



MPD226

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Important: Visit akaipro.com and find the webpage for **MPD226** to download the MPD226 Editor Software and Preset Documentation.

Support

For the latest information about this product (system requirements, compatibility information, etc.) and product registration, visit: akaipro.com.

For additional product support, visit: akaipro.com/support.

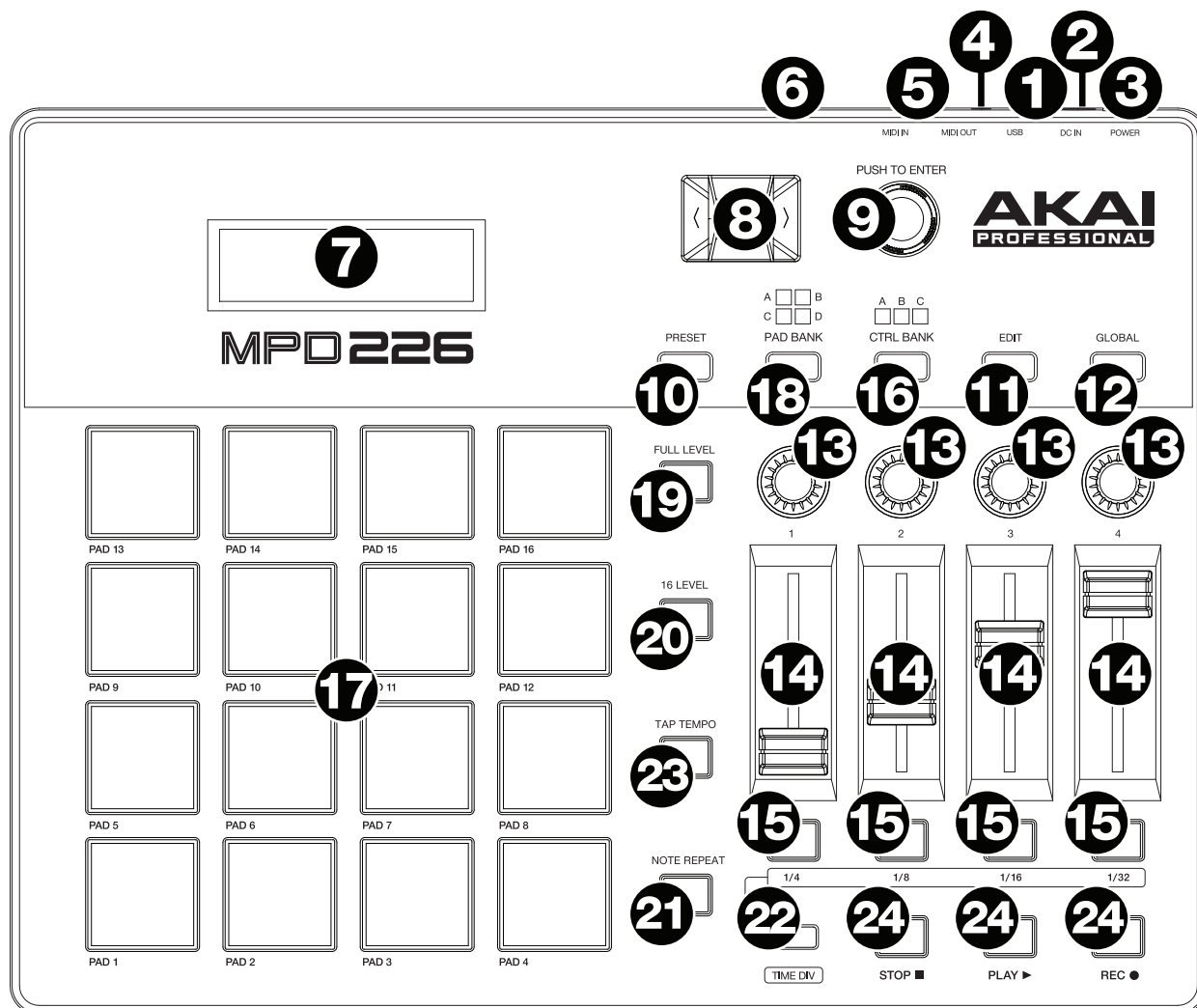
Quick Start

1. Use the included USB cable to connect MPD226's **USB port** to an available USB port on your computer (powered on).
2. On your computer, open your digital audio workstation (DAW).
3. Select **MPD226** as the controller in the **Preferences**, **Device Setup**, or **Options** of your DAW.

