Akai Professional MPC Key 61

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User Instruction Manual

Introduction

The Akai Professional MPC Key 61 is a revolutionary standalone music production synthesizer keyboard, designed to power the next chapter of the MPC legacy. It features a 61-key semi-weighted keybed with aftertouch, world-class sounds, and dynamic responsive control. The unit integrates the sturdy and reliable 16-velocity sensitive RGB drum pads, a hallmark of the MPC legacy.

Explore over 25 plugin instrument engines with more than 6000 cutting-edge presets, delivering a modern sound palette. Over 100 state-of-the-art effects are ready for mixing and mastering. The assignable Touch Strip Controller and touch-capacitive Q-Link controls allow for real-time sound manipulation and artistic ingenuity. Dedicated pitch and modulation wheels complement any keyboard performance.



Figure 1: Akai Professional MPC Key 61 - Top View

Setup

What's in the Box

- AKAI Professional MPC Key 61
- Power Cable
- USB Cable
- Software Download Card
- Quickstart Guide
- Safety & Warranty Manual

Initial Connections

Before powering on your MPC Key 61, ensure all necessary connections are made. Connect the power cable to the unit and a power outlet. For computer connectivity, use the provided USB cable. For audio output, connect your speakers or headphones to the appropriate output jacks. The MPC Key 61 offers extensive connectivity options for various studio setups.

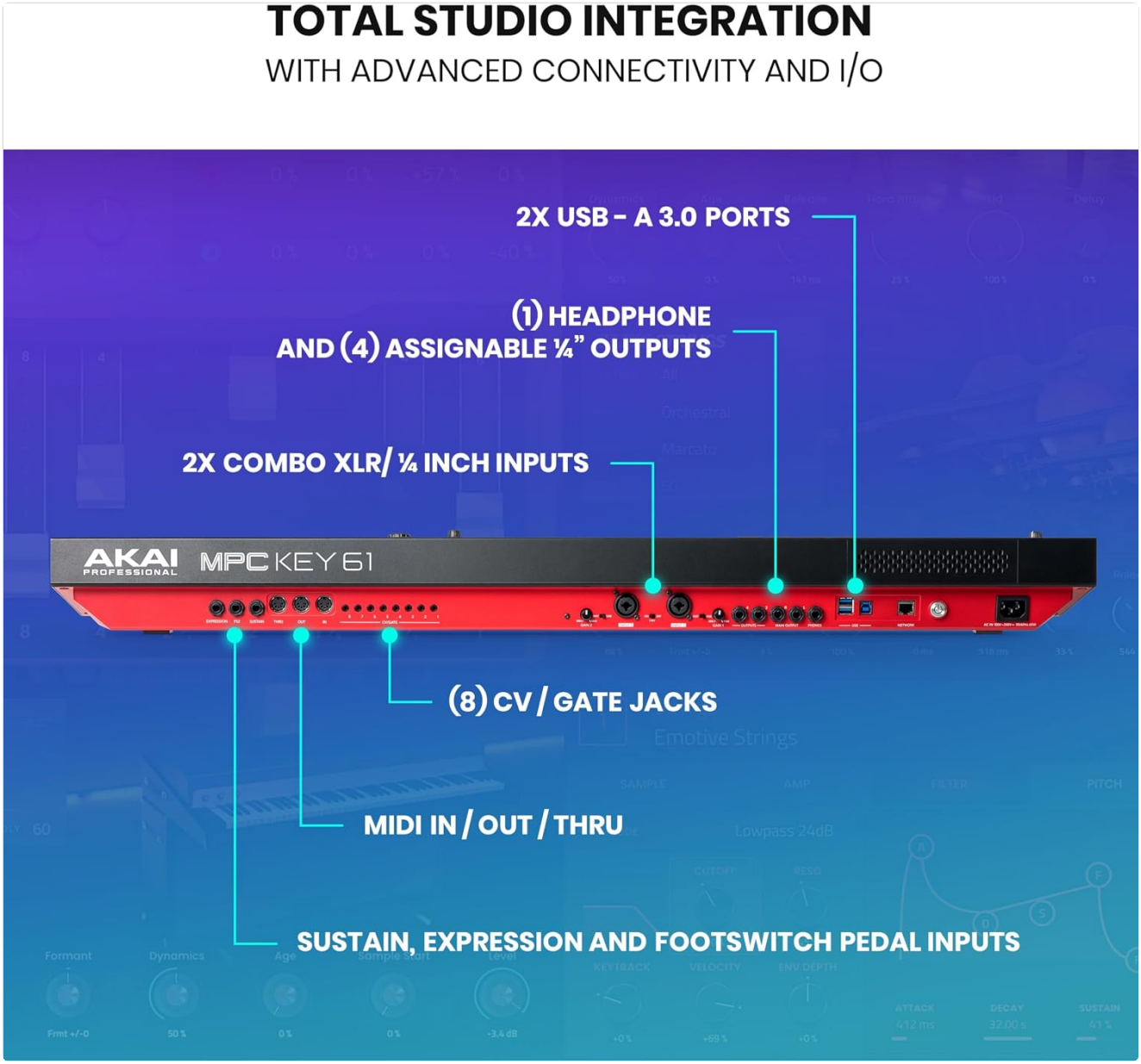


Figure 2: Rear panel showing various input/output connections.

