



MPD218

Editor

User Guide

English

Manual Version 1.0

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
About This Software	4
System Requirements and Product Support	4
Getting Started.....	5
Installation	5
Setup	5
Operation	6
Managing Your Presets.....	7
About Presets	7
Loading Presets.....	8
Saving Presets.....	9
Sending Presets	10

Editing Controls	11
Pads.....	12
Knobs	14
Other Preset Information	16
Other Functions.....	17
Auto-Populate Tool	17
Send Multiple Presets	20
Software Menus	21
File	21
Tools	23
Window.....	23
Help	23
Trademarks and Licenses	24

Introduction

About This Software

The MPD218 Editor is a software application that lets you change the MIDI messages sent from your Akai Professional MPD218. This editor lets you set each pad and knob (across all available banks) to send a unique command to your software or external MIDI device, giving you deep, dynamic, and powerful control over your performance.

Please read this manual to get a better understanding of the MPD218 Editor.

System Requirements and Product Support

For complete system requirements, compatibility information, and product registration, visit the Akai Professional website: akaipro.com.

For additional support, visit akaipro.com/support.

Getting Started

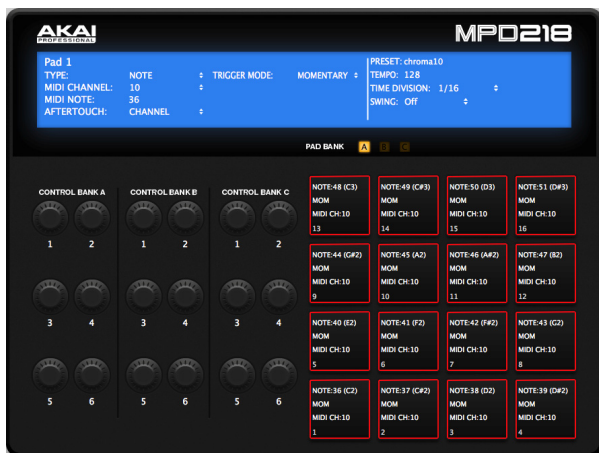
Installation

1. Double-click the **.exe** (Windows®) or **.pkg** (Mac OS® X®) installer file you downloaded.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions.

Setup

1. **Optional:** Connect your MPD218 to your computer using a standard USB cable, and make sure both are powered on. (If you are using a USB hub, make sure it is a powered hub.) You can still use the editor without connecting MPD218, but you will not be able to send Presets to it or load (get) Presets from it.
2. Open the MPD218 Editor.
 - **Windows:** The file is located in **C:\Program Files\Akai Professional\MPD218 Editor**.
 - **Mac OS X:** The file is located in **Applications/MPD218 Editor**.
3. If your MPD218 is not connected to your computer, simply start using the MPD218 Editor!
If your MPD218 is connected to your computer, click the **File** menu and select **MIDI Setup**. In the window that appears, select the following options, and then click OK:
 - **Windows:** Set both **Input** and **Output** to **MPD218**.
 - **Mac OS X:** Set both **Input** and **Output** to **MPD218 Port A**.
4. Start using the MPD218 Editor! See the **Operation** chapter to learn more about the software in depth.

Operation



MPD218 Editor's graphical interface looks just like your MPD218 but with some extra information about the MIDI messages it sends. All of this information is stored in a Preset, which determines how your MPD218 will command your software. Learn more about this in [Managing Your Presets](#).

MPD218 has two types of hardware controls whose MIDI messages you can edit. See [Editing Controls](#) to learn how to adjust the MIDI message sent by each type of hardware control.

Important: Remember that there are three banks of **pads** and three banks of **knobs**. When editing your mappings, make sure you are on the bank you want. Click a **Pad Bank** button in the graphical interface to select the desired pad bank. The button will light up, and the values on the graphical interface will reflect those of the current bank only. All three banks of knobs are visible.

Managing Your Presets

About Presets

A Preset is a preset file (**.mpd218**) containing all of the MIDI assignments you make in the Editor. Using Presets lets you maintain several different control configurations to use in different situations. For instance, you may use different Presets with different kinds of software, or you may have some Presets for production and others for performance.

Your MPD218 can store 16 Presets at a time. You can store additional Presets on your computer to load onto your MPD218 with this editor.

This chapter explains how to load Presets into the editor (**Loading Presets**), save Presets onto your computer (**Saving Presets**), and send Presets to your connected MPD218 (**Sending Presets**).

Loading Presets

To edit a Preset, you first have to load it into the MPD218 Editor.

Note: Editing a loaded Preset will not affect the Preset stored on your MPD218. See [Sending Presets](#) to learn how to send the edited Preset to your MPD218.

