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Yamaha SHS500BC

Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar SHS-500 User Manual

Model: SHS500BC

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar SHS-500 is a compact, portable keyboard designed for interactive musical expression. It allows users to engage with music rhythmically, even without extensive musical training, particularly through its Jam Mode feature. This instrument can connect to iOS devices for use with applications like Yamaha Chord Tracker and functions as a wireless MIDI controller via Bluetooth. It is equipped with various features for sound manipulation and connectivity, making it suitable for both practice and performance.



Image: Top view of the Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar SHS-500 in black, showcasing its 37-key keyboard and control panel.

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Upon unboxing your Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar, please ensure all the following components are present:

- Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar (SHS-500)
- Power Supply
- Strap
- 1/8" AUX Cable
- MIDI Breakout Cable
- Quickstart Guide



Image: Angled view of the Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar, highlighting its compact design and the handle for portability.

3. SETUP

3.1 Powering On

The SHS-500 can be powered using the included power supply or 6 AA batteries (not included).

- **Using Power Supply:** Connect the power supply to the DC IN jack on the keytar and plug it into a standard electrical outlet.
- **Using Batteries:** Open the battery compartment on the underside of the keytar and insert 6 AA alkaline batteries, ensuring correct polarity.

3.2 Connecting Audio

The keytar features a built-in speaker, but for higher quality audio or connection to external systems, use the following ports:

- **LINE OUT (1/4" Jack):** Connect this to an amplifier, mixer, or audio interface for external sound output.
- **PHONES (3.5mm Jack):** Connect headphones for private practice.
- **AUX IN (1/8" Jack):** Connect an external audio player (e.g., smartphone, tablet) to play audio through the keytar's speakers.



Image: Close-up view of the rear panel of the Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar, showing the AUX IN, LINE OUT, power button, and volume knob.

3.3 MIDI Connectivity

- **USB to Host:** Connect the keytar to a computer using a USB cable for MIDI communication.
- **Bluetooth MIDI:** Pair the keytar wirelessly with iOS devices or other compatible devices for MIDI control. Refer to your device's Bluetooth pairing instructions.
- **MIDI Breakout Cable:** Use the included MIDI breakout cable to connect to traditional MIDI IN/OUT ports on other MIDI devices.

4. OPERATION

4.1 Jam Mode

Jam Mode allows you to play along with your favorite music without hitting wrong notes. When connected to an iOS device running the Yamaha Chord Tracker app, the keytar analyzes the chords of your iTunes songs and automatically adjusts its output to match, enabling you to focus on rhythm and expression.

4.2 Voice Selection

The SHS-500 features 30 different voices (instrument sounds). Use the dedicated buttons or navigation controls on the keytar to browse and select desired voices. Experiment with different sounds to find the best fit for your musical style.

4.3 Controls and Effects

- **Modulation Wheel:** Located on the neck, this wheel allows you to apply modulation effects (e.g., vibrato, tremolo) to your sound. The effect level remains at the set position until adjusted again.
- **Pitch Bend Wheel:** Also on the neck, this wheel allows you to temporarily bend the pitch of notes up or down for expressive playing.
- **Transpose Buttons:** Adjust the overall pitch of the keyboard in semitone steps.
- **Octave Buttons:** Shift the keyboard's octave range up or down.
- **Sustain Button:** Sustains notes after the keys are released, similar to a piano sustain pedal.
- **Filter, Reverb, Dynamics, Chorus Sliders:** These sliders, located at the base of the unit, allow for real-time adjustment of sound parameters to shape your tone.

5. MAINTENANCE

5.1 Cleaning

To clean the keytar, use a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water and a mild, non-abrasive cleaner, then wipe dry immediately. Avoid using strong chemical cleaners, solvents, or abrasive materials, as these can damage the finish.

5.2 Storage

Store the keytar in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. If storing for an extended period, remove the batteries to prevent leakage.

5.3 Battery Replacement

When the battery indicator shows low power or the keytar does not power on with batteries, replace all 6 AA batteries with new ones. Ensure correct polarity during installation.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound from keytar.	Volume too low; incorrect audio connection; power issue.	Increase volume knob. Check LINE OUT/PHONES connections. Ensure power supply is connected or batteries are fresh.
Jam Mode not working with app.	Bluetooth not connected; app not configured correctly.	Ensure Bluetooth MIDI is paired. Check Yamaha Chord Tracker app settings for keytar connection.
MIDI not transmitting.	Incorrect cable; driver issue (for USB); Bluetooth not paired.	Verify USB or MIDI breakout cable connection. Install necessary drivers for USB. Re-pair Bluetooth MIDI.
Keys not responding.	Power issue; internal malfunction.	Check power. If problem persists, contact Yamaha support.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	Yamaha SHS500 Sonogenic Keytar, Black
Number of Keys	37
Dimensions (L x W x H)	35.4 x 9.6 x 8.5 inches (approx. 89.9 x 24.4 x 21.6 cm)
Item Weight	1 pound (approx. 0.45 kg)
Connectivity	Bluetooth, USB, Wi-Fi (for app integration)
Connectors	1/4" Line Out, USB to Host, 3.5mm Headphones Jack, 1/8" Aux In
Power Source	Corded Electric (Power Supply included) or 6x AA Batteries
Operating System Compatibility	iOS (for Chord Tracker app)
Special Features	Portable, Jam Mode, Modulation Wheel, Pitch Bend Wheel

Weight and dimensions



Image: Diagram illustrating the dimensions of the Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar, including width, height, and depth in both millimeters and inches.

8. WARRANTY & SUPPORT

8.1 Warranty Information

For detailed warranty information regarding your Yamaha Sonogenic Keytar SHS-500, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Yamaha website. Warranty terms and conditions may vary by region.

8.2 Customer Support

If you encounter any issues not covered in this manual or require further assistance, please contact Yamaha customer support. You can find contact details on the official Yamaha website or in the Quickstart Guide provided with your product. Additional resources, including the full user manual (PDF), may be available online:

- User Manual (PDF)
- Visit the Yamaha Store on Amazon

