Midiplus SmartPADII

MIDIPLUS SmartPAD II USB MIDI Controller User Manual

Model: SmartPADII

INTRODUCTION

The MIDIPLUS SmartPAD II is a USB MIDI controller designed to enhance your music production and performance experience, particularly with Ableton Live. This device provides a comprehensive set of controls including an 8x8 grid of multi-color backlit pads, encoder knobs, and various function buttons, allowing for intuitive interaction with your digital audio workstation (DAW). This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your SmartPAD II, ensuring you can integrate it seamlessly into your music setup.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Before proceeding with setup, please verify that all items are present in the package:

- MIDIPLUS SmartPAD II USB MIDI Controller
- USB Cable
- User Manual (this document)

SETUP

Follow these steps to connect and prepare your SmartPAD II for use.

1. Hardware Connection

1. Locate the USB port on the back of your SmartPAD II.
2. Connect one end of the provided USB cable to the SmartPAD II.
3. Connect the other end of the USB cable to an available USB port on your computer (Windows or Mac). The SmartPAD II is powered via USB and does not require an external power adapter.

Image: Side view of the SmartPAD II, highlighting the USB connection port on the left side.

2. Software Installation and Configuration

The SmartPAD II is a class-compliant MIDI device, meaning it typically does not require specific drivers for basic functionality on Windows and macOS. However, for full integration and advanced features, especially with Ableton Live, specific configuration within your DAW is necessary.

- **For Ableton Live:**

  The SmartPAD II is designed for performance with Ableton Live. Refer to the Ableton Live documentation for instructions on setting up a new MIDI controller. You will typically need to select the SmartPAD II as a control surface in Ableton Live's preferences (MIDI Sync tab).

  Note: Some users have reported compatibility considerations with Ableton Live 11 due to changes in Python scripting (Python 2 vs. Python 3). Ensure you have the latest control surface scripts from the MIDIPLUS website or community forums if you encounter issues.

- **For Other DAWs (e.g., FL Studio):**

  While the SmartPAD II can function as a generic MIDI controller with other DAWs, full integration may require manual MIDI mapping. Consult your DAW's user manual for instructions on MIDI device setup and mapping. The 64 pads, 8 encoder knobs, and various buttons send standard MIDI messages that can be assigned to functions within your software.

OPERATING THE SMARTPAD II

The SmartPAD II offers a range of controls for creative music production and live performance.

Image: Top view of the SmartPAD II, displaying the 8x8 pad grid, 8 encoder knobs, and various control buttons.

1. Control Layout

- **64 Multi-Color Backlit Pads (8x8 Grid):** These pads are the primary interface for triggering clips, notes, and samples. They feature RGB lighting, indicating status or clip color within Ableton Live.
- **8 Encoder Knobs:** Located at the top, these knobs can be assigned to control parameters such as volume, pan, send levels, or effects.
- **8 Control Buttons (Right Side):** These buttons are typically used for scene launching or other assignable functions.
- **4 Main Function Buttons (Bottom Left):** These buttons, along with gesture buttons, provide access to core functions.
- **4 Navigation Buttons (Bottom Right):** Used for navigating within your DAW, such as track selection or clip grid movement.
- **Gesture Buttons with RGB Light:** These buttons provide additional control and visual feedback.

Image: Angled view of the SmartPAD II, showing the ergonomic design and the arrangement of pads and side controls.

2. Key Functions and Modes

- **Mixing Control:** The encoder knobs and certain buttons can be mapped to control mixer parameters like volume, pan, and send effects within your DAW.
- **Touch Cycle and Effects:** The SmartPAD II supports various functions for controlling effects and cycling through parameters, depending on your DAW's mapping capabilities.
- **Lighting Modes:** The RGB pads support different lighting modes including Solid, Flash, and Pulse, providing visual feedback for clip status, armed tracks, or other assignable indicators.

3. Pad Velocity Sensitivity

Please note that the SmartPAD II pads may not feature velocity sensitivity. This means that the intensity of your pad presses might not directly affect the volume or dynamics of the triggered sound. For dynamic performances, velocity can often be controlled via MIDI mapping to an encoder or through software settings within your DAW.

Maintenance

Proper care will ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your SmartPAD II.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the surface of the controller. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, but ensure no liquid enters the device. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the SmartPAD II in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. When transporting, use a protective case to prevent damage.
- **Avoid Liquids:** Keep liquids away from the device to prevent electrical damage.
- **Handle with Care:** Avoid dropping the device or subjecting it to strong impacts.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your SmartPAD II, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps.

- **Device Not Recognized by Computer:**
    - Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the SmartPAD II and your computer.
    - Try a different USB port on your computer.
    - Try a different USB cable.
    - Restart your computer.
    - Check your computer's Device Manager (Windows) or System Information (macOS) to see if the device is listed.

- **No Sound or MIDI Output in DAW:**
    - Verify that the SmartPAD II is selected as a MIDI input device and/or control surface in your DAW's preferences.
    - Ensure the correct track is armed for recording or monitoring MIDI input.
    - Check MIDI routing within your DAW to ensure the SmartPAD II's output is directed to the correct virtual instrument or track.
    - If using Ableton Live, confirm that the correct control surface script is installed and selected. Refer to the Ableton Live support resources for specific guidance on control surface setup.

- **Pads or Knobs Not Responding Correctly:**
    - Ensure the SmartPAD II is properly configured and mapped within your DAW.
    - Check for any conflicting MIDI assignments in your software.
    - If a specific pad or knob is unresponsive, gently clean around the control to ensure no debris is interfering.

For further assistance, consult the MIDIPLUS official website for updated drivers, firmware, or support resources.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model:	SmartPAD II
Dimensions (L x W x H):	262 x 270 x 40 mm (10.31 x 10.63 x 1.57 inches)
Weight:	0.95 kg (approx. 2.09 lbs) / 2.88 lbs (approx. 1.31 kg)
Power Input:	USB Bus-Powered
Operating System Compatibility:	Windows, macOS
Controls:	64 Multi-color Backlit Pads (8x8), 8 Encoder Knobs, 8 Control Buttons, 4 Main Function Buttons, 4 Navigation Buttons, Gesture Buttons with RGB Light
Connectivity:	USB

Supported Software:	Ableton Live (optimized), other DAWs via generic MIDI mapping

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official MIDIPLUS website. If you require technical support or have questions not covered in this manual, please contact MIDIPLUS customer service through their official channels.

MIDIPLUS Official Website: www.midiplus.com