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Akai Professional MPKMiniPlay

AKAI Professional MPK Mini Play

USB MIDI Keyboard Controller User Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

The AKAI Professional MPK Mini Play is a versatile, ultra-portable MIDI keyboard controller designed for musicians and producers. It features 25 velocity-sensitive mini keys, 8 backlit MPC drum pads, and a built-in sound module with 128 instrument sounds and 10 drum kits. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your MPK Mini Play.



Figure 1: AKAI Professional MPK Mini Play Overview

2. SETUP

2.1 Powering the Device

The MPK Mini Play can be powered in two ways:

1. **Battery Power:** For portable use, insert three (3) AA batteries (not included) into the battery compartment on the underside of the unit. Ensure the power switch on the rear panel is set to 'BATT'.
2. **USB Power:** Connect the MPK Mini Play to a computer using the included USB cable. The unit will draw power directly from the USB connection. Ensure the power switch on the rear panel is set to 'USB'.

2.2 Connecting to a Computer

To use the MPK Mini Play as a MIDI controller with your computer:

1. Connect one end of the USB cable to the USB port on the rear of the MPK Mini Play.
2. Connect the other end of the USB cable to an available USB port on your computer.
3. The MPK Mini Play is class-compliant and does not require special drivers for basic MIDI functionality. Your computer should recognize it automatically.

2.3 Audio Output

For enhanced sound or private practice:

- **Headphones:** Connect 1/8-inch (3.5mm) headphones to the headphone output jack on the rear panel.
- **External Speaker/Amplifier:** Connect the 1/8-inch (3.5mm) audio output to an external speaker, amplifier, or mixer using an appropriate cable.

PLAY ANYWHERE!



BUILT IN SPEAKER



**1/8-INCH
HEADPHONE OUTPUT**



**POWER WITH 3
AA BATTERIES**



Figure 2: Rear Panel Connections

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Keyboard Keys

The MPK Mini Play features 25 velocity-sensitive mini keys. Use the **OCTAVE UP** and **OCTAVE DOWN** buttons to shift the keyboard's octave range, allowing access to the full melodic spectrum.

3.2 Drum Pads

The 8 backlit MPC-style drum pads are velocity-sensitive and can be used to trigger drum sounds or samples. The pads are organized into two banks (A/B), providing access to 16 different sounds. Use the **PAD BANK A/B** button to switch between banks.

- **Note Repeat:** Press and hold the **NOTE REPEAT** button while striking a pad to repeatedly trigger its sound. The rate of repetition is determined by the current tempo and time division settings.
- **Full Level:** Press the **FULL LEVEL** button to make all pad strikes trigger at maximum velocity, regardless of how hard you hit them.

