Akai Professional APC64

AKAI Professional APC64 Ableton MIDI Controller User Manual

Model: APC64

Introduction

The AKAI Professional APC64 is a powerful next-generation Ableton Live USB MIDI Controller designed to enhance your music production and performance. It features 64 RGB velocity-sensitive pads with poly-aftertouch, eight fully assignable touch strips, a revolutionary internal step sequencer, and comprehensive connectivity options including MIDI I/O and CV/Gate outputs. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your APC64.



Image: Top view of the AKAI Professional APC64 MIDI Controller, showcasing its 64 RGB pads and touch strips.

Setup

Package Contents

- AKAI Professional APC64 Unit
- USB Cable
- User Manual (this document)
- Warranty Card

System Requirements

To use the APC64 with a computer, ensure your system meets the following requirements:

- Operating System: Windows (compatible with Ableton Live 11 onwards) or macOS (compatible with Ableton Live 11 onwards)
- Available USB-C Port
- Ableton Live 11 or later (Ableton Live Lite included)

Connecting the APC64

1. Connect the supplied USB cable from the USB-C port on the APC64 to an available USB port on your computer. The APC64 is USB bus-powered.
2. For standalone use with external MIDI/CV hardware, connect your devices to the 1/8" MIDI In/Out ports and 1/8"

CV/Gate outputs on the rear panel of the APC64.



Image: Rear view of the APC64, highlighting the USB-C port, 8x 1/8" CV/Gate outputs, and 1/8" MIDI In/Out ports for connectivity.

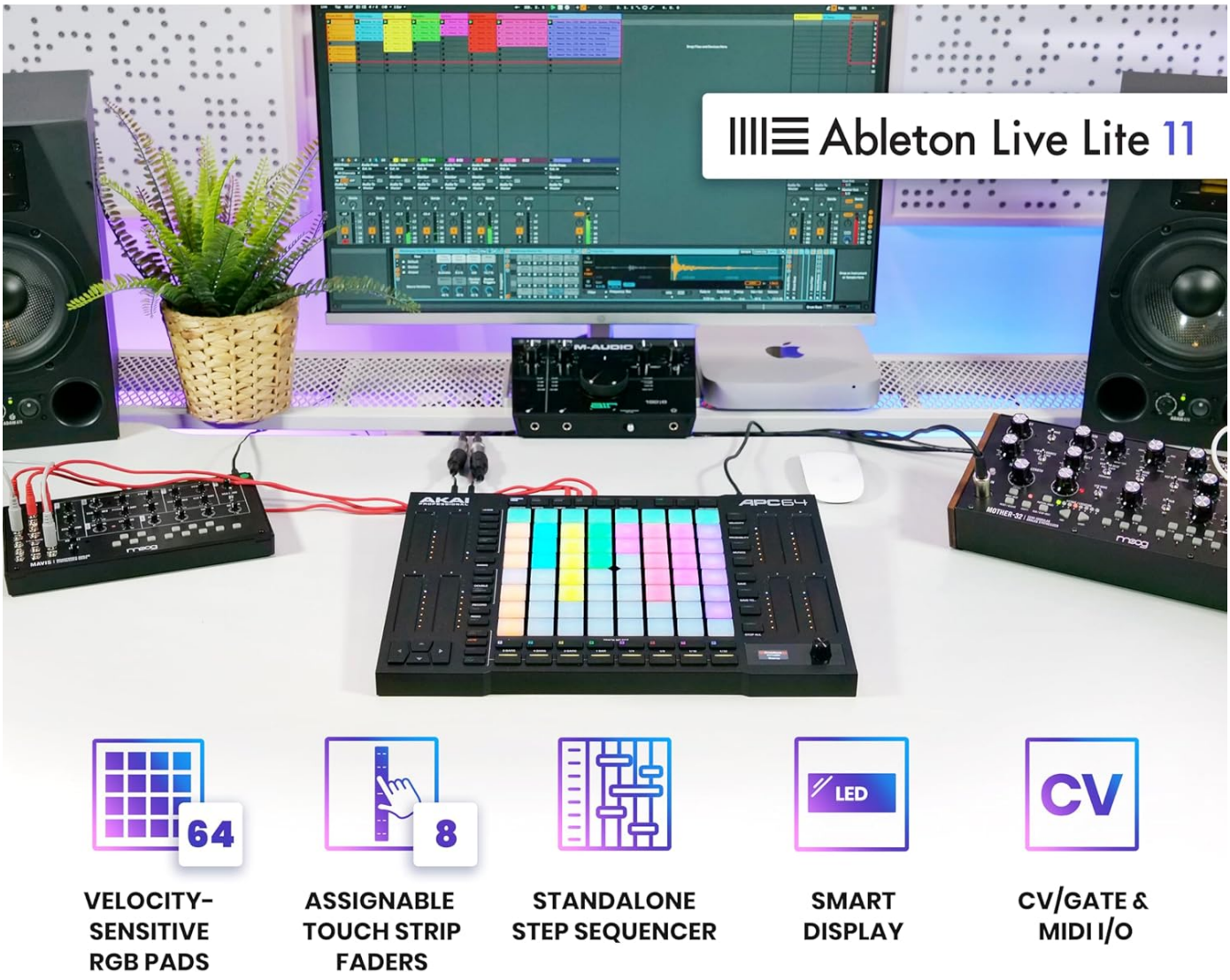


Image: The APC64 set up in a studio environment, connected to a computer running Ableton Live and other musical instruments.

