Arturia KeyLab Essential mk3 61-Key

Arturia KeyLab Essential mk3 61-Key Universal MIDI Controller User Manual

Model: KeyLab Essential mk3 61-Key | Brand: Arturia

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Arturia KeyLab Essential mk3 is a universal MIDI controller and software package designed for musicians, producers, and sound designers. This white 61-key model features synth-action, velocity-sensitive keys, a clickable encoder, nine additional encoders, nine sliders, eight touch and pressure sensitive pads, six transport control switches, four command switches, a modulation wheel, and a pitchbend wheel. It offers 1:1 control of included software like Analog Lab V synth, Ableton Live Lite, UVI Grand Piano Model D, and Native Instruments The Gentleman upright piano software. The controller supports MCU and HUI protocols for seamless DAW integration, allowing control across various platforms. Customization for other software is possible via the downloadable MIDI Control Center software.

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Your Arturia KeyLab Essential mk3 package includes:

- Arturia KeyLab Essential mk3 61-Key Universal MIDI Controller
- 6ft MIDI Cable
- Cleaning Cloth

3. PRODUCT FEATURES

The KeyLab Essential mk3 offers a robust set of features to enhance your music production workflow:

- **61 Synth-Action Keys with Velocity:** Provides a responsive and expressive playing experience.
- **New Creative Features:** Includes Scale Mode, Chord Mode, and an Arpeggiator for intuitive composition,

songwriting, and beat-making.

- **Custom DAW Integration:** Features custom scripts for deeper control over popular DAWs such as Ableton Live, Logic Pro X, FL Studio, and more, utilizing MCU and HUI protocols.
- **Versatile Presets:** Access over 2000 presets included with Analog Lab V, offering a wide range of sounds from vintage to modern synths, orchestral sounds, and unique hybrids.
- **Enhanced Controls & Interface:** Equipped with RGB-backlit pads (velocity and pressure sensitive), a contextual button, and a bright 2.5" LCD screen for real-time feedback.
- **9 Faders and 9 Encoders:** For hands-on control of software parameters.
- **8 Velocity- & Pressure-Sensitive Pads:** Ideal for drumming and triggering samples.
- **Included Software:** Comes with Analog Lab V Software, Ableton Live Lite, UVI Grand Piano, and NI The Gentleman Piano.
- **Virtual Instrument Deep Integration:** Seamlessly integrates with included and other MIDI-controllable plug-ins.
- **Compatibility:** Mac & Windows Compatible.
- **Standalone/Plug-Ins:** Supports VST, VST3, AU, AAX formats.

4. SETUP

Follow these steps to set up your Arturia KeyLab Essential mk3:

1. **Unpack:** Carefully remove all components from the packaging.
2. **Connect to Computer:** Use the provided USB cable to connect your KeyLab Essential mk3 to your computer. The device is USB-powered.
3. **Software Installation:** Install the included software bundle (Analog Lab V, Ableton Live Lite, UVI Grand Piano, NI The Gentleman Piano) by following the instructions provided in the software download guide.
4. **DAW Integration:** The KeyLab Essential mk3 utilizes MCU and HUI protocols for seamless integration with major DAWs. Ensure your DAW is configured to recognize the controller.
5. **Customization:** For advanced customization or integration with other software, download the MIDI Control Center software from the Arturia website.

Video: A quick overview of the Arturia KeyLab Essential mk3, demonstrating its features and initial setup. This video provides a visual guide for new users to get started with their MIDI controller.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The KeyLab Essential mk3 is designed for intuitive operation. Here's a guide to its main functions:

5.1. Keys and Pads

- **61 Synth-Action Keys:** Play melodies, chords, and basslines. The keys are velocity-sensitive, meaning the sound's intensity changes based on how hard you press them.
- **8 Pads:** Use the velocity- and pressure-sensitive pads to trigger drums, samples, or launch clips in your DAW.

5.2. Encoders and Faders

- **9 Faders and 9 Encoders:** These controls are pre-mapped to essential parameters in Analog Lab V and other

integrated DAWs. Use them to adjust volume, filter cutoff, resonance, and other sound parameters.

- **Clickable Encoder:** The central clickable encoder allows for navigation through menus, preset selection, and fine-tuning parameters displayed on the LCD screen.

5.3. Transport Controls

The six transport control switches (Play, Stop, Record, Loop, Rewind, Fast Forward) allow you to control your DAW's playback and recording functions directly from the keyboard.

5.4. Pitch and Modulation Wheels

Use the pitch bend wheel to momentarily shift the pitch of notes up or down for expressive playing. The modulation wheel can be assigned to control various parameters like vibrato, tremolo, or filter sweeps.

5.5. Creative Modes

- **Scale Mode:** Automatically quantizes your playing to a selected scale, making it easier to stay in key.
- **Chord Mode:** Play full chords with a single key press. Configure chord types and voicings to instantly create harmonic progressions.
- **Arpeggiator:** Generates rhythmic patterns from held chords, offering various modes and settings for dynamic melodic sequences.

6. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your KeyLab Essential mk3, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use the provided cleaning cloth to gently wipe down the surface of the controller. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents that could damage the finish.
- **Storage:** Store the controller in a dry, dust-free environment away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Handling:** Handle the controller with care. Avoid dropping it or placing heavy objects on top of it.
- **Connectivity:** Ensure USB and MIDI cables are connected securely but without excessive force to prevent damage to ports.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your KeyLab Essential mk3, try the following:

- **No Power/Connectivity:** Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the controller and your computer. Try a different USB port or cable.
- **Software Not Responding:** Check your DAW's MIDI settings to ensure the KeyLab Essential mk3 is recognized and enabled as a MIDI input device. Restart your DAW and/or computer.
- **Controls Not Working:** Verify that the controller is in the correct mode (e.g., DAW mode, Instrument mode). Use the MIDI Control Center software to check or re-assign MIDI mappings.
- **Sound Issues:** Ensure your audio interface and speakers/headphones are properly connected and configured. Check the volume levels on both the controller and your software.

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Item Model Number	KeyLab Essential mk3 61-Key
Brand	Arturia
Number of Keyboard Keys	61
Key Type	Synth-Action, Velocity-Sensitive
Pads	8 Velocity- & Pressure-Sensitive, RGB-backlit
Encoders	9 + 1 clickable
Faders	9
Display	2.5" LCD Screen
Connectivity Technology	USB
Hardware Interface	USB
Compatible Devices	PC/Mac, Tablet
Supported Software	Analog Lab V, Ableton Live Lite, UVI Grand Piano, NI The Gentleman Piano, VST, VST3, AU, AAX
Special Feature	Backlit, Studio Recording, Velocity Sensitive

9. Warranty and Support

The Arturia KeyLab Essential mk3 61-Key Universal MIDI Controller comes with a Limited 1-Year Manufacturer Warranty. For technical support, troubleshooting assistance, or warranty claims, please visit the official Arturia support website or contact their customer service directly. Ensure you have your product model number and purchase details ready.