SE49 49-Key MIDI Controller User Manual

Model: SE49 | Brand: Nektar

Introduction

The Nektar SE49 is a versatile 49-key USB MIDI controller designed for music production and performance. It offers a full-size, velocity-sensitive keyboard, essential performance controls, and seamless integration with popular Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs). This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your SE49 controller.



Image: Top view of the Nektar SE49 49-Key MIDI Controller, showcasing its compact design and key layout.

Setup

Setting up your Nektar SE49 is a straightforward process. Follow these steps to connect your controller to your computer or iOS device.

Package Contents:

- SE49 Keyboard
- USB Cable
- User Manual (this document)
- Bitwig Studio 8-Track License card

Connecting to a Computer (PC/Mac):

1. Ensure your computer is powered on.
2. Connect one end of the supplied USB cable to the "USB to Host" port on the back of the SE49 controller.

3. Connect the other end of the USB cable to an available USB port on your computer.
4. Turn on the SE49 controller using the "On/Off" switch located next to the USB port.
5. Your computer should automatically detect and install the necessary drivers. The SE49 is USB class compliant, meaning no special drivers are typically required for basic functionality.
6. For Nektar DAW Integration features, refer to the included Bitwig Studio 8-Track license card or visit the Nektar website for specific driver/software downloads for your DAW.

Connecting to an iOS Device:

To connect to an Apple iOS device (iPad/iPhone), an Apple Camera Connection Kit (not supplied) is required. Connect the SE49 to the Camera Connection Kit, then connect the kit to your iOS device.

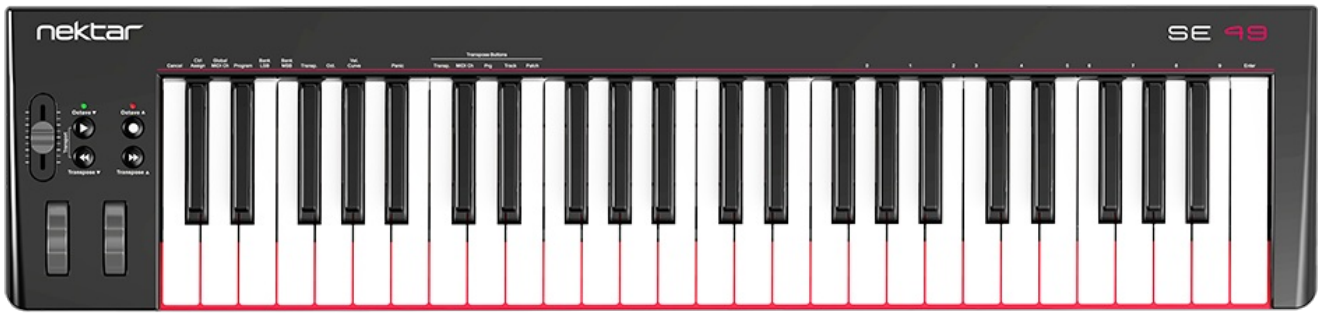

Image: Diagram illustrating the Nektar SE49's connectivity, showing USB Class Compliant, Windows OS, Mac OS, and iOS compatibility (requires Apple Camera Connection Kit).



Image: Close-up of the Nektar SE49's rear panel, showing the USB to Host port, Sustain pedal input, and On/Off switch.

Operating Instructions

The Nektar SE49 provides intuitive controls for expressive musical performance and efficient DAW integration.

Keyboard and Velocity Sensitivity:

The SE49 features 49 full-sized, velocity-sensitive keys with a synth-action keybed. This allows for dynamic and expressive playing, where the volume or intensity of a note changes based on how hard you strike the key.



Image: Hands playing the Nektar SE49 keyboard, demonstrating the full-sized, velocity-sensitive keys.

Performance Controls:

- **Pitch Bend Wheel:** Located on the left side, this wheel allows you to bend the pitch of notes up or down for expressive effects. It automatically returns to the center position.
- **Modulation Wheel:** Also on the left side, this wheel can be assigned to control various parameters within your software, such as vibrato, filter cutoff, or volume, depending on your instrument or effect settings.
- **Assignable Fader:** A single fader provides real-time control over a MIDI parameter. By default, it may control volume or can be assigned to other functions.
- **Octave Buttons:** Use the Octave Up and Octave Down buttons to shift the entire keyboard range up or down in octaves. This allows access to a wider range of notes than the physical keys provide.
- **Transpose Buttons:** These buttons allow you to transpose the keyboard up or down in semitone steps.