To load a Preset from your connected MPD218:

1. Click the **File** menu and select **Load from Hardware**.
2. In the **Load Presets from Hardware** window that appears, click the **Get** button next to the desired Preset number.

To cancel, simply close the **Load Presets from Hardware** window.

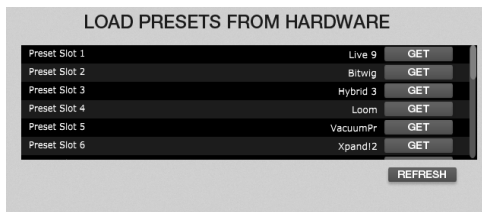
If you make changes to any Presets or current settings or assignments on your MPD218 after opening this window, click **Refresh** to refresh the options.

3. When you're done, close the **Load Presets from Hardware** window.

To load a Preset from your computer, do one of the following:

- Click the **File** menu and select **Open Preset**.
- Press **Ctrl+O** (Windows) or **⌘+O** (Mac OS X).

After that, locate the desired Preset file (**.mpd218**), and click **Open**.



Saving Presets

Saving a Preset on your computer lets you edit it or send it to your MPD218 in the future. All settings and assignments currently in the editor will be saved in the Preset.

To save the Preset, do one of the following:

- Click the **File** menu and select **Save**.
- Press **Ctrl+S** (Windows) or **⌘+S** (Mac OS X).

If this is the first time you are saving the Preset, select the desired location, enter a file name, and click **Save**. The Preset will be saved as an **.mpd218** file.

If this is not the first time you are saving the Preset, the Preset will save with the same name and to the same location.

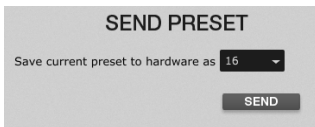
To save a Preset under a different name or to a different location, click the **File** menu and select **Save As**. After that, select the desired location, enter a file name, and click **Save**. The Preset will be saved as an **.mpd218** file.

Sending Presets

Sending a Preset to your connected MPD218 lets you transfer the Preset from the editor to your MPD218's internal memory. All settings and assignments currently in the editor will be sent to your MPD218.

To send a Preset to your connected MPD218:

1. Click **Send to Hardware**.
2. In the **Send Preset** window that appears, click the drop-down menu to select the desired Preset number.
To cancel, simply close the **Send Preset** window.
3. Click **Send** to confirm. Sending a Preset will overwrite that Preset number on your MPD218.
4. When you're done, close the **Send Preset** window.



Editing Controls

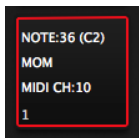
To edit the parameters for a pad or control on your MPD218, click it in the software's graphical user interface.

Tip: To copy the parameters of one pad or knob to another, simply click and drag it. To access another pad bank, hover the mouse cursor over the desired **Pad Bank** button.



Click one of the types of controls to jump to that section in this *User Guide*: (1) **Pads**, (2) **Knobs**, or (3) **Other Preset Information**.

Pads



Pad 1			
TYPE:	NOTE	⇅	TRIGGER MODE: MOMENTARY ⇅
MIDI CHANNEL:	10	⇅	
MIDI NOTE:	36		
AFTERTOUCH:	CHANNEL	⇅	

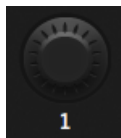
These are the available parameters and settings for MPD218's pads.

Note: Use the **Pad Bank** buttons to access all pads (1–48).

Parameter	Description	Available Settings
Type	The type of event that will be sent.	Note Program Program Bank
MIDI Channel	This setting determines over which MIDI channel data is sent.	1–16
MIDI Note	If Note is the selected Type, this assigns the note number.	0–127 (C0–G9)
Afters touch	If Note is the selected Type, this determines the Afters touch settings.	Off Chn (Channel Afters touch) Poly (Poly Afters touch)

Program Number	If Program or Program Bank is the selected Type, this determines the Program number.	0–127
Program MSB Program LSB	If Program or Program Bank is the selected Type, these determine the MSB (Most Significant Bit) and LSB (Least Significant Bit).	0–127
Trigger Mode	If Note is the selected Type, this determines whether it is in Toggle or Momentary Mode.	Toggle Momentary

Knobs



Knob 1

TYPE:	CC	÷ MIN:	0
MIDI CHANNEL:	1	÷ MAX:	127
MIDI CC:	3		

These are the available parameters and settings for MPD218's knobs.

Note: All three banks of knobs (**1–18**) are visible simultaneously.