Tip: You can use MPD226 with a MIDI-controllable iOS app. To do this:

1. Press and hold the **Up Cursor**.
2. Connect your iOS device (powered on) to MPD226's **USB port** using an Apple iPad Camera Connection Kit (sold separately).
3. After MPD226 powers on, release the **Up Cursor**.

Features



1. **USB Port:** Use a standard USB cable to connect this USB port to your computer. The computer's USB port provides ample power to MPD226. If you connect it to a USB hub, make sure it is a powered hub. This connection is also used to send and receive MIDI data to and from your computer.

You can also power MPD226 by connecting this USB port to a power outlet using a standard USB charger (sold separately). If you do this, set any relevant controls to send their MIDI messages out of the **MIDI Out**. Any controls set to transmit only over the **USB Port** will not be sent to a device connected to the **MIDI Out**.

When using MPD226 with external MIDI equipment:

- If an external device is connected to the **MIDI Out**, your computer can send MIDI messages out along this path: **Computer** ➔ **MPD226** ➔ **External Device**.
- If an external device is connected to the **MIDI In**, the external device sends MIDI messages in along this path: **External Device** ➔ **MPD226** ➔ **Computer**. MIDI messages can then be sent to an external device via the MIDI Out, but they must pass through the computer first.

2. **Power Input:** Connect this power input to a power outlet using an optional power adapter (6V DC, 1A, center-positive, sold separately). Alternatively, if you want to use MPD226 to control an external MIDI device and without a computer connection, you can connect MPD226's **USB Port** to a power outlet using a standard USB charger (sold separately).



3. **Power Button:** Press this button to power MPD226 on or off.
4. **MIDI Out:** Use the included 1/8"-to-MIDI adapter and a standard five-pin MIDI cable to connect this MIDI Out to the MIDI In of an external MIDI device (e.g., a synthesizer, sequencer, drum machine, etc.). Please see the above [USB Port](#) description for information about how MIDI messages are routed while using MPD226.
Important: Do **not** connect audio devices (e.g., headphones, monitors, etc.) to this jack. Use the included 1/8"-to-MIDI adapter to connect MIDI devices only.
5. **MIDI In:** Use the included 1/8"-to-MIDI adapter and a standard five-pin MIDI cable to connect this MIDI In to the MIDI Out of an external MIDI device (e.g., another MIDI controller). The MIDI messages sent to this MIDI In will be sent to your computer via the USB port. Please see the above [USB Port](#) description for information about how MIDI messages are routed while using MPD226.
Important: Do **not** connect audio devices (e.g., headphones, monitors, etc.) to this jack. Use the included 1/8"-to-MIDI adapter to connect MIDI devices only.
6. **Kensington® Lock:** You may use this Kensington lock slot to secure the MPD226 to a table or other surface.
7. **Display:** Use this display to view MPD226's menus, options, parameters, and settings.
8. **Cursors:** Use these buttons to navigate through the menus and options in the current page in the display.
9. **Data Dial:** Use this dial to change parameter values, settings, etc. in the display. Pressing the dial also functions as an **Enter** button.
10. **Preset:** Press this button to enter Preset Mode. See [Operation > Preset Mode](#) for more information.
11. **Edit:** Press this button to enter Edit Mode. See [Operation > Edit Mode](#) for more information.
12. **Global:** Press this button to enter Global Mode. See [Operation > Global Mode](#) for more information.
13. **Potentiometers:** Use these 360° knobs to send continuous controller messages to your software or external MIDI device.
14. **Faders:** Use these faders to send continuous controller messages to your software or external MIDI device.
15. **Switches:** Use these switches to send MIDI CC messages to your software or external MIDI device. While **Time Div** is lit, press one of these switches to select the time division of the Note Repeat feature. Press a lit switch to select a triplet-based time division (the switch will flash). Press the flashing switch again to return to the normal time division.
16. **Control Bank (Ctrl Bank):** Use this button to select one of three independent banks of **potentiometers**, **faders**, and **switches**. This lets you control up to 36 independent parameters.