Image: Close-up of the Nektar SE49's pitch bend and modulation wheels, designed for expressive performance.



Image: Close-up of the Nektar SE49's control section, showing the assignable fader, Octave, Transpose, and Transport buttons.

DAW Integration:

The Nektar SE49 offers deep integration with many popular DAWs, enhancing your workflow. This integration typically includes transport controls (Play, Stop, Record, Fast Forward, Rewind) and track navigation directly from the keyboard.

Supported DAWs include Bitwig, Cubase, GarageBand, Logic Pro X, Nuendo, Digital Performer, Mixcraft, Reason, Reaper, Sonar, FL Studio, and Studio One. Refer to the Nektar website or the Bitwig Studio 8-Track license card for specific setup instructions for your chosen DAW.

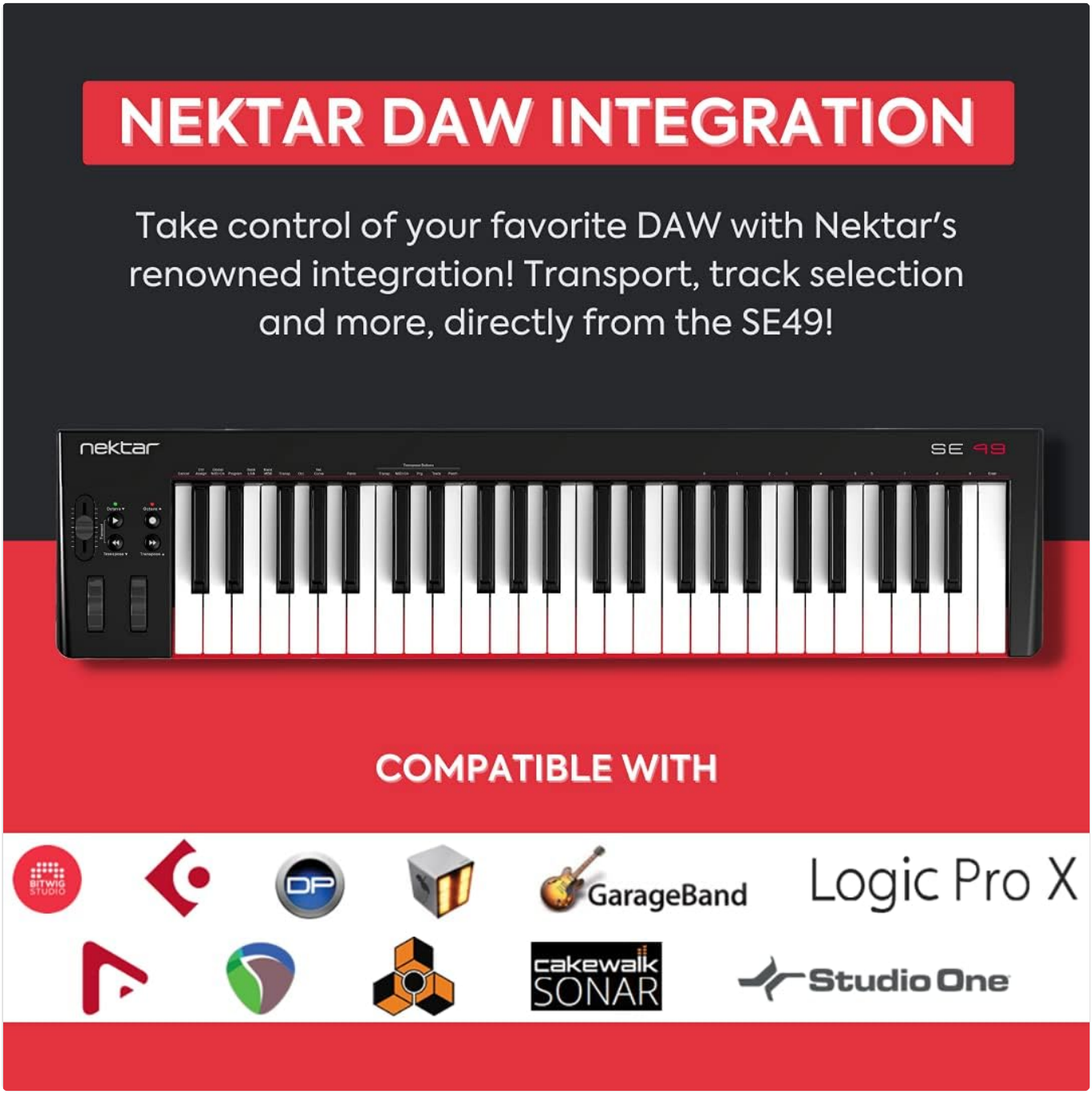

Image: Graphic illustrating the Nektar SE49's extensive DAW integration, showing logos of compatible software like Bitwig Studio, Cubase, GarageBand, Logic Pro X, and more.



Image: The Nektar SE49 keyboard displayed alongside the Bitwig Studio 8-Track software box and interface, highlighting the included software bundle.

Maintenance

Proper care and maintenance will ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Nektar SE49 MIDI controller.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to clean the surface of the controller. For stubborn marks, slightly dampen the cloth with water. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the finish.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the controller in a clean, dry environment away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts. Do not place heavy objects on the keys or controls.
- **Connectivity:** Always handle USB cables and connectors carefully. Avoid pulling on the cable itself when disconnecting.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Nektar SE49, try the following troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No power / Unit not turning on	Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the SE49 and your computer. Verify the "On/Off" switch on the SE49 is in the "On" position. Try a different USB port on your computer. If using a USB hub, ensure it is powered.
No sound / MIDI data not being received	Check your DAW or music software's MIDI settings to ensure the Nektar SE49 is selected as an input device. Verify that the track you are trying to play on is armed for recording or monitoring MIDI input. Ensure the correct instrument or sound is loaded in your software. Restart your computer and the SE49.