THE MPC EXPERIENCE

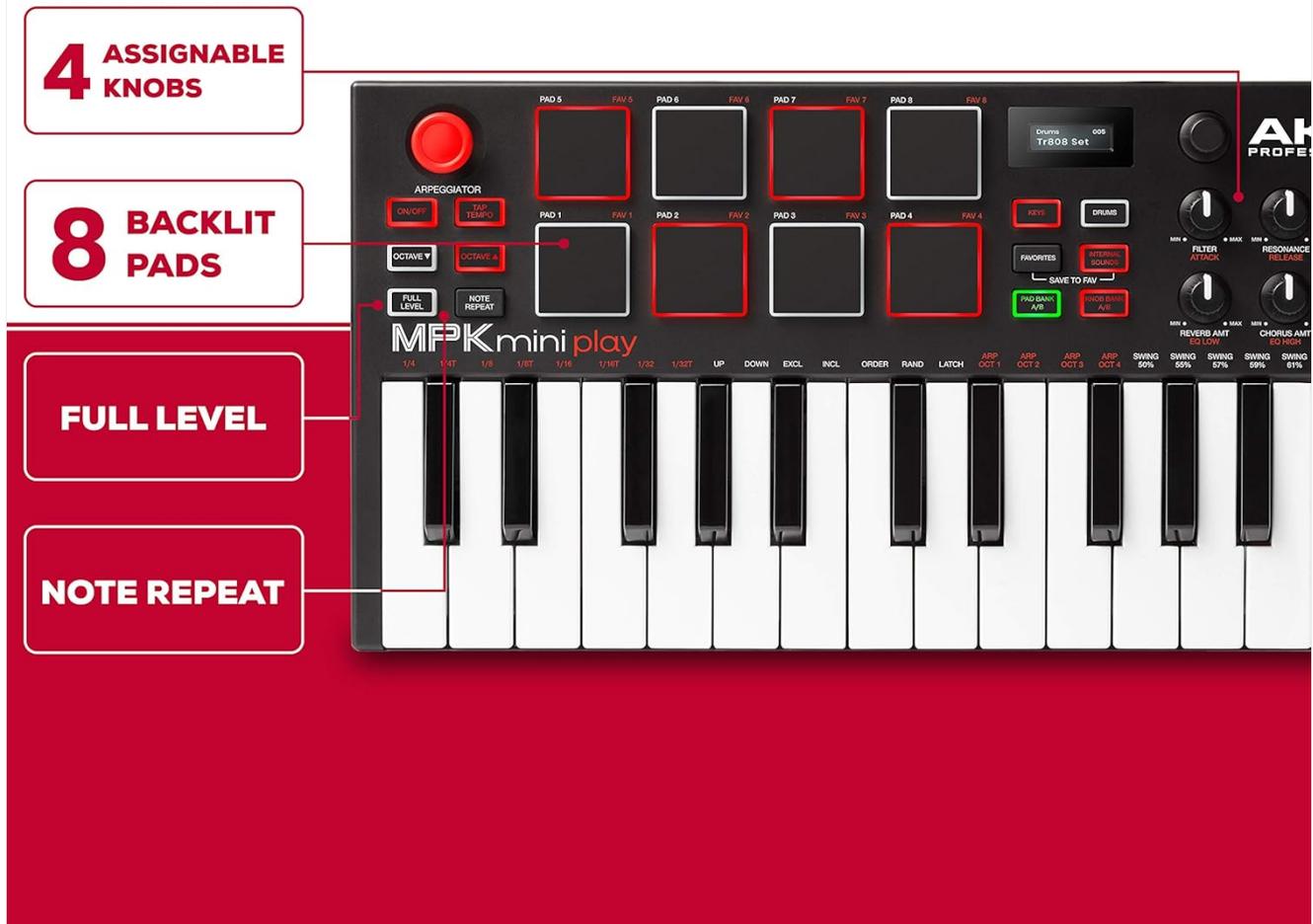


Figure 3: Drum Pads and Arpeggiator Controls

3.3 Controls (Knobs & Joystick)

The MPK Mini Play includes several controls for sound manipulation:

- **4-Way Joystick:** This joystick provides dynamic control over pitch bend and modulation, allowing for expressive performance.
- **Assignable Knobs:** There are four assignable knobs (organized into two banks, A/B) that can be used to tweak internal sounds or control software parameters. Use the **KNOB BANK A/B** button to switch between banks.
- **Dedicated Sound Controls:** In standalone mode, dedicated knobs control Filter, Resonance, Reverb Amount, Chorus Amount, and Volume.



TWEAK. CUSTOMISE



CHORUS &
REVERB FX

FILTER & EQ

ENVELOPE
CONTROLS

Figure 4: Sound Control Knobs

3.4 Internal Sounds

The MPK Mini Play comes with 128 internal instrument sounds and 10 drum kits. Use the **KEYS** and **DRUMS** buttons to switch between instrument and drum modes. The OLED display will show the currently selected sound. You can save your favorite sounds using the **SAVE TO FAV** function.

3.5 Arpeggiator

The built-in arpeggiator can automatically play a sequence of notes based on the keys you hold down. Use the **ON/OFF** button to activate/deactivate the arpeggiator and the **TAP TEMPO** button to set the tempo. Various arpeggiator modes and settings can be adjusted for creative effects.

4. SOFTWARE INTEGRATION

The MPK Mini Play is designed to integrate seamlessly with Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) and music production software. It includes a software suite to enhance your music creation experience.

4.1 MPC Beats Software

The MPK Mini Play comes with MPC Beats, a comprehensive 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 utilize various instrument/plugin tracks and audio tracks. It also includes 3 MPC plugins (Bassline, Electric, Tube Synth) and over 80 Air Audio FX.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 1: Introducing MPC Beats Software

This video provides an overview of the MPC Beats software, demonstrating its capabilities for beat making, sample editing, and instrument recording, highlighting its compatibility with MIDI controllers like the MPK Mini Play.



BEAT MAKING STARTS HERE

Based on the legendary MPC workflow • 2 Audio and 8 Midi/Instrument Tracks • MPC-Style Sample Editing • VST/AU support • Sample/sound content, effects, and virtual instruments built-in

Figure 5: MPK Mini Play with MPC Beats

5. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Description
Model Name	MPK MINI Play

Feature	Description
Keys	25 velocity-sensitive mini keys
Pads	8 backlit, velocity-sensitive MPC-style pads (2 banks)
Knobs	4 assignable Q-Link knobs (2 banks)
Joystick	4-way joystick for pitch bend and modulation control
Internal Sounds	128 instrument sounds, 10 drum kits
Speaker	Built-in speaker
Outputs	1/8-inch (3.5mm) headphone output
Inputs	1/4-inch (6.35mm) TS input for sustain pedal
Connectivity	USB-B port for MIDI and power
Power	USB bus powered or 3 x AA batteries
Dimensions (W x D x H)	12.29 x 6.8 x 1.83 inches (31.2 x 17.3 x 4.6 cm)
Weight	1.64 lbs (0.74 kg)

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Sound from Built-in Speaker:** Ensure the volume knob is turned up and the power switch is set to 'BATT' (if using batteries) or 'USB' (if connected to computer). Check if headphones are plugged in, as this will mute the internal speaker.
- **No MIDI Signal to Computer:** Verify the USB cable is securely connected to both the MPK Mini Play and your computer. Ensure the power switch is set to 'USB'. Check your DAW's MIDI settings to confirm the MPK Mini Play is recognized and enabled as an input device.
- **Keys/Pads Not Responding:** Check if the unit is powered on. If using batteries, ensure they are fresh and correctly inserted. If connected via USB, confirm the connection is stable.
- **Software Not Recognizing MPK Mini Play:** Ensure your DAW or software is up-to-date. Consult the software's documentation for specific MIDI controller setup instructions.

7. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the surface of the MPK Mini Play. Do not use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or harsh chemicals.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If storing for an extended period, remove batteries to prevent leakage.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts. Do not place heavy objects on top of it.

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please visit the official Akai Professional website or contact their customer service. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.