17. **Pads:** Use these pads to trigger drum hits or other samples in your software or external MIDI sound module. The pads are pressure- and velocity-sensitive, which makes them very responsive and intuitive to play.
18. **Pad Bank:** Use this button to select one of four independent banks of pads. This lets you access up to 64 different pads (16 pads across 4 pad banks).
19. **Full Level:** Press this button to activate Full Level Mode in which the pads always play at a maximum velocity (**127**), no matter how hard or soft you hit them.
20. **16 Level:** Press this button to activate/deactivate 16 Level. When activated, the last pad that was hit will be temporarily copied to all 16 pads. The pads will now output the same note number as the initial pad but at fixed velocity values that increase as the pad numbers increase (e.g., Pad 1 is the minimum, Pad 16 is the maximum), regardless of how hard you hit them.
21. **Note Repeat:** Press and hold this button while striking a pad to cause the pad to retrigger at a rate based on the current tempo and Time Division settings.

Tip: You can sync Note Repeat to an internal or external MIDI clock source.
22. **Tap Tempo:** Press this button in time with the desired tempo to enter a new tempo (in BPM). This will affect the speed of the Note Repeat feature.

Note: This button is disabled if Note Repeat is synced to an external MIDI clock source.
23. **Time Div:** Press this button, and then press one of the four **switches** above it to select the time division of the Note Repeat feature: quarter notes (**1/4**), eighth notes (**1/8**), 16th notes (**1/16**), or 32nd notes (**1/32**). Press a lit switch to select a triplet-based time division (the switch will flash). Press the flashing switch again to return to the normal time division. While this button is lit, the **switches** will not send any of their normal MIDI messages.
24. **Transport Buttons:** These three buttons are dedicated buttons for sending conventional transport control commands: **Stop**, **Play**, and **Record**. These can be set to send MIDI (Start/Stop), pre-assigned MIDI CC values, MMC (MIDI Machine Control), and MMC/MIDI SysEx. The **PTEX** setting is for use with Avid® Pro Tools® Express only.

Operation

MPD226 has three different modes of operation. Each mode can be accessed by pressing the corresponding button on MPD226.

In each page of each mode:

- Use the up/down **Cursors** to move between settings on the current page.
- Use the left/right **Cursors** to move between different pages.
- Turn the **Data Dial** to change the currently selected value/setting.

Following is a short description of each mode. Each mode is described in detail in its corresponding section later in this *User Guide*.

Preset Mode: This mode allows you to load your stored Programs. A Program is a collection of information about how the controls (pads, faders, etc.) will behave. Their behavior can be adjusted in Edit Mode then stored. Using Programs allows you to save different configurations, which can be quickly loaded when you need them, without having to reprogram MPD226 every time. See the [Preset Mode](#) section to learn more.

Edit Mode: This mode allows you to edit the configuration of MPD226. Edit Mode is a powerful tool for customizing your set-up. In this mode, you can make changes to how the pads, faders and other features behave. For example, you may want a fader to transmit only a limited range of MIDI data, or you may want the pads to transmit on a different MIDI channel from the faders. You can change these and other various parameters in Edit Mode. See the [Edit Mode](#) section to learn more.

Global Mode: This mode allows you to set global parameters and make general changes to how MPD226 functions. For example, you can set the brightness of the display, the MIDI common channel, MIDI clock settings, the pads' velocity curve and sensitivity, and more. See the [Global Mode](#) section to learn more.

Preset Mode

Preset Mode allows you to select and load a Program. MPD226 has several default Programs we created to work specifically with some popular DAWs or plug-ins, but you may also create/edit, store, and load your own Programs.