Keys or controls not responding correctly	Perform a factory reset (refer to the Nektar website or full user guide for instructions). Ensure no foreign objects are lodged under the keys or fader. Check for any software conflicts or outdated drivers (though typically not needed for basic function, DAW integration may require specific drivers).
DAW integration not working	Ensure you have installed any specific Nektar DAW integration files for your software. Verify the control surface settings within your DAW are correctly configured for the Nektar SE49. Check the Nektar support website for updated integration files or troubleshooting guides for your specific DAW version.

Specifications

Key technical specifications for the Nektar SE49 MIDI Controller:

- **Model Name:** SE49
- **Number of Keys:** 49
- **Key Type:** Full-size, Velocity-Sensitive, Synth-Action
- **Connectivity:** USB (USB Class Compliant)
- **Controls:** Pitch Bend Wheel, Modulation Wheel, 1 Assignable Fader, Octave Up/Down Buttons, Transpose Up/Down Buttons, Transport Controls (Play, Stop, Rewind, Fast Forward)
- **Inputs:** 1/4" TS jack for footswitch (sustain pedal not included)
- **Power:** USB powered
- **Operating System Compatibility:**
  - Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10 or higher
  - Mac OS X 10.5 or higher
  - Linux (Ubuntu)
  - Apple iOS (Camera Connection Kit required)
- **DAW Integration:** Bitwig, Cubase, GarageBand, Logic Pro X, Nuendo, Digital Performer, Mixcraft, Reason,

Reaper, Sonar, FL Studio, Studio One

- **Dimensions (L x D x H):** Approximately 31.7 x 7.75 x 2.75 inches (80.5 x 19.7 x 7 cm)
- **Weight:** Approximately 4 pounds (1.81 kg)
- **Material:** Plastic
- **Color:** Black

Warranty and Support

Nektar products are designed for reliability and performance. For specific warranty information, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Nektar website.

Customer Support:

For technical assistance, driver downloads, or further information regarding your Nektar SE49, please visit the Nektar Technology support page:

Nektar Technology Support

You may also find helpful resources, FAQs, and community forums on their website.

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