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› M-AUDIO Keystation 88 MK3 MIDI Keyboard Controller User Manual

## M-AUDIO Keystation 88 MK3

# M-AUDIO Keystation 88 MK3 MIDI Keyboard Controller User Manual

Model: Keystation 88 MK3

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The M-AUDIO Keystation 88 MK3 is a full-size, velocity-sensitive, semi-weighted MIDI keyboard controller designed for seamless integration with virtual instruments and Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your Keystation 88 MK3 to ensure optimal performance and creative workflow.

## 2. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items listed below are included in your package. If any items are missing or damaged, please contact M-AUDIO support.

- Keystation 88 MK3 MIDI Keyboard Controller
- USB Cable
- Software Download Card
- User Guide (this document)
- Safety & Warranty Manual

## 3. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Keystation 88 MK3 offers a streamlined design with essential controls for music production and performance.



Figure 3.1: Front view of the M-AUDIO Keystation 88 MK3 MIDI Keyboard Controller.

## Key Features:

- **88 Full-Size, Velocity-Sensitive, Semi-Weighted Keys:** Provides a natural playing feel for expressive performances.
- **Volume Fader:** Assignable for controlling various parameters within your software.
- **Transport & Directional Buttons:** Dedicated controls for DAW playback, recording, and navigation.
- **Pitch & Modulation Wheels:** For adding expression and dynamic changes to your sound.
- **Octave Up & Down Buttons:** Instantly shift the keyboard's octave range.
- **Sustain Pedal Input:** For connecting an external sustain pedal (sold separately).

## PACKED WITH MIDI KEYBOARD MUST-HAVES

- 1 88 FULL-SIZE VELOCITY-SENSITIVE SEMI-WEIGHTED KEYS
- 2 ASSIGNABLE VOLUME FADER
- 3 TRANSPORT & DIRECTIONAL BUTTONS
- 4 PITCH & MODULATION WHEELS
- 5 OCTAVE UP & DOWN BUTTONS
- 6 SUSTAIN PEDAL INPUT  
(SUSTAIN PEDAL NOT INCLUDED)

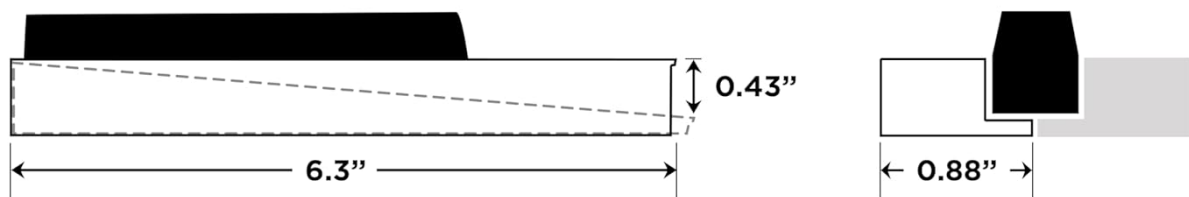


Figure 3.2: Detailed view of the Keystation 88 MK3's control panel, highlighting the volume fader, transport controls, pitch and modulation wheels, and octave buttons.

# 88 MEDIUM PIANO STYLE KEYS



## KEY SPECS



- LIPPED
- UNWEIGHTED
- VELOCITY SENSITIVE

Figure 3.3: Key specifications and feel of the 88 semi-weighted keys.

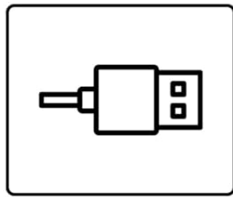
## 4. SETUP

Follow these steps to set up your Keystation 88 MK3.

### 4.1 Connecting to a Computer

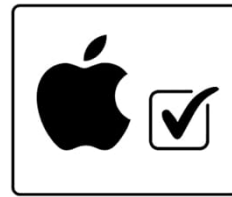
1. Connect the included USB cable from the Keystation 88 MK3's USB port to an available USB port on your computer (Mac or PC).
2. The Keystation 88 MK3 is USB class-compliant, meaning no special drivers are required for basic functionality. Your operating system will automatically detect and install the necessary drivers.
3. The unit is powered via the USB connection, eliminating the need for an external power supply.

# PLUG & PLAY SIMPLICITY



## **EFFORTLESS PLUG & PLAY USB CONNECTIVITY**

TO MAC OR PC (NO DRIVERS OR  
POWER SUPPLY REQUIRED)



## **COMPATIBLE WITH IOS DEVICES**

VIA THE APPLE TO USB CAMERA ADAPTER  
(SOLD SEPARATELY)

Figure 4.1: USB connectivity for plug-and-play operation with a computer.