To select/load a Program:

1. Press **Preset**. (Each time MPD226 is first powered on, it will automatically be in Program Mode.) The **display** will show the current Program name (flashing).
2. Turn the **Data Dial** to browse through the list of available Programs.
3. Press the **Data Dial** to load the desired Program.

To edit a program, please refer to the [Edit Mode](#) section.



To store your new settings in a Program:

Important: Without storing your edited settings, your changes will be lost if you load a new Program.

1. Press **Preset** to enter Preset Mode.
2. Press the **Right Cursor** to enter the **Store Program** page.
3. Use the up/down **Cursors** to select either the **Save To** or **Name** field:
 - **Save To:** Turn the **Data Dial** to select the Preset to which you want to store your new settings (this will overwrite that Preset).
 - **Name:** Turn the **Data Dial** to select the current character. Use the left/right **Cursors** to move to the previous/next character.
4. Press the **Data Dial** to store the Preset. Your settings will be saved to the new Preset and the display will automatically return to the normal Preset Mode.

Edit Mode

1. To enter Edit Mode, press **Edit**.
2. Select a control to edit by touching, pressing, or manipulating the desired control (fader, pad, etc.). In the **display**, the name of the selected control will appear in the upper left corner, and the editable parameters will be shown below it.

In each page of Edit Mode:

- Use the up/down **Cursors** to move through the parameters on the current page.
 - If there are multiple pages (indicated by **Pg1**, **Pg2**, etc.), use the left/right **Cursors** to move between different pages.
 - Turn the **Data Dial** to change the currently selected value/setting. Any value/setting is automatically selected; you do not have to press the **Data Dial** to enter or select it.
3. To edit more controls, repeat **Steps 2–3**.

See the following sections for specific information about each control's editable parameters.

Pads (Pad 01–64)

Type: The type of event that will be sent. The available settings are **Note**, **Program Change**, and **Program Bank**.

MIDI Channel: This setting determines over which MIDI channel data is sent. The available settings are **Common**, **USB A1–A16**, and **USB B1–B16**.

Note: If **Note** is the selected Type, this assigns the note number.

Aft: If **Note** is the selected Type, this determines the Aftertouch settings. The available options are **Off**, **Chn** (Channel Aftertouch), and **Poly** (Poly Aftertouch).

Program Number / Pgm: If **Program Change** or **Program Bank** is the selected Type, this determines the Program number. The available range is **000–127**.

Msb / Lsb: If **Program Change** or **Program Bank** is the selected Type, these determine the MSB (Most Significant Bit) and LSB (Least Significant Bit). The available range is **000–127**.

MIDI to DIN: Determines whether or not MIDI data is sent to the **MIDI Out (On)** or not (**Off**). MIDI data will be sent to MPD226's USB connection regardless of this setting.



On Color / Off Color: These determine what colors the pad will be when it is pressed (On) and not pressed (Off). The available settings are **Off, Red, Orange, Amber, Yellow, Green, Green Blue, Aqua, Light Blue, Blue, Purple, Pink, Hot Pink, Light Purple, Light Green, Light Pink, Grey.**

Note Mode: If **Note** is the selected Type, this determines whether it is in **Toggle** or **Momentary** Mode.

Faders (Fader 01–12)

Type: The type of event that will be sent. The available settings are **Aftertouch** and **MIDI CC**.

MIDI Channel: This setting determines over which MIDI channel data is sent. The available settings are **Common, USB A1–A16, and USB B1–B16.**

CC Number: If **MIDI CC** is the selected Type, this determines the MIDI CC. The available range is **000–127.**

MIDI to DIN: Determines whether or not MIDI data is sent to the **MIDI Out (On)** or not (**Off**). MIDI data will be sent to MPD226's USB connection regardless of this setting.

Min / Max: If **Aftertouch** is the selected Type, these determine the lowest (**Min**) and highest (**Max**) values. (If the Min is higher than the Max, the fader's polarity will be reversed.)

