Arturia Keylab 88 II

Arturia KeyLab 88 MkII MIDI Keyboard Controller Instruction Manual

Model: Keylab 88 II | Brand: Arturia

INTRODUCTION

The Arturia KeyLab 88 MkII is a versatile 88-key weighted USB MIDI keyboard controller designed for musicians and producers. It features a high-quality Fatar TP/100LR hammer-action keybed with aftertouch and velocity sensitivity, providing an authentic piano feel. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your KeyLab 88 MkII controller.

KEY FEATURES

- 88-note Fatar TP/100LR keybed with aftertouch, velocity sensitivity, and hammer-action piano feel.
- 16 RGB-backlit performance pads for drumming and clip launching.
- Control bank with 9 faders and 9 rotary knobs for extensive parameter control.
- Seamless integration with Arturia's Analog Lab V software and major DAWs.
- Multiple connectivity options including USB, MIDI In/Out, and various pedal inputs.

SETUP

Physical Connections

Connect the KeyLab 88 MkII to your computer using a standard USB cable. The device is USB-powered, eliminating the need for an external power supply when connected to a computer. For standalone use or specific setups, an optional 9-12V DC 1.0A power supply can be used. Utilize the MIDI In/Out ports for connecting to external MIDI hardware. The controller also features dedicated inputs for Sustain, Expression, and two Auxiliary pedals, along with CV In/Out ports for modular synthesis integration.

Figure 1: Rear panel connections of the Arturia KeyLab 88 MkII. This image displays the various ports including USB, MIDI In/Out, pedal inputs (Sustain, Expression, Aux 1, Aux 2), CV In/Out, and the power input.

Figure 2: Close-up view of the rear panel ports on the Arturia KeyLab 88 MkII, highlighting the Pitch Out, Gate Out, Mod 1, Mod 2, Aux 1, Aux 2, Expression, Sustain, CV In, USB, and 9-12V DC 1.0A power input.

Software Installation

Your KeyLab 88 MkII comes bundled with Arturia's Analog Lab V software, which provides access to thousands of sounds. Install Analog Lab V and any other included software (e.g., Ableton Live Lite, Piano V, Wurli V, Vox Continental V) by following the instructions provided in your product registration. Ensure your DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) is updated and configured to recognize the KeyLab 88 MkII as a MIDI input device.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Basic Operation

The 88 hammer-action keys provide a realistic piano playing experience. The 16 RGB-backlit pads are velocity-sensitive and can be used for triggering drums, samples, or clips. The 9 faders and 9 rotary knobs offer tactile control over various parameters within your software, allowing for dynamic adjustments to sounds and mixes.

Figure 3: Close-up of the Arturia KeyLab 88 MkII's control surface, showing the faders, rotary knobs, and performance pads.