Parameter	Description	Available Settings
Type	The type of message that will be sent.	CC Aftertouch Increment/Decrement 1 (Inc/Dec1) Increment/Decrement 2 (Inc/Dec2)
MIDI Channel	This setting determines over which MIDI channel data is sent.	1–16
MIDI CC	If CC or Inc/Dec2 is the selected Type, this determines the MIDI CC number.	0–127

Min	If 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.)	0–127
Max		
NRPN MSB	If Inc/Dec1 is the selected Type, these determine the MSB (Most Significant Bit) and LSB (Least Significant Bit).	0–127
NRPN LSB		
Value	If Inc/Dec1 is the selected Type, this determines the value sent by an Increment (CC #96) or Decrement (CC #97) message.	0–127

Other Preset Information

```

PRESET: chroma10
TEMPO: 128
TIME DIVISION: 1/16
SWING: Off
  
```

These are the available parameters and settings for the preset in general.

Parameter	Description	Available Settings
Preset	The name of the preset.	Standard alphanumeric characters
Tempo	The tempo as indicated in beats per minute.	30–300
Time Division	The speed of the Note Repeat repetition as a division of the master tempo or external clock.	1/4, 1/4T, 1/8, 1/8T, 1/16, 1/16T, 1/32, 1/32T (T denotes a triplet-based time division.)
Swing	The amount of swing used in the repeated notes of the Note Repeat feature.	Off (50%), 54%, 56%, 58%, 60%, 62%

Other Functions

Auto-Populate Tool

The auto-populate feature lets you quickly apply common “patterns” of assignments to the pads and knobs, sparing you the time of having to create each assignment manually.

To open the Auto-Populate Tool, click the Tools menu and select Auto Populate Tool.

AUTO POPULATE

PADS
☐ TYPE **NOTE** ▾
☐ AFT **OFF** ▾
☐ MODE **MOMENTARY** ▾
☐ SCALE **CHROMATIC** ▾
 START **0** **C-1** ▾

☐ MIDI CHANNEL **1** ▾
 Apply to Banks

KNOBS
☐ TYPE **CC** ▾
☐ MIN **0**
☐ MAX **127**
☐ ORDER **ASCENDING** ▾
 START **0**

☐ MIDI CHANNEL **1** ▾
 Apply to Banks

To auto-populate a pad or knob:

1. For each type of control (**pad** or **knob**), check the box to the left of the parameter to select it. Only the selected parameters will be auto-populated. You can do this for multiple parameters. 
2. If the parameter has a drop-down menu, click it and select the desired setting.
If the parameter requires you to enter a number, click the field, delete the current number (if necessary), type a new number, and then press **Enter** on your computer keyboard.
3. Repeat Step 2 for each additional parameter you want to auto-populate (if necessary).
4. Under **Apply to Banks**, click each bank to select/deselect it. Only the selected banks will be auto-populated. 

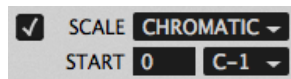
5. Click **Apply** to auto-populate the selected parameters in the selected banks.

To cancel the operation instead, close the **Auto Populate** window.

For ranges of notes, you must set a starting note and scale. For ranges of numbers, you must set a starting number and whether the values will increase or decrease across the bank(s). These types of parameters are described below.

When the **Type** is set to **Note** (for **pads**), select the starting note (of a scale) by clicking the **Scale** drop-down menu, selecting a scale, and then doing either of the following:

- Click the **Start** drop-down menu, and select the desired MIDI note value (**C-1** – **G9**). The field next to it will change accordingly.
- Click the **Start** field, delete the current number (if necessary), type a new number (**0–127**), and then press **Enter** on your computer keyboard. The drop-down menu next to it will change accordingly.



When the **Type** is set to **Program** or **Program Bank** (for **pads**), select the starting program number by doing the following:

1. Click the **Order** drop-down menu, and select whether you want the numbers to increase (**Ascending**) or decrease (**Descending**) across the bank(s) of controls.
2. Click the **Start** field, delete the current number (if necessary), type a new number (**0–127**), and then press **Enter** on your computer keyboard.

✓	ORDER	DESCENDING ▾
	START	5

When the **Type** is set to **CC** or **Inc/Dec2** (for **knobs** only), select the starting CC number by doing the following:

1. Click the **Order** drop-down menu, and select whether you want the numbers to increase (**Ascending**) or decrease (**Descending**) across the bank(s) of controls.
2. Click the **Start** field, delete the current number (if necessary), type a new number (**0–127**), and then press **Enter** on your computer keyboard.

✓	ORDER	ASCENDING ▾
	START	0

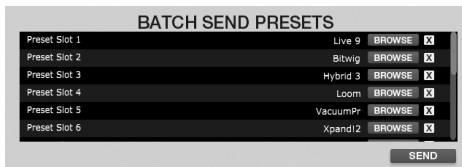
When the **Type** is set to **Inc/Dec 1** (for **knobs** only), select the starting NRPN number by doing the following:

1. Click the **Order** drop-down menu, and select whether you want the numbers to increase (**Ascending**) or decrease (**Descending**) across the bank(s) of controls.
2. Click the **Start** field, delete the current number (if necessary), type a new number (**0–16383**), and then press **Enter** on your computer keyboard. Alternatively, do the same for the **MSB** and **LSB** fields (**0–127**).

