

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.

Step 1:



Step 2:



The Reaper Workstation

1. Double-click **Reaper**  to open it.



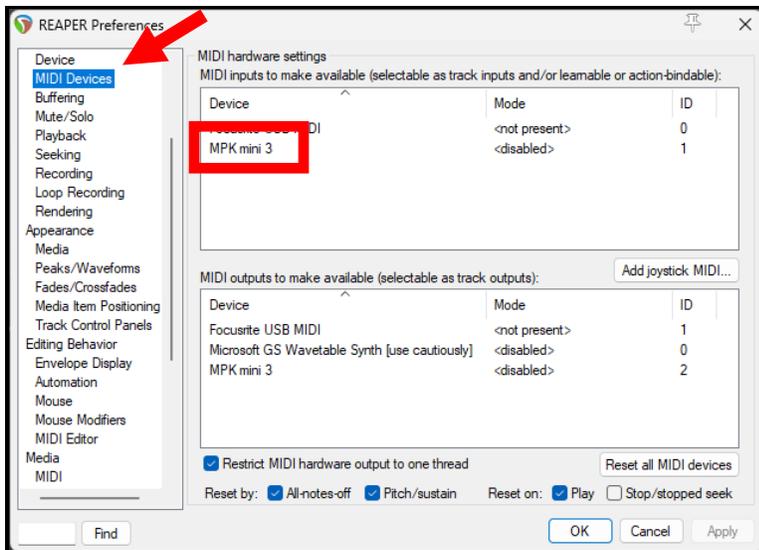
2. For more information on the Reaper interface, please see the **Easy Start Guide for Reaper**.

Ready the MIDI in Reaper

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

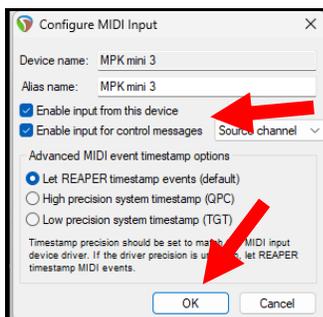


2. Choose **MIDI Devices** and double click on **MPK mini 3**.



3. Check the boxes for **Enable input from this device** and **Enable input for control messages**.

- Leave everything else as is.
- Choose OK.



Ready Your Track for Recording with the MIDI

1. 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**.

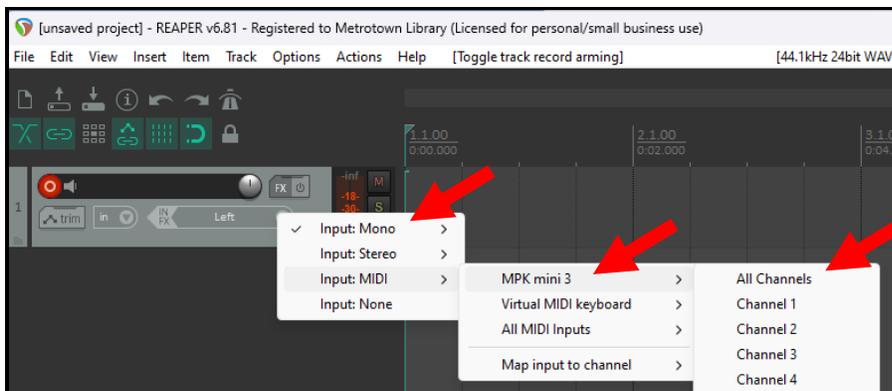


3. An **input window** and **recording meter** will show.



4. Choose the **input dropdown menu** .

- a. Choose **Input Mono > MPK mini 3 > All Channels**.