Software Integration

The KeyLab 88 MkII is designed for deep integration with Arturia's Analog Lab V and other DAWs. Use the dedicated DAW Command Center buttons to control transport functions (play, stop, record), track controls (solo, mute), and global controls (save, undo, redo, metronome). The knobs and faders are pre-mapped to essential parameters in Analog Lab V, allowing for immediate sound tweaking without manual configuration.
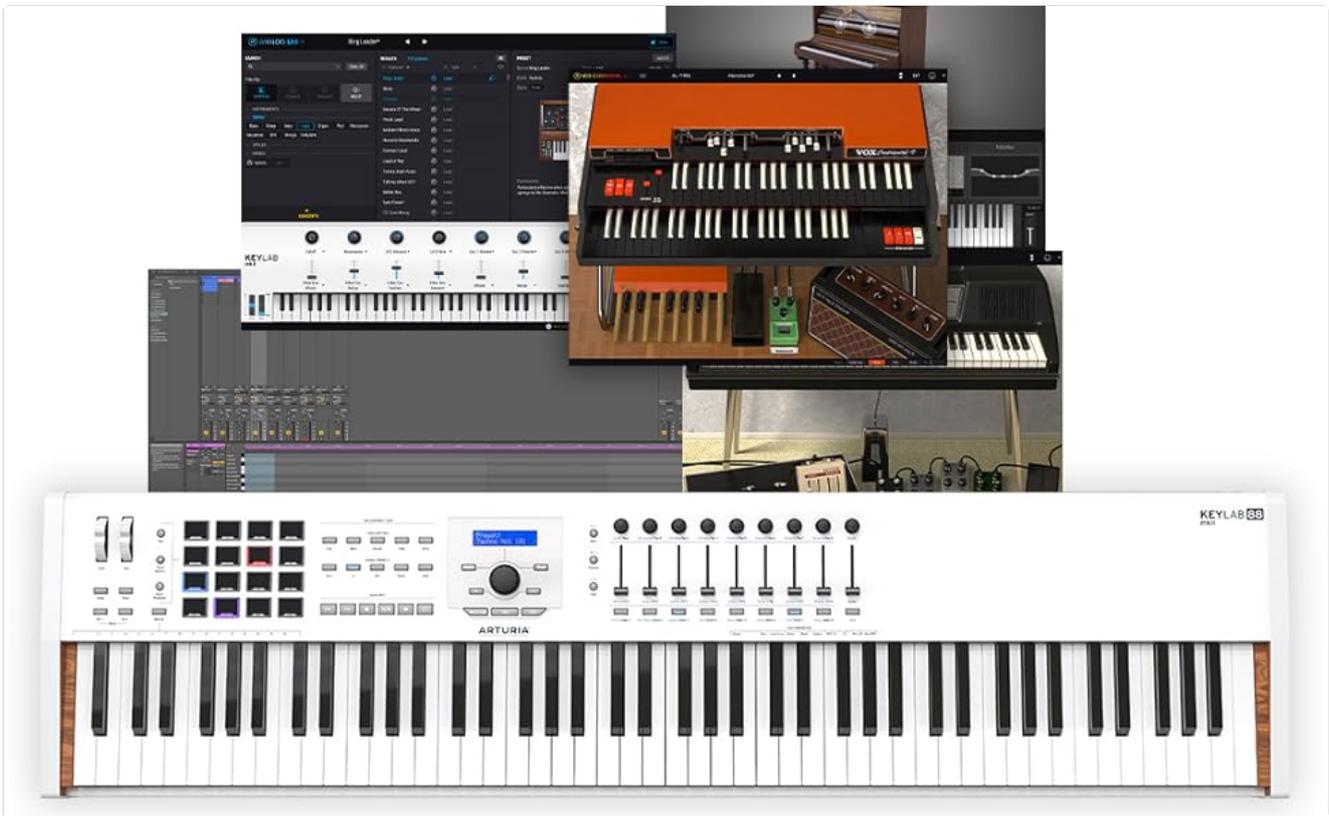
Figure 4: The Arturia KeyLab 88 MkII connected to a computer running music production software, demonstrating its role in a studio setup.

Advanced Controls

Utilize the Pitch Bend and Modulation wheels for expressive control over your sounds. The Octave +/- buttons allow you to shift the keyboard's range up or down. Explore features like Chord Mode, Scale Mode, and the Arpeggiator to enhance your musical creativity and performance.

Video 1: Official product video introducing the KeyLab 88 MkII, showcasing its features and capabilities as a controller.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning

To clean your KeyLab 88 MkII, use a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth with mild soap can be used, ensuring no liquid enters the device. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents. Regularly clean the keybed and control surface to prevent dust and debris buildup.

Software Updates

Periodically check the Arturia website for firmware and software updates. Keeping your device and software updated ensures optimal performance, compatibility, and access to new features.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Power/Not Recognized:** Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the KeyLab and your computer. Try a different USB port or cable. If using an external power supply, verify it's correctly plugged in and functional.
- **No Sound:** Check your DAW's MIDI input settings to ensure the KeyLab 88 MkII is selected. Verify that the correct instrument track is armed for recording or monitoring. Adjust volume levels on the controller, in your software, and on your audio interface/speakers.

- **Controls Not Responding:** Ensure the KeyLab is in the correct mode for your application (e.g., DAW mode, Analog Lab mode). Check MIDI assignments within your software if custom mapping is desired.

SPECIFICATIONS

Item Weight	33 pounds
Product Dimensions	50.91 x 12.68 x 4.41 inches
Item Model Number	Keylab 88 II
Date First Available	July 2, 2019
Color Name	White Version
Compatible Devices	Computers (Mac and Windows) with USB ports
Connector Type	USB
Hardware Interface	USB
Supported Software	Ableton Live Lite, Piano V, Wurli V, Vox Continental V, Standalone, VST, AAX, Audio Unit
Material Type	Plastic
Number of Keyboard Keys	88
Mixer Channel Quantity	9
Special Feature	Backlit

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information, product registration, and technical support, please visit the official Arturia website. You can also find additional resources, FAQs, and community forums there.