Switches (Switch 01–12)

Type: The type of event that will be sent. The available settings are **Note, CC, PrgChange, PrgBank, and Keystroke.**

MIDI Channel: This setting determines over which MIDI channel data is sent. The available settings are **Common, USB A1–A16, and USB B1–B16.**

Note: If **Note** is the selected Type, this assigns the note number.

Velo: If **Note** is the selected Type, this assigns the velocity. The available range is **000–127.**

Mode: If **Note** or **CC** is the selected Type, this determines whether it is in **Toggle** or **Momentary** Mode.

CC Number: If **CC** is the selected Type, this determines the MIDI CC number. The available range is **000–127.**

Invert: If **CC** is the selected Type, the switches send **000** as the “off” value and **127** as the “on” value. This determines whether the values sent are normal (**Off**), as described above, or switched/inverted (**On**).

Program Number / Pgm: If **PrgChange** or **PrgBank** is the selected Type, this determines the Program number. The available range is **000–127.**

Msb / Lsb: If **PrgChange** or **PrgBank** is the selected Type, these determine the MSB (Most Significant Bit) and LSB (Least Significant Bit). The available range is **000–127.**

MIDI to DIN: Determines whether or not MIDI data is sent to the **MIDI Out (On)** or not (**Off**). MIDI data will be sent to MPD226's USB connection regardless of this setting.

Key 1: If **Keystroke** is the selected Type, this determines what keystroke the switch sends. The available keystrokes are **0–9, A–Z, F1–F12, Backspace, Return, Up Arrow, Down Arrow, Left Arrow, Right Arrow, Tab, various symbols (, . / [] \ ' ;), Esc, Insert, Home, Page Up, Delete, End, Page Down, and Num 0–9.**



Key 2: If **Keystroke** is the selected Type, this determines what modifier keystroke (e.g., Shift, Command, etc.), if any, the switch sends with the **Key 1** keystroke. The available modifier keystrokes are **None**, **Control**, **Shift**, **Alt**, **Option**, **Control-Shift**, **Control-Alt**, **Control-Option**, **Shift-Alt**, **Shift-Option**, **Alt-Option**, **Control-Option-Alt**, **Control-Shift-Alt**, and **Control-Shift-Option**.

Tip: The HID (Human Interface Device) protocol lets devices send typical computer keyboard keystrokes. USB game controllers are an example of this, acting as an alternative to your computer's keyboard. MPD226 also uses the HID protocol, letting you configure certain buttons to send your most-often used keystrokes to your software, so you no longer need to switch focus constantly between the computer's keyboard and your MPD226.

Knobs (Potentiometer 01–12)

Type: The type of message that will be sent. The available settings are **MIDI CC**, **Aftertouch**, **Increment/Decrement 1 (Inc/Dec1)**, and **Increment/Decrement 2 (Inc/Dec2)**.

MIDI Channel: This setting determines over which MIDI channel the messages are sent. The available settings are **Common**, **USB A1–A16**, and **USB B1–B16**.

CC Number: If **MIDI CC** or **Inc/Dec2** is the selected Type, this determines the MIDI CC number. The available range is **000–127**.

MIDI to DIN: This determines whether or not MIDI data is sent to the MIDI Out (**On**) or not (**Off**). MIDI data will be sent to MPD226's USB connection regardless of this setting.

Min / Max: If **MIDI CC** or **Aftertouch** is the selected Type, these determine the lowest (**Min**) and highest (**Max**) values. (If Min is higher than Max, the knob's polarity will be reversed.) The available range is **000–127**.

MSB / LSB: If **Inc/Dec1** is the selected Type, these determine the MSB (Most Significant Bit) and LSB (Least Significant Bit). The available range is **000–127**.

Value: If **Inc/Dec1** is the selected Type, this determines the value sent by an Increment (CC #96) or Decrement (CC #97) message. The available range is **000–127**.

Note Repeat

Time Division: The speed of the Note Repeat repetition as a division of the master tempo or external clock. The available options are **1/4**, **1/4T**, **1/8**, **1/8T**, **1/16**, **1/16T**, **1/32**, and **1/32T**. (T denotes a triplet-based time division.)