Operation

Overview of Controls

The APC64 features an intuitive layout designed for seamless interaction with Ableton Live and external hardware.

- **64 RGB Velocity-Sensitive Pads:** The 8x8 pad matrix allows for playing notes, chords, triggering drum racks, and launching clips in Ableton Live's Session View. These pads are velocity-sensitive and offer poly-aftertouch for expressive control.
- **8 Assignable Touch Strips:** These touch strips can be assigned to control various parameters such as vibrato, modulation, pitch-bend, macros, mixer volume, pan, and effects sends. They also support automation writing.
- **Color Display:** Provides real-time feedback on parameters, modes, and settings.
- **Transport Controls:** Dedicated Play, Stop, and Record buttons for controlling your DAW.
- **Internal Step Sequencer:** A powerful 8-track, 32-step sequencer for real-time sequencing of external synthesizers, drum machines, modular systems, and samplers, even without a computer.

SHAPING AND SCULPTING YOUR SOUND



Image: A user's hands pressing the illuminated RGB pads on the APC64, demonstrating interaction with the pad matrix.

Using the Touch Strips

The eight touch strips provide dynamic control over various parameters. Each strip can be assigned to a specific function within Ableton Live or for controlling external MIDI/CV gear. Slide your finger along the strip to adjust the assigned parameter. The LED indicators next to each strip show the current value.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR SOUND & MUSIC CREATION



8 FULLY ASSIGNABLE TOUCH STRIPS

INSTANT HANDS-ON CONTROL OF DEVICES, PITCH, MODULATION AND MORE

Image: A close-up view of the APC64's touch strips, showing a finger interacting with one of them and the illuminated LED indicators.

Step Sequencing

The built-in 8-track, 32-step sequencer allows for intricate pattern creation. This feature is particularly useful for standalone setups, enabling you to sequence external hardware without the need for a computer. Refer to the full software manual for detailed instructions on programming sequences.

Software Integration (Ableton Live)

The APC64 is designed for deep integration with Ableton Live. It provides dedicated controls for Session View, instrument playing, and mixer functions. Ableton Live Lite is included to get you started. Ensure Ableton Live is configured to recognize the APC64 as a control surface.

Included Plug-ins and Effects

The APC64 comes bundled with a collection of VST/AU AIR instrument and insert plug-ins. These include classic keyboards, synthesizers, reverb, vocal processing, and vintage effects. Install these plug-ins on your computer to expand your sound palette within your DAW.



Image: A visual representation of the included AIR Instruments and the Sampletools by CR2 Records logo, indicating the bundled software and sound content.

Creative Functions: Probability, Velocity, Mutate

Explore advanced creative possibilities by utilizing the Probability, Velocity, and Mutate functions. These features allow you to add dynamic variations to your MIDI notes, enhancing your productions and live performances. Consult the comprehensive online manual for detailed usage of these functions.

Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your APC64, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the surface of the unit. Do not use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or harsh chemicals, as they may damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the APC64 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts. Do not place heavy objects on top of the APC64.
- **Liquid Exposure:** Keep the unit away from liquids. If liquid enters the unit, immediately disconnect power and contact Akai Professional support.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Unit does not power on.	USB cable not properly connected or faulty.	Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the APC64 and your computer. Try a different USB port or cable.
Pads are not responding.	Incorrect software settings or driver issues.	Verify that the APC64 is selected as a MIDI input device in your DAW (e.g., Ableton Live). Reinstall the latest drivers from the Akai Professional website if necessary.
No sound output.	Audio routing issues in DAW or external hardware.	Check your DAW's audio output settings. Ensure instruments are loaded and armed. If using external hardware, verify all audio connections.
Touch strips are not working as expected.	Incorrect assignment or calibration.	Check the assignment of the touch strips within your DAW or the APC64's settings. Refer to the manual for calibration procedures if available.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Name	APC64
Dimensions (L x W x H)	10.62 x 14.57 x 1.34 inches (270 x 370 x 34 mm)
Weight	3.59 pounds (1.63 kg)
Pads	64 RGB Velocity-Sensitive Pads with Poly Aftertouch
Touch Strips	8 Assignable Touch Strips
Sequencer	8-track, 32-step Sequencer
Connectivity	USB-C, 1/8" MIDI In, 2x 1/8" MIDI Out, 8x 1/8" CV/Gate Out
Power	USB Bus Powered
Compatible Software	Ableton Live 11 onwards
Hardware Platform	PC/Mac

Warranty and Support

The AKAI Professional APC64 comes with a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the included Warranty Card for detailed terms and conditions. For technical support, product registration, and additional resources, visit the official Akai Professional website:

www.akaipro.com

You can also find frequently asked questions (FAQs) and software downloads on their support pages.

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