Ultra-Thin 37-key USB MIDI Controller Keyboard

Xkey 37

Quick Start Guide

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Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of **Xkey 37**, a professional ultra-thin 37-key USB MIDI controller keyboard with polyphonic aftertouch for Mac, PC and mobile devices that provides everything you need to control software synthesizers, DAWs / sequencing software, notation software, other MIDI equipment and much more, wherever you go!

Getting Started

To start using **Xkey 37,** connect it to your computer using the included USB cable. The USB-C port of **Xkey 37** is located on the right under the keys.

This is also a good time to connect the **Xcable** adapter for MIDI and pedal connection to the left side. No drivers are required (plug-and-play). This powers the keyboard and is used to transfer MIDI data to your computer. For the default and more common USB connector ("type A"), a cable is included. For "type C" a different cable or adapter is needed (not included). You will also need an adapter if you want to connect **Xkey 37** to a phone or tablet. For instance, many Apple devices require the Apple Lightning to USB 3 Camera Connector while some Anroid devices require a so-called "USB OTG" adapter. Please double check the manual of your phone or tablet on how to connect USB accessories if you are unsure or contact our technical support.

Please note that this document covers the setup and the various built-in functions. It is not intended to be an introduction to MIDI. If you are new to MIDI, a good start is usually the manual of your DAW or notation or sequencing software. In addition there are a lot of details about MIDI online, i.e. a good technical resource and great starting point is *www.midi.org* and various online forums and user groups.

Software

Since **Xkey 37** is MIDI controller that only sends MIDI data such as "Note On", "Note Off", "Pitch", "Velocity", etc., it cannot generate any sounds on its own. The sounds will be created by the software running on your Mac, PC or mobile device, usually so-called virtual instruments. The important information is that **Xkey 37** works with every common and major MIDI compatible software - if your app understands MIDI, it will work with Xkey!

Under Windows, macOS or Linux, **Bitwig Studio 8-Track** is a very powerful DAW that not only supports MIDI and virtual instruments but can be the center of a professional recording studio. With iOS (iPad / iPhone), **Cubasis LE** from Steinberg or Garage Band from Apple are just two of many powerful MIDI applications. For Windows, macOS and iPad we also provide a powerful editor software **Xkey Plus** that is strongly recommended to be used since it allows changing of various settings such as the velocity and aftertouch curve or to check the Xkey status and update the firmware. It is is available for download via *http://en.esi.ms/123*.

Frequent Topics

One of the most common topics in our technical support, especially with Windows users, is the issue of latency, i.e. the delay between hitting a key and hearing sound. Please note that this latency is not caused by **Xkey 37**, but by your audio interface / soundcard and its driver. Any virtual instrument software generates the sound after you touch one of the Xkey keys. This sound is then sent out through your audio interface or sound card and that can cause a delay that is sometimes too high to play in realtime. The best solution to achieve low latency is to use a professional quality audio interface with low-latency drivers and to make sure the virtual instrument and DAW is correctly setup. If you are not sure about this, please contact our technical support.

Another frequent topic is that you cannot hear any sound when using **Xkey 37**. As it

does not generate the sound by itself, a virtual instrument or DAW with synthesizer plugin or any other app that supports MIDI and plays sounds is required. Above are some suggestions on what to use, however since Xkey works with any MIDI compatible app, the options are virtually endless. Please use our online support resources if you are unsure or contact our technical support describing what you want to do.

Main Functions

Xkey 37 does not only have 37 full-sized fully velocity sensitive keys with polyphonic aftertouch, it also provides function buttons on the left that provide important controls:

OCTAVE +

OCTAVE -

The **OCTAVE +** and **OCTAVE -** buttons allow you to move the octave range played by the 37 keys up or down. If you press the minus button, all sounds will be played one octave lower and if you press the plus button, all sounds will be played one octave higher. If you press both buttons at the same time, the octave range will be reset to the default setting.

If you hold both **OCTAVE +** and **OCTAVE -** while you plug in your USB cable to a computer, **Xkey 37** will be reset to the factory default.

MODULATION

The **MODULATION** button sends the MIDI modulation controller data. This button is pressure sensitive, so the data being sent depends on how strong you push the button.

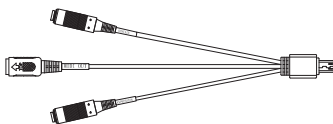**PITCH BEND +**

PITCH BEND -

The **PITCH BEND +** and **PITCH BEND -** buttons allow you to pitch the sound up or down via the MIDI pitch bend controller data. These buttons are pressure sensitive, so the data being sent depends on how strong you push either button.

SUSTAIN

The **SUSTAIN** button allows you to enable or disable the MIDI sustain functionality. When the button is pressed down, sustain mode will be activated and when you release the button, sustain mode is disabled again.

The **Xcable** connects to the left side of **Xkey 37**. It provides a **MIDI** output with 5-pin DIN connector and two 1/4" connectors for a **SUSTAIN** and an **EXPRESSION** pedal.

General Information

If something is not working as expected, please don't simply return the product and use our technical support options via *www.esi-audio.com, www.artesia-pro.com* or contact your local distributor. Please also check our extensive Knowledge Base with Frequently Asked Questions and technical details in the support section of the ESI site.

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