Connect up to 32 MIDI devices via USB with MIDI Multi, and expand your Audio I/O to 32 inputs and outputs using Class Compliant audio interfaces. Vintage synths can be connected using MIDI In/Out/Thru. Eight CV/Gate jacks

allow connections to a wide variety of modular gear. Onboard WI-FI/Bluetooth enables wireless synchronization with Ableton Link and MPC OS updates. An additional SATA storage bay allows for volumes of expandable sounds and tracks (SSD not included).

Operating Instructions

Key Features Overview

The MPC Key 61 combines the power of a standalone music production center with the versatility of a synthesizer keyboard. Its intuitive workflow allows for seamless creation, composition, and performance without the need for a computer.

- **61-Key Semi-Weighted Keybed:** Provides articulate and responsive keys with aftertouch for dynamic control over sounds.
- **7" Multi-Touch Display:** Navigate and control plugin instruments and effects with intuitive touch gestures.
- **16 MPC Drum Pads:** Velocity-sensitive RGB pads offer legendary MPC performance for beat-making and finger drumming.
- **Assignable Touch Strip Controller:** Bend, warp, and manipulate sounds in real-time.
- **Q-Link Knobs:** Touch-capacitive assignable real-time controls for endless artistic ingenuity.



Figure 3: User interacting with the 61-key semi-weighted keybed.



Figure 4: The stunning 7-inch touch display allows for intuitive editing.



Figure 5: The legendary MPC drum pads provide responsive control.

MPC3 Workflow and Native Instruments Integration

The MPC Key 61 is powered by MPC3, designed for fast and intuitive operation. MPC3 accelerates the legendary MPC workflow with new features such as Enhanced Main Mode, Linear Song Arranger, Studio Mixer, and Native Instruments Integration.



Figure 6: MPC3 is compatible with various MPC hardware, including the MPC Key 61.

MPC Stems supports both MPC Standalone and MPC2 Desktop, allowing producers and beat-makers to easily isolate drums, bass, music, and vocals from any recording or sample for new creative possibilities.



Figure 7: Unlock the power of MPC Stems for creative sampling.

Sound Engines and Effects

Break sound barriers with over 20 instrument engines and 6000+ customizable sounds. Elevate your compositions by choosing from thousands of onboard piano, electric keyboard, synth, orchestral, and drum sounds. The MPC Key 61 also features a wide array of cutting-edge effects for mixing and mastering.

