# How to Use the

# AKAI MPK Mini MK3 Keyboard Controller



## Introduction

The AKAI MPK Mini MK3 Keyboard Controller is a MIDI controller used to modulate audio and trigger sounds. This model features 25 keys, 8 drum pads and assignable rotary knobs. It can be used in the Digital Studio for a 3-hour loan period. See staff at the Digital Studio Service Desk to sign out equipment. When finished, please return all contents directly to BPL Digital Studio staff.



#### Good to know:

- The Akai MPK Mini MK3 will not work through the Focusrite. It is a **USB only** device.
- The AKAI MPK Mini MK3 will not work with Audacity or Adobe Audition. It only works with Reaper.
- Reaper requires **intermediate** familiarity with recording studio software.
- There are **separate instructions** for recording with Reaper.
- If you wish to customize the configuration of the AKAI MPK Mini MK3's keys and pads, you will need to use the AKAI MPK Mini MK3 Editor program, located on the computer desktop.



# **CONNECT AKAI MPK MINI MK3**

1. Locate the **USB port** on the **back** of the AKAI MPK Mini MK3.



- 2. **Plug the square end** of the USB cable (USB B) into the AKAI MPK Mini MK3 and the **USB-A end** into the USB hub.
  - a. You will see the device power on.



# The Reaper Workstation

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2. For more information on the Reaper interface, please see the **Easy Start Guide for Reaper**.

#### **Ready the MIDI in Reaper**

1. On the TOP menu, go to Options > Preferences

🕥 [unsaved project] - REAPER v6.81 - Registere						egistere	Metrotown Library (Licensed for personal/small business use)		
File	Edit	View	Insert	ltem	Track	Options	Actions	Help	[Toggle track record arming]

2. Choose MIDI Devices and double click on MPK mini 3.

Device	MIDI hardware settings						
MIDI Devices	MIDI inputs to make available (selectable as track inputs and/or learnable or action-bindable):						
Buffering	Device	Mode	ID				
Mute/Solo		(not present)	0				
Playback	MPK mini 2	<diabled></diabled>	1				
Seeking	Mir Killini S	Cuisableu >	'				
Recording							
Loop Recording							
Kendering							
ppearance							
Peake /Wayeforme		Add to use of MIDI					
Fades/Crossfades	MIDI outputs to make available (selectable as track outputs):						
Media Item Positioning	Device	Mode	ID				
Track Control Panels	Focustite USB MIDI	<not present=""></not>	1				
diting Behavior	Microsoft GS Wavetable Synth [use cautiously]	<disabled></disabled>	0				
Envelope Display	MPK mini 3	<pre><disabled></disabled></pre>	2				
Automation		all	2				
Mouse							
Mouse Modifiers							
MIDI Editor							
edia	Restrict MIDI hardware output to one thread		Reset all MIDI devices				
MIDI	Denet huu 🗖 All anten off 🗖 Ditch (sustain						
	Reset by: 🗹 All-notes-off 🗹 Pitch/sustain	Reset on: 🗹 Play	Stop/stopped seek				

- 3. Check the boxes for *Enable input from this device* and *Enable input for control messages*.
  - a. Leave everything else as is.
  - b. Choose OK.







## **Ready Your Track for Recording with the MIDI**

- Hold down the CTRL key and tap the T key to add an audio track.
  - a. Release the CTRL key when finished.
  - b. On the track control panel, you will see your track.



2. Arm the track. The Arm button will now be bright red.



3. An input window and recording meter will show.



4. Choose the **input dropdown menu** 





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# 5. Click the **speaker** to enable **Record Monitoring**.



- 6. You can also choose the "in" to choose how you want to record with your MIDI instrument.
  - a. For example, use **overdub** to record overtop of another recording without erasing the original recording.



 But wait! There still won't be any sound until you add a midi FX!

## **Choose Your MIDI FX**

1. Choose the FX button to open the sound effects window.





2. Type **REASYNTH** in the filter bar.a. click on **VSTi: ReaSynth (Cockos)** 

b. Click on Add.

Add FX to Track 1		₽ ×
FX Options		
Filter: reasynth	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Clearfilter
All Plugins - New - DX - DX - VST - VST - VST3 - VST3 - JS - ReWire - Instruments - Cockos - Recently us	VSTi: ReaSynth (Cockos)	
	Add	Cancel

3. **ReaSynth** has now been **added** as an **FX**. You can either **adjust** as needed or click the to **close** the FX window.



4. Press the piano keys on the MIDI keyboard...





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- 5. And congratulations! You have connected the MIDI keyboard!
- 6. When you press the keys and hear music:
  - a. The sound level bars will rise and fall.



b. The track will show lines indicating where notes have been recorded.



7. You can now test out all the other midi VSTs Reaper has to offer by following the steps in this section for FX.a. Type "midi" as your search tool and see what other sound you can create.

Add FX to Track 1						
FX Options						
Filter:	nidi	✓ Clear filter				
<b>□</b> <i>i</i>	VST: ReaControlMIDI (Cockos) 35: Audo To MIDI Drum Tropper 35: Loop Sampler w/MIDI Tropper 35: MIDI Cockoe 35: MIDI Cockoe 35: MIDI Cockoe 35: MIDI Cockoe 35: MIDI Cockoe 35: MIDI Cockoe 35: MIDI Daglotate Note Fiter 35: MIDI Map To Key v2 35: MIDI Map To Key v2 35: MIDI Note Fiter 35: MIDI Note Fiter 35: MIDI Note Keldd 35: MIDI Note Rendomize	JS: MIDI Note Repeater JS: MIDI Note annitizer JS: MIDI Note On Delay JS: MIDI Note On Delay JS: MIDI Poter McSeale Variation Generator JS: MIDI Poter Wheel LFO JS: MIDI Poter Wheel LFO JS: MIDI Router Note To Channel JS: MIDI Router Note To Channel JS: MIDI Router Note To Channel JS: MIDI Router Note Router JS: MIDI Sequencer Bedry JS: MIDI Sequencer Bedry JS: MIDI Sequencer Bedry JS: MIDI Sequencer Megababy JS: MIDI Tool V2 JS: MIDI Velocity Control JS: Super8 MIDI-controlled synchronized looper (Cockos)				
		Add Cancel				

If you would like to learn more about using the AKAI MPK Mini MK3, you can find tutorials on YouTube.

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