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Arturia KeyStep mk2

Arturia KeyStep mk2 User Manual

32-Key Controller & Sequencer USB/MIDI/CV Keyboard Controller

INTRODUCTION

The Arturia KeyStep mk2 is a versatile 32-key controller and sequencer designed for expressive musical control. It features a velocity-sensitive Slimkey keyboard with aftertouch, a polyphonic step sequencer, a 16-mode arpeggiator, and extensive connectivity options including USB-C MIDI, MIDI DIN, sync I/O, and configurable CV outputs. This manual provides instructions for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your KeyStep mk2.



Figure 1: Top-down view of the Arturia KeyStep mk2 controller.

SETUP

1. Unpacking and Contents

Carefully remove the KeyStep mk2 from its packaging. Verify that all components are present:

- Arturia KeyStep mk2 unit
- USB Cable
- MIDI Cable
- Ableton Live Software (download code or instructions)

2. Powering the Device

Connect the provided USB cable from the KeyStep mk2's USB-C port to a powered USB port on your computer or a compatible USB power adapter. The device will power on automatically.

3. Connecting to Other Devices

The KeyStep mk2 offers various connectivity options:

- **USB-C MIDI:** For connection to a computer (PC/Mac) or compatible DAW software. This provides both power and MIDI communication.
- **MIDI DIN:** Use the included MIDI cable to connect to external MIDI hardware (synthesizers, drum machines). Connect the KeyStep mk2's MIDI OUT to the MIDI IN of your external device, and MIDI IN to MIDI OUT if bi-directional communication is needed.
- **Sync I/O:** For synchronization with other analog gear using clock signals.
- **Pedal Input:** Connect a sustain pedal for expressive control.
- **CV Outputs:** Four CV outputs (Pitch, Gate, Mod 1, Mod 2) are available for controlling modular synthesizers and other CV-compatible hardware. Mod 2 is configurable for velocity, aftertouch, or mod wheel control.

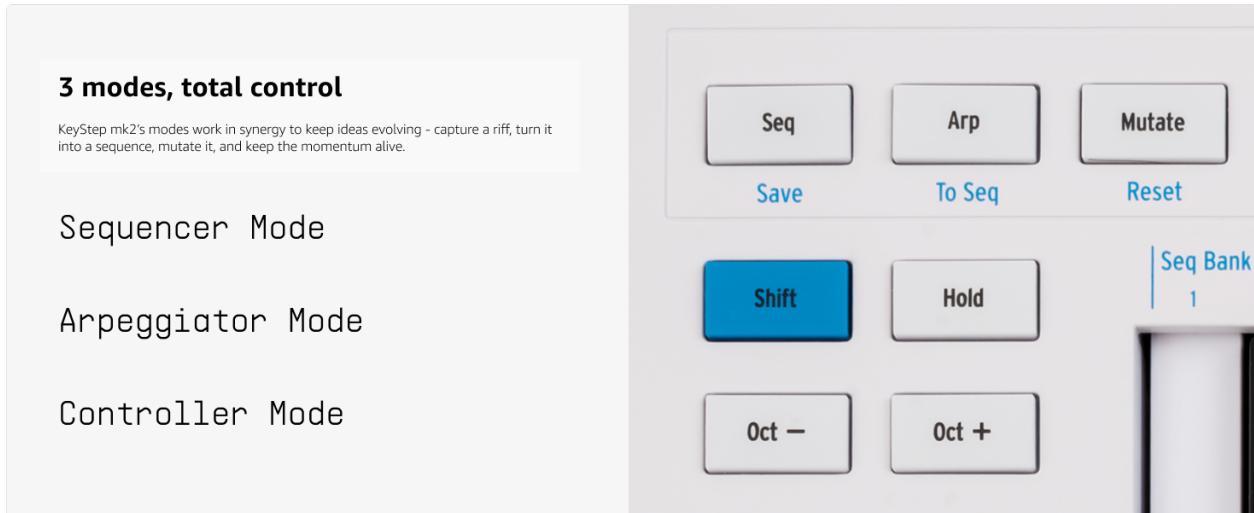


Figure 2: Rear panel connections of the KeyStep mk2, including USB-C, MIDI, Sync, Sustain, and CV outputs.