Mode: This determines whether it is in **Toggle** or **Momentary** Mode.

Gate: The length of the repeated notes of the Note Repeat feature. The available range is **1–99%** of the current time division setting.

Swing: The amount of swing used in the repeated notes of the Note Repeat feature. The available range is **50–75%**.



Tempo (Tap Tempo)

BPM: The tempo as indicated in beats per minute. The available range is **30–300** BPM.

Time Division: The speed of the Note Repeat repetition as a division of the master tempo or external clock. The available options are **1/4**, **1/4T**, **1/8**, **1/8T**, **1/16**, **1/16T**, **1/32**, and **1/32T**. (T denotes a triplet-based time division.)

Gate: The length of the repeated notes of the Note Repeat feature. The available range is **1–99%** of the current time division setting.

Swing: The amount of swing used in the repeated notes of the Note Repeat feature. The available range is **50–75%**.

Transport (Stop, Play, Rec)

Type: The type of event that will be sent. The available settings are **MMC**, **MMC/MIDI**, **MIDI Real Time**, **MIDI CC**, and **PTEX**. When set to **PTEX**, transport control messages will be sent only on USB Port B, Channel 16, regardless of the Common Channel (**Common Chnl**) setting. The **PTEX** setting is for use with Avid® Pro Tools® Express only.

MIDI to DIN: Determines whether or not MIDI data is sent to the **MIDI Out (On)** or not (**Off**). MIDI data will be sent to MPD226's USB connection regardless of this setting.

Global Mode

To enter Global Mode, press **Global**.

In each page of Global Mode:

- Use the up/down **Cursors** to move through the parameters on the current page.
- Use the left/right **Cursors** to move between different pages.
- Turn the **Data Dial** to change the currently selected value/setting. Any value/setting is automatically selected; you do not have to press the **Data Dial** to enter or select it.

Important: To store your global settings, see the [Utilities](#) section below.

See the following sections for specific information about each control's editable parameters.

MIDI Channel

Common Chnl (Channel): This setting determines which MIDI channel is the common channel (various controls can be assigned to the common channel in Edit Mode). The available settings are **USB A1–A16**, and **USB B1–B16**.

Note Display

Type: Determines whether the display will show notes as **Values** (e.g., **C2**, **F#3**, etc.) or a **Number** (e.g., **36**, **54**, etc.).



Pads

Pad Threshold: The velocity threshold to trigger the pads. The available range is **0–10**. This can help prevent false triggering or make it easier to trigger the pads.

Velocity Curve: The pads' velocity curve. The available settings are **Linear**, **Exp1**, **Exp2**, **Log1**, and **Log2**.

Pad Gain: The pads' overall velocity sensitivity. The available range is **1–10**. At **1**, it would take a lot of force to generate a velocity value of **127**. At **10**, the opposite is true.

Tempo

Tempo: The global tempo as indicated in beats per minute. When MPD226 is using its internal MIDI clock, this global tempo setting determines the speed of the Note Repeat rate. The available range is **30–300** BPM.

Tap Average: The number of times you would need to press **Tap Tempo** to enter a new tempo. The available range is **2–4**.

Tempo LED: When MPD226 is using its internal MIDI clock, the **Tap Tempo** LED will flash in time with the current tempo setting. You can set this feature to **On** or **Off**.

Clock

Source: Determines whether MPD226 uses its **Internal** MIDI clock or refers to an **External** clock (e.g., from a DAW).

SysEx

Send Program: The Program to be sent via SysEx. The available options are the individual Program numbers or **all** Programs. Press the **Data Dial** to send the Program.

Utilities

Contrast: The **display** contrast. The available options are **0** to **99**.

Save Globals

On this page, press the **Data Dial** to store your global settings. After **Saving Globals** flashes on the display, the global settings are stored in MPD226's internal memory.

OS

Version: MPD226's current operating system information.

Boot ROM: MPD226's current ROM read-only memory information.