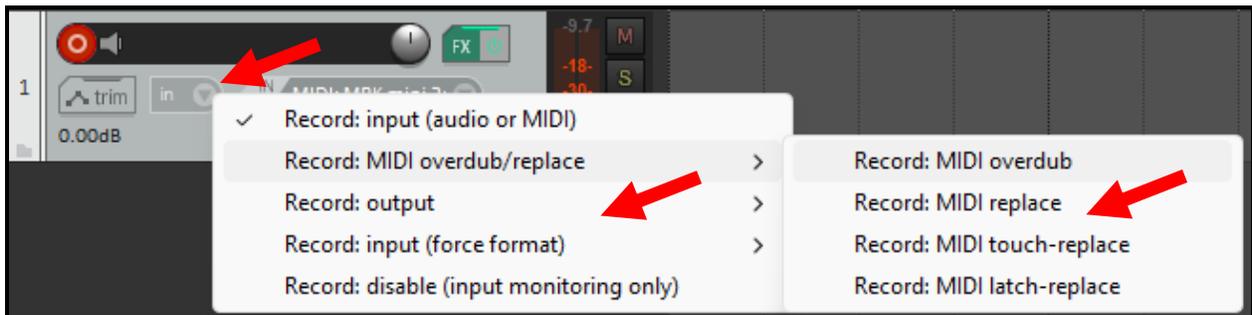


5. Click the **speaker**  to enable **Record Monitoring**.



6. You can also choose the “in”  to choose how you want to record with your MIDI instrument.

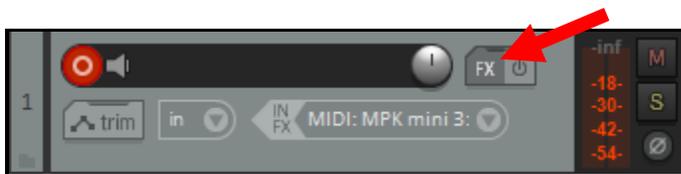
a. For example, use **overdub** to record overtop of another recording without erasing the original recording.



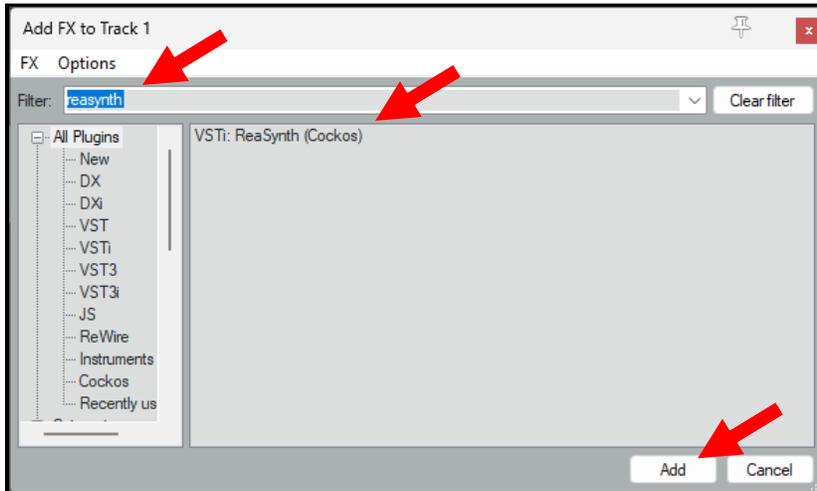
7. But wait! There still **won't** be any sound until you **add a midi FX!**

Choose Your MIDI FX

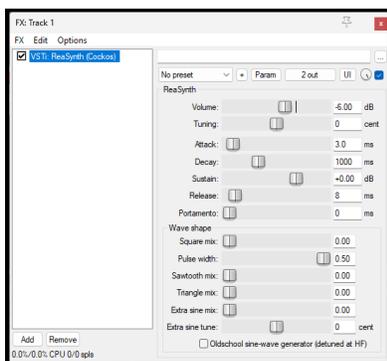
1. Choose the FX button to open the sound effects window.



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



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...



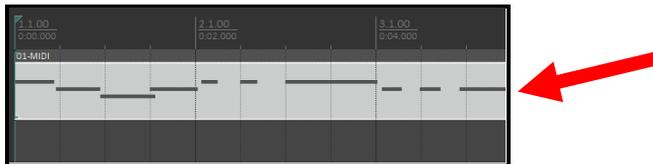
5. And congratulations! You have connected the MIDI keyboard!

6. When you press the keys and hear music:

a. The sound level bars will rise and fall.

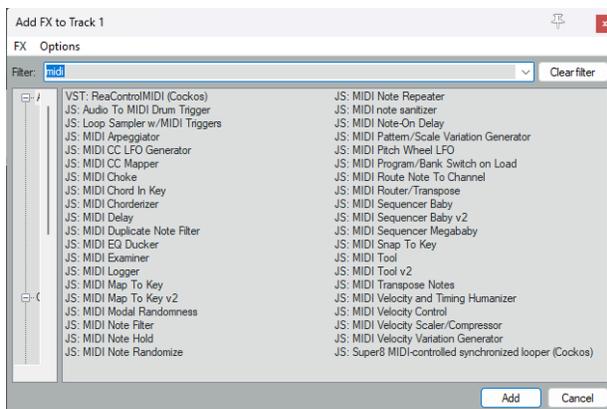


b. The track will show lines indicating where notes have been recorded.



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.



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

Last updated Aug 15, 2024 by JAM