## **4.2 Connecting to iOS Devices**

To use the Keystation 88 MK3 with an iOS device, you will need an Apple to USB Camera Adapter (sold separately). Connect the USB cable from the Keystation to the adapter, and then connect the adapter to your iOS device.

## **4.3 Software Installation**

Your Keystation 88 MK3 includes a software download card. Follow the instructions on the card to register your product and download the included software suite, which typically includes:

- MPC Beats
- Ableton Live Lite
- Mini Grand (virtual instrument)
- Velvet (virtual instrument)
- Xpand!2 (virtual instrument)
- Reason (trial/subscription)
- TouchLoops (sound content)

# COMPLETE MUSIC PRODUCTION SOFTWARE SUITE INCLUDED

|||≡ Ableton Live Lite

PREMIUM DAW

MPC  
BEATS

3 VIRTUAL INSTRUMENTS -  
TubeSynth, Electric, Bassline

80 FX PLUGINS -  
AIR Channel Strip, Half Time

2GB OF FACTORY CONTENT -  
with bonus F9 instruments library

## MPC BEATS EXPANSION PACKS



## VIRTUAL INSTRUMENTS FROM AIR MUSIC TECH

*Velvet*

*Mini Grand*

skove

M Melodics™

Figure 4.2: Included software suite for music production.

## 5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

This section details the basic operation of your Keystation 88 MK3.