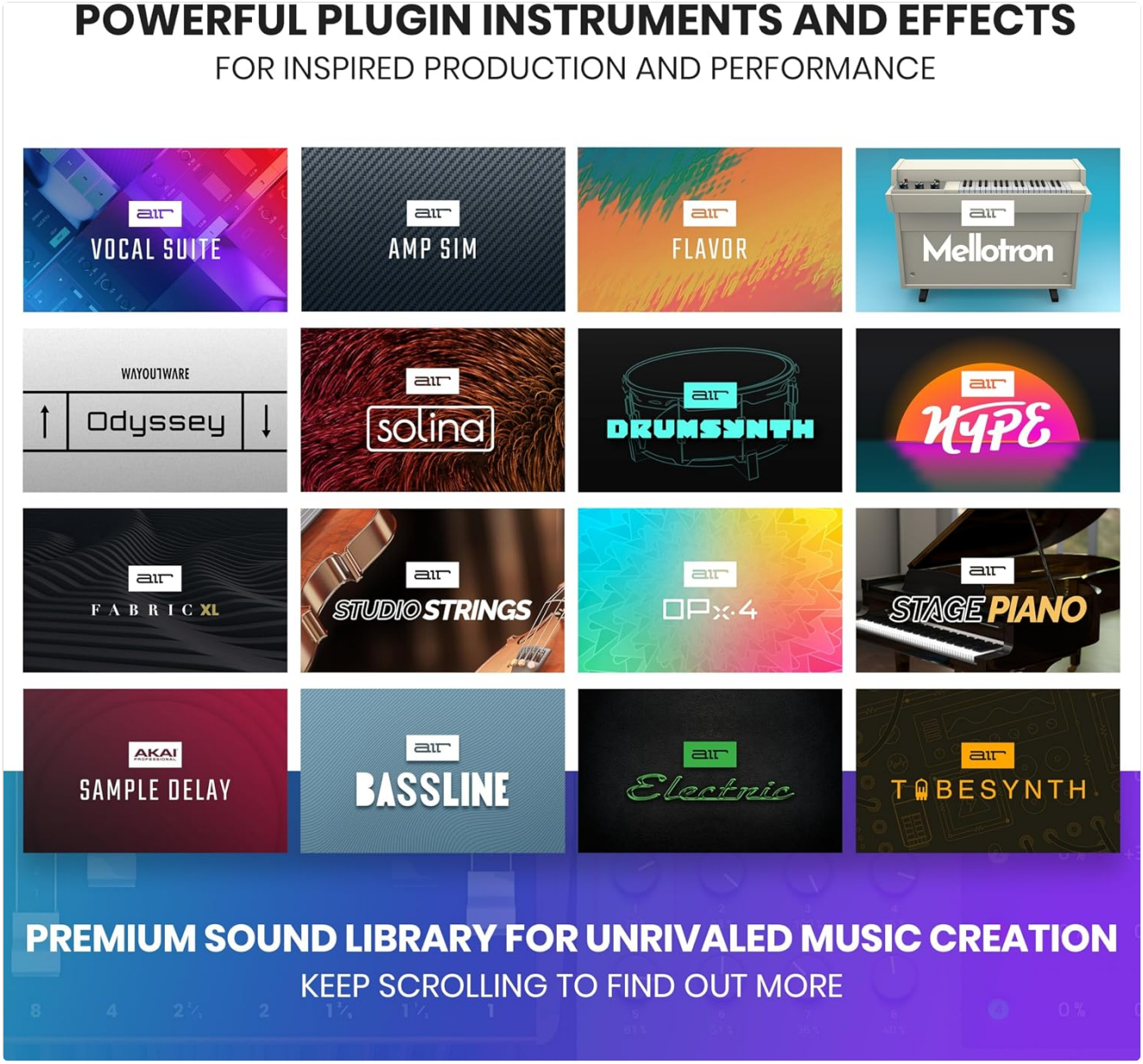


Figure 8: A selection of powerful plugin instruments and effects available.

Official Product Videos

Video 1: AKAI Professional MPC Key 61. This video provides a general overview of the MPC Key 61's features and capabilities.

Video 2: AKAI MPC KEY 61 - House of Hits with Scott Storch. This video demonstrates the MPC Key 61 in a music production context with a professional artist.

Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Akai Professional MPC Key 61, regular maintenance is recommended. Keep the unit clean by wiping surfaces with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents. Protect the display from scratches and keep it free of dust. When not in use, store the MPC Key 61 in a dust-free environment, ideally covered to prevent dust accumulation on keys and pads.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your MPC Key 61, try the following basic troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the power cable is securely connected to both the unit and a working power outlet.
- **No Sound:** Check all audio cable connections to your speakers or headphones. Verify volume levels on the MPC Key 61 and your audio system.
- **Pads/Keys Unresponsive:** Restart the unit. Check for any software updates that might resolve performance issues.
- **Software Glitches:** If using with MPC2 Desktop software, ensure your software is up to date. Try restarting both the MPC Key 61 and your computer.

For more complex issues, refer to the detailed user guide or contact Akai Professional customer support.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Item Weight	17.88 pounds
Product Dimensions	12.4 x 38.86 x 3.54 inches
Country of Origin	Taiwan
Item Model Number	MPC Key 61
Color Name	Black
Connector Type	USB
Hardware Interface	USB
Supported Software	Any Digital Audio Workstation compatible with Windows / Mac OS
Material Type	Plastic
Musical Style	Electronic
Number of Keyboard Keys	61
Size	MPC Key 61
Proficiency Level	Professional
Power Source	Corded Electric
Brand	Akai Professional
Number of Keys	61
Connectivity Technology	USB
Special Feature	touch screen; semi-weighted keys with aftertouch; MPC pads; standalone; WIFI/Bluetooth
Model Name	MPC Key 61

Warranty and Support

The Akai Professional MPC Key 61 comes with a standard manufacturer's warranty. For detailed information regarding warranty coverage, terms, and conditions, please refer to the Safety & Warranty Manual included in your product packaging.

For comprehensive support, including detailed operational guides, troubleshooting tips, and software updates, please refer to the official user guide available online:

Download User Guide (PDF)

You can also visit the official Akai Professional website for additional resources and customer service contact information.