4. Software Installation

If connecting to a computer, ensure your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software (e.g., Ableton Live) is installed and updated. The KeyStep mk2 is generally class-compliant and should be recognized automatically. Refer to your DAW's documentation for specific MIDI controller setup instructions.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Basic Controls and Interface

The KeyStep mk2 features a clear layout for intuitive operation:

- **32 Slimkey Keyboard:** Velocity-sensitive keys with aftertouch for expressive playing.
- **Pitch and Mod Strips:** Touch-sensitive strips for real-time pitch bend and modulation control.
- **OLED Display:** Provides visual feedback on parameters, modes, and settings.
- **Data Encoder:** Used for navigating menus and adjusting values on the OLED display.
- **Transport Controls:** Play, Stop, Record buttons for sequencer and arpeggiator control.

_YOUR IDEAS IN MOTION



- _1** OLED display + data encoder
- _2** RGB velocity & pressure sensitive pads
- _3** Built-in Arpeggiator
- _4** Custom-written DAW scripts

Figure 3: KeyStep mk2 control surface highlighting the OLED display, RGB velocity/pressure sensitive pads, built-in Arpeggiator, and custom-written DAW scripts.

2. Operating Modes

The KeyStep mk2 operates in three primary modes:

- **Sequencer Mode:** Create and edit polyphonic step sequences.
- **Arpeggiator Mode:** Generate arpeggiated patterns from held notes with 16 different modes.
- **Controller Mode:** Use the keyboard and controls as a standard MIDI controller for external instruments or software.



Figure 4: Overview of the three main operating modes: Sequencer, Arpeggiator, and Controller.

3. Using the Sequencer

To enter Sequencer Mode, press the 'Seq' button. You can record notes in real-time or step-by-step. Features include:

- **Polyphonic Step Sequencer:** Record multiple notes per step.
- **Pattern Chaining:** Link multiple sequences together for longer compositions.
- **Mutate:** Generate new variations of your sequences on the fly.
- **Overdub:** Add additional notes to an existing sequence.
- **Note Length and Silences:** Adjust individual note durations and insert rests.

4. Using the Arpeggiator

To enter Arpeggiator Mode, press the 'Arp' button. Hold down multiple keys, and the KeyStep mk2 will play them in a rhythmic pattern. Use the data encoder to select from 16 different arpeggiator modes and adjust parameters like rate and gate length.

5. CV Output Configuration

The Mod 2 CV output can be configured to send different control voltages. Refer to the KeyStep mk2's advanced settings menu (accessed via the OLED display and data encoder) to assign Mod 2 to velocity, aftertouch, or mod wheel data.

MAINTENANCE

1. Cleaning

To clean the KeyStep mk2, use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or alcohol, as these can damage the finish and components.

2. Storage

Store the KeyStep mk2 in a dry environment, away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust. When transporting, use a protective case to prevent physical damage.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your KeyStep mk2, consider the following common solutions:

- **No Power:** Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to a powered USB port. Try a different USB port or cable.
- **No Sound/MIDI Output:**
 - Verify that the KeyStep mk2 is recognized by your computer or external MIDI device.
 - Check MIDI channel settings on both the KeyStep mk2 and your receiving device.
 - Ensure the correct input is selected in your DAW or external instrument.
 - For CV connections, confirm correct patching and voltage ranges.
- **Keys Not Responding:** Check for any stuck keys or debris. If the issue persists, perform a factory reset (refer to the Arturia website for instructions).
- **Sequencer/Arpeggiator Issues:** Ensure the device is in the correct mode. Check clock synchronization settings if using external sync.

For more detailed troubleshooting or persistent issues, please visit the official Arturia support website.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	KeyStep mk2
Item Model Number	430301
Number of Keys	32 (Slimkey, velocity-sensitive with aftertouch)
Connectivity Technology	USB
Connector Type	USB, USB Type C, MIDI DIN
Hardware Interface	USB 3.0 Type C
Compatible Devices	Laptop, PC, DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) software
Supported Software	Ableton Live
Special Features	Polyphonic Step Sequencer, Arpeggiator, Pattern Chaining, Creative Tools, CV Outputs
Item Weight	2.4 pounds
Product Dimensions	20.98 x 7 x 3.11 inches
Hardware Platform	PC/Mac
Color Name	White

WARRANTY

Arturia products are covered by a manufacturer's warranty. For specific details regarding the warranty period and terms for your KeyStep mk2, please refer to the warranty information included with your product packaging or visit the official Arturia website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or to download the latest firmware and software updates for your Arturia KeyStep mk2, please visit the official Arturia support page:

[Arturia Support Website](#)

You can also find additional resources, tutorials, and frequently asked questions on their website.

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