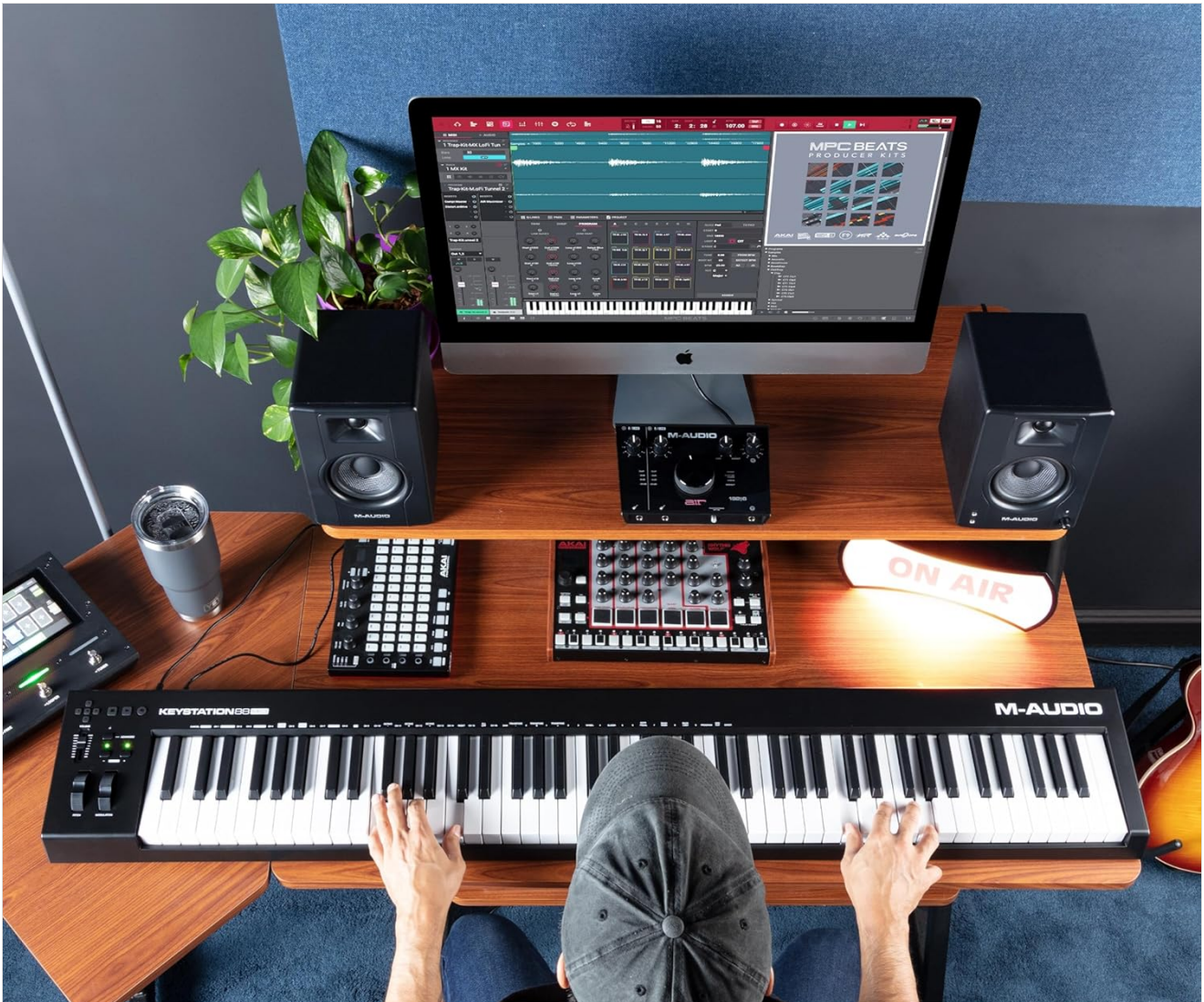
### 5.1 Playing the Keyboard

Once connected to your computer and with your DAW or virtual instrument software open, the 88 velocity-sensitive keys will transmit MIDI note data. The velocity sensitivity allows for dynamic expression, where playing keys harder results in louder sounds, and softer playing results in quieter sounds.

### 5.2 Using the Controls

- **Volume Fader:** Move the fader up or down to control the assigned parameter, typically master volume or an instrument's volume.
- **Pitch Bend Wheel:** Move the wheel up or down to bend the pitch of notes. This effect is temporary and returns to center when released.

- **Modulation Wheel:** Move the wheel up or down to add modulation effects, such as vibrato or tremolo, depending on the virtual instrument's settings.
- **Octave Up/Down Buttons:** Press the 'Octave +' or 'Octave -' buttons to shift the entire keyboard's pitch range up or down in octave increments. The current octave setting is indicated by LED lights.
- **Transport Controls (Play, Stop, Record, Fast Forward, Rewind):** These buttons send standard MIDI Machine Control (MMC) messages to your DAW, allowing you to control playback and recording functions directly from the keyboard.



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## M-AUDIO KEYSTATION 88 MK3

Figure 5.1: Using the transport controls for DAW integration.

### 5.3 Sustain Pedal Input

Connect a standard 1/4-inch TS sustain pedal (not included) to the Sustain Pedal input on the rear of the Keystation. This allows you to sustain notes, similar to a traditional piano.



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## M-AUDIO KEYSTATION 88 MK3

Figure 5.2: Sustain pedal connected to the Keystation 88 MK3.

## 6. SOFTWARE INTEGRATION

The Keystation 88 MK3 is designed to work seamlessly with various music software. After installing the included software, ensure your DAW or virtual instrument is configured to recognize the Keystation as a MIDI input device. Refer to your software's documentation for specific MIDI setup instructions.

## 7. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Keystation 88 MK3, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the surface of the controller. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If not in use for extended periods, consider covering it to prevent dust accumulation.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts. Do not place heavy objects on the keys or controls.

## 8. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your Keystation 88 MK3, consult the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound:**

- Ensure the Keystation is properly connected via USB and recognized by your computer.
- Verify that your DAW or virtual instrument software is open and correctly configured to receive MIDI input from the Keystation.
- Check the volume levels in your software and on your audio output device.
- Confirm that a virtual instrument is loaded and active in your software.

- **Keys Not Responding:**

- Disconnect and reconnect the USB cable.
- Restart your computer and music software.
- Ensure no other software is conflicting with the MIDI input.

- **Controls Not Working:**

- Check if the controls are correctly mapped within your DAW or virtual instrument.
- Some controls may require specific software settings to function as intended.

For further assistance, refer to the M-AUDIO support website or the detailed software manuals.

## 9. SPECIFICATIONS

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**Model Name:**

Keystation 88 MK3

**Number of Keys:**

88

**Key Type:**

Full-size, velocity-sensitive, semi-weighted

**Connectivity:**

USB-MIDI

**Power:**

USB-powered

**Compatible Devices:**

PC, Mac, iOS (via Apple to USB Camera Adapter, sold separately)

**Dimensions (L x W x H):**

54.24 x 8.52 x 2.88 inches (approx. 137.77 x 21.64 x 7.32 cm)

**Weight:**

13.75 pounds (approx. 6.24 kg)

**Color:**

Black

## 10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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For detailed warranty information and technical support, please refer to the Safety & Warranty Manual included with your product or visit the official M-AUDIO website. The M-AUDIO support portal provides resources, FAQs, and contact options for further assistance.

**Visit M-AUDIO Support**