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Nektar NektarCS12

Nektar Panorama CS12 Channel Strip Controller User Manual

Model: NektarCS12 | Brand: Nektar

Introduction

The Nektar Panorama CS12 is designed to revolutionize your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) workflow. It provides extensive hands-on control over your DAW's mixer, plug-ins, timeline navigation, transport, and other frequently used parameters. This versatile hardware controller is equipped with a 3.5-inch TFT display, showing your plug-ins and control assignments, bolstered by three assignable display encoders and four buttons for parameter control and page selection. It features 18 function and navigation buttons, with secondary operations accessible via the Shift button, along with 11 buttons, 13 endless potentiometers, and four extra parameter control buttons, all with RGB illumination. The Panorama CS12 also includes a Fine mode for high-resolution control over its 360-degree rotary encoders and a footswitch socket for hands-free DAW control. Connectivity is provided via a USB-C port.

Setup Guide

Follow these steps to set up your Nektar Panorama CS12:

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the Panorama CS12 from its packaging. Ensure all included components are present: the Panorama CS12 unit, a USB A to C cable, and the Quickstart guide.
2. **Power Connection:** The Panorama CS12 is powered via its USB-C connection. Connect one end of the supplied USB A to C cable to the USB-C port on the rear of the Panorama CS12.
3. **Computer Connection:** Connect the other end of the USB A to C cable to an available USB port on your computer. The device is compatible with computers running Windows 10 or Windows 7, and macOS.
4. **Driver Installation:** For optimal performance and full DAW integration, it is recommended to visit the official Nektar website to download and install the latest drivers and integration files for your specific operating system and DAW (e.g., Apple Logic Pro).
5. **DAW Configuration:** Once drivers are installed, open your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) and configure it to recognize the Nektar Panorama CS12 as a control surface. Refer to your DAW's user manual for specific instructions on adding control surfaces.
6. **Footswitch (Optional):** If desired, connect a standard footswitch (not included) to the footswitch socket on the rear of the unit for hands-free control of certain DAW functions.



Figure 1: Rear view of the Panorama CS12, highlighting the USB-C port for power and data, and the footswitch input.

Operating the Panorama CS12

The Panorama CS12 provides intuitive control over your DAW. Familiarize yourself with its key sections and functions:

1. Mixer Channel Section



Figure 2: Top-down view of the Panorama CS12, showing the mixer channel, display, and control buttons.

- **Motorized Fader:** A high-precision motorized fader allows for accurate level adjustments and provides visual feedback of current track levels.
- **Pan Rotary Encoder:** Adjust the stereo panning of the selected channel.
- **Arm Button:** Enables recording for the selected track.
- **Solo Button:** Solos the selected track, muting all other tracks.
- **Mute Button:** Mutes the selected track.
- **Select Button:** Selects the corresponding track in your DAW.
- **LED Metering:** Real-time LED meters provide visual indication of audio levels for the mixer channel.

2. TFT Display and Encoders



Figure 3: Angled view of the Panorama CS12, emphasizing the 3.5-inch TFT display and the surrounding assignable encoders.

- **3.5-inch TFT Display:** This display shows detailed information about your plug-ins, control assignments, and current parameters.
- **Assignable Display Encoders:** Three rotary encoders located below the display can be assigned to control various parameters within your DAW or plug-ins, as indicated on the screen.
- **Parameter Control Buttons:** Four buttons adjacent to the display encoders allow for page selection or direct parameter control, depending on the context.

3. Function and Navigation Buttons



Figure 4: Close-up of the Panorama CS12's central control area, detailing the function and navigation buttons.

- **18 Function and Navigation Buttons:** These buttons provide quick access to common DAW functions such as play, stop, record, loop, undo, redo, and marker navigation.

- **Shift Button:** Activates secondary functions for many of the buttons, expanding the control possibilities.
- **RGB Illumination:** Buttons are illuminated with RGB colors, providing clear visual feedback on their status and active modes.

4. Endless Potentiometers and Additional Controls



Figure 5: A user's hand interacting with the rotary encoders on the Panorama CS12, demonstrating hands-on control.

- **13 Endless Potentiometers:** These 360-degree rotary encoders offer continuous control over parameters, ideal for fine-tuning.
- **Fine Mode:** Engage Fine mode for high-resolution adjustments, allowing for precise control over sensitive parameters.
- **Four Extra Parameter Control Buttons:** These additional buttons provide further customization options for controlling specific parameters or triggering functions.

Maintenance and Care

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Nektar Panorama CS12, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to clean the surface of the unit. For stubborn marks, a slightly damp cloth with mild soap can be used, but ensure no liquid enters the device. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or chemical sprays.
- **Dust Protection:** When not in use, cover the Panorama CS12 with a dust cover to prevent dust and debris from accumulating on the fader, encoders, and buttons.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Store and operate the device in a cool, dry environment, away from direct sunlight, excessive heat, humidity, and extreme temperature fluctuations.
- **Cable Management:** Ensure USB cables are not kinked or strained. Disconnect cables by pulling the plug, not the cable itself.
- **Avoid Liquids:** Keep liquids away from the device to prevent internal damage.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Nektar Panorama CS12, try the following troubleshooting steps:

- **Device Not Recognized:**
  - Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the Panorama CS12 and your computer.
  - Try a different USB port on your computer.
  - Verify that the correct drivers and DAW integration files are installed from the Nektar website.
  - Restart your computer and the DAW application.
- **Fader or Encoders Not Responding:**
  - Check DAW settings to ensure the Panorama CS12 is correctly configured as a control surface.
  - Ensure no other software or drivers are conflicting with the device.
  - Perform a factory reset if available (refer to the full Nektar manual for instructions).
- **Display Issues:**
  - Ensure the device is receiving adequate power via the USB connection.
  - Check for any firmware updates on the Nektar website that might resolve display anomalies.
- **Intermittent Connectivity:**
  - Use the supplied USB cable or a high-quality, shielded USB-C cable.
  - Avoid connecting the device through unpowered USB hubs.

If these steps do not resolve the issue, please refer to the comprehensive user manual available on the Nektar website or contact Nektar customer support for further assistance.

Technical Specifications

Brand	Nektar
Model Name	CS12
Item Model Number	NektarCS12
Item Weight	4.25 pounds
Product Dimensions	7.48 x 15.35 x 2.56 inches
Connectivity Technology	USB
Connector Type	USB Type C
Hardware Interface	USB 3.1 Type B
Compatible Devices	Computers running Windows 10 or Windows 7
Supported Software	Apple Logic Pro
Hardware Platform	macintosh

Mixer Channel Quantity	1
Special Feature	Studio Recording, Keyboard Controller
Included Components	Panorama CS12, USB A to C cable, Quickstart guide

Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information, product registration, and technical support, please visit the official Nektar Technology website. The website provides access to the latest drivers, firmware updates, comprehensive user manuals, and frequently asked questions (FAQs).
It is recommended to register your product to receive important updates and support notifications.
For direct assistance, you may contact Nektar customer support through the contact information provided on their official website.

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