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Blackbox Studio - Compact Sampling Studio User Manual

Brand: 1010music

INTRODUCTION

The 1010music Blackbox Studio is a compact sampling solution designed for modern producers. This device allows you to record hours of audio from various sound sources such as synthesizers, drum machines, and turntables. It features an intuitive touchscreen interface for sample editing and sequencing, providing a powerful tool for creating music without a computer-based workflow.

The Blackbox Studio is equipped with four audio inputs, MIDI and clock I/O, and USB connectivity, making it versatile for integration with Eurorack modular synths, keyboards, drum machines, and other audio equipment. Its design offers significant creative potential for musicians.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW



Figure 1: Front view of the 1010music Blackbox Studio, showcasing its central touchscreen display, rotary encoders, and control buttons. The screen displays a grid-based interface for sample and sequence management. Below the screen are navigation buttons labeled PADS, KEYS, SEQS, SONG, FX, MIX, PSET, and TOOLS. At the bottom, there are dedicated REC, STOP, and PLAY transport controls.

The Blackbox Studio features a clear touchscreen display for visual feedback and interaction. Key physical controls include:

- **Rotary Encoders:** Located on both sides of the screen for parameter adjustment and navigation.
- **BACK Button:** Returns to the previous screen or menu.
- **INFO Button:** Provides contextual information or access to settings.
- **Main Navigation Buttons:**
 - **PADS:** Accesses the pad performance interface.
 - **KEYS:** Switches to keyboard mode for melodic input.
 - **SEQS:** Manages and edits sequences.
 - **SONG:** Arranges sequences into full songs.
 - **FX:** Controls built-in effects.
 - **MIX:** Adjusts mixer settings for tracks and outputs.
 - **PSET:** Manages presets.

- **TOOLS:** Accesses utility functions and system settings.
- **Transport Controls:**
 - **REC (Red LED):** Initiates recording.
 - **STOP (Square LED):** Stops playback or recording.
 - **PLAY (Green Triangle LED):** Starts playback.

SETUP

1. Power Connection

Connect the provided power adapter to the Blackbox Studio's power input and then to a wall outlet. The device is powered via corded electric. There is no dedicated on/off switch; the unit powers on when connected to power and off when disconnected. Consider using an external USB on/off switch for convenience if frequent power cycling is desired.

2. Audio Connections

- **Audio Inputs:** The Blackbox Studio features two audio inputs. Connect your synthesizers, drum machines, turntables, or other audio sources to these inputs for sampling.
- **Headphone Output:** A 3.5mm jack is available for direct monitoring with headphones.
- **Main Outputs:** The device offers multiple audio outputs. While designed for patchboards, an external mixer may be beneficial for level regulation depending on your output destination.

3. MIDI and USB Connectivity

- **MIDI I/O:** Use the included adapters for standard MIDI input and output connections. The Blackbox Studio plays well with a wide array of MIDI equipment and hubs.
- **USB Connectivity:** The USB port supports USB MIDI input, allowing you to connect MIDI controllers like keyboards directly to the Blackbox Studio.
- **Clock I/O:** Connect external clock sources for synchronization with other gear.

4. MicroSD Card

Insert a microSD card into the designated slot. The device typically comes with a pre-installed microSD card (e.g., 32GB). This card is essential for storing samples, projects, and system data. You can transfer samples from your computer to the microSD card for use with the Blackbox Studio.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Sampling

The Blackbox Studio allows for direct recording of audio (via rear stereo jacks) or loading saved files from the SD card. Once a sample is acquired, you can use the intuitive touchscreen interface to:

- **Trim:** Precisely define the start and end points of your sample.
- **Edit Parameters:** Adjust basic parameters such as ADSR (Attack, Decay, Sustain, Release), pitch, and apply filters.
- **Looping:** Set individual looping for samples.

The visual feedback on the touchscreen makes the sampling and editing process efficient and user-friendly.

Sequencing

Create and arrange musical patterns using the sequencer. The Blackbox Studio supports multiple simultaneous sequences. Familiarize yourself with the workflow, particularly the menu options, to effectively build rhythms and melodies. It is crucial to save your sequences regularly, as unsaved work will be lost upon power down.

While the touchscreen can be used for editing sequences, for detailed work on sequences greater than 16 steps, a fine-tipped stylus or external MIDI controller may enhance precision.

Mixing

Access the per-pad mixer from its dedicated primary menu. Here you can adjust levels and other settings for each of the 16 pads. Beyond the per-pad mixer, individual settings for ADSR, pitch, filters, looping, and MIDI in/out channels are available. An overall velocity setting is also present on the pads screen.

The Blackbox Studio offers multiple stereo audio outs, which can be broken down into left and right channels, providing up to 6 mono outs in addition to the headphone jack. While precise, on-the-fly level editing during performance may require familiarity with the menu system.

Song Mode

Song Mode allows you to arrange your sequences into complete tracks. This mode provides a structured way to build longer compositions. It is recommended to consult the official 1010music documentation for a comprehensive understanding of Song Mode's workflow and capabilities, as it differs from other operational modes.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Blackbox Studio, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to clean the exterior of the unit, including the touchscreen. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or aerosol sprays.
- **Handling:** Treat the touchscreen and rotary knobs with care. Avoid excessive force or harsh impacts.
- **Environment:** Operate and store the device in a clean, dry environment, away from extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, and excessive dust or moisture.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, disconnect the power adapter and store the unit in a protective case.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
Device does not power on.	Ensure the power adapter is securely connected to the unit and a working power outlet. Verify the power outlet is active.
Lost unsaved work after power cycle.	Always save your projects, sequences, and samples regularly. The Blackbox Studio does not automatically save all changes upon power off.
No audio output.	Check headphone and main output connections. Verify volume levels on the device and any connected external mixers or speakers. Ensure samples are assigned to active pads and tracks.
Cannot record audio.	Ensure audio input cables are correctly connected. Check input levels on the Blackbox Studio to prevent clipping or silence. Verify the correct input source is selected in the recording menu.

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
MIDI controller not responding.	Ensure the MIDI controller is powered on and connected correctly via USB or MIDI I/O. Check MIDI settings on both the Blackbox Studio and the controller to ensure matching channels and proper configuration.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	Blackbox Studio
Item Model Number	1010music
Brand	1010music
Item Weight	1.98 Pounds (approximately 0.9 kg)
Product Dimensions	12 x 10 x 4 inches (approximately 30.5 x 25.4 x 10.2 cm)
Connectivity Technology	USB
Connector Type	MIDI USB
Power Source	Corded Electric
Headphones Jack	3.5mm Jack
Instrument Type	Synthesizer / Sampler
Operating System Compatibility	Windows, macOS (for file transfer via USB)
Special Feature	Portable
Skill Level	Professional

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, technical support, and service, please refer to the official 1010music website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Official product documentation and firmware updates may also be available on the manufacturer's website, which can provide further details on advanced features and troubleshooting.