✓	ORDER	ASCENDING ▾
	START	0
	MSB	0
	LSB	0

Send Multiple Presets

You can send multiple Presets to your connected MPD218 simultaneously rather than sending just one at a time.



To send multiple Presets to your connected MPD218:

1. Click the **Tools** menu and select **Send Multiple Presets**.
2. In the **Batch Send Presets** window that appears, select which Presets you want to send by doing any of the following:
 - Click a slot's **Browse** button and then select the Preset file from your computer.
 - Click and drag MPD218 Editor's graphical user interface onto the desired slot.
 - Click and drag an MPD218 Preset file from your computer onto the desired slot.
 - Click and drag a folder containing multiple MPD218 Preset files from your computer onto the desired slot. (The selected slot and the ones below it will be "populated" with the Preset files in that folder and its subfolders.)

To remove a previously selected Preset from the list, click its **X** button.

To cancel, simply close the **Send Preset** window.

3. Click **Send** to confirm. Sending Presets will overwrite the corresponding Preset numbers on your MPD218. If you did not select a Preset to send, that Preset will not be overwritten.
4. When you're done, close the **Send Preset** window.

Software Menus

This chapter is a description of the available options in the menus at the top of the window.

File

New: Select this to open an additional MPD218 Editor window. Alternatively, press **Ctrl+N** (Windows) or **⌘+N** (Mac OS X).

Open Preset: Select this to locate and load a Preset file (**.mpd218**) on your computer to the MPD218 Editor. Alternatively, press **Ctrl+O** (Windows) or **⌘+O** (Mac OS X).

Close Window: Select this to close the MPD218 Editor window. Alternatively, press **Ctrl+W** (Windows) or **⌘+W** (Mac OS X).

Save: Select this to save the MPD218 Editor's current settings to your computer as a Preset file (**.mpd218**). Alternatively, press **Ctrl+S** (Windows) or **⌘+S** (Mac OS X).

Save As: Select this to save the MPD218 Editor's current settings to your computer as a Preset file (**.mpd218**) with a different file name.

Load From Hardware: Select this to import the current settings from your connected MPD218 into the MPD218 Editor.

Send To Hardware: Select this to export the current settings from the MPD218 Editor to your connected MPD218.

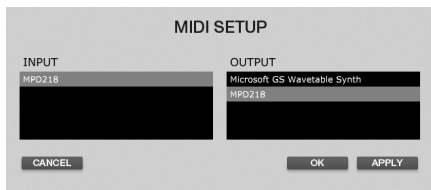
MIDI Setup: Select this option to open the **Device Setup** window.

If your MPD218 is connected to your computer, **MPD218** and its MIDI ports will appear in both the **Input** and **Output** fields. We recommend selecting its MIDI port in each field. This will let you use the MPD218 Editor while simultaneously using MPD218 with your digital audio workstation (DAW).

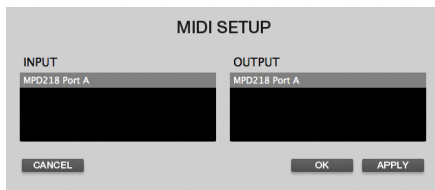
- **Windows:** Set both **Input** and **Output** to **MPD218**.
- **Mac OS X:** Set both **Input** and **Output** to **MPD218 Port A**.

If your MPD218 is *not* connected to your computer, it will not be available in the **Input** and **Output** fields. This means that you cannot send Presets to it or load (get) Presets from it, but you can still use the MPD218 Editor to edit and save Presets on your computer.

Click **OK** to apply your selection and close the window. Alternatively, click **Cancel** to close the window without applying the selection, or click **Apply** to apply the selection without closing the window.



MIDI Setup for Windows.



MIDI Setup for Mac OS X.

Quit: Select this to close the MPD218 Editor. Alternatively, press **Ctrl+Q** (Windows) or **⌘+Q** (Mac OS X).

Mac OS X users: This option is in the MPD218 Editor menu.

Tools

Auto Populate Tool: Select this to open the **Auto Populate** window. See [Other Functions > Auto-Populate Tool](#) to learn how this feature works.

Send Multiple Presets: Select this to send multiple presets simultaneously to your connected MPD218. See [Other Functions > Send Multiple Presets](#) to learn how this feature works.

Window

Minimize Window: Select this to minimize the MPD218 Editor. Alternatively, press **Ctrl+M** (Windows) or **⌘+M** (Mac OS X).

Bring to Front: Select this to place the MPD218 Editor above all other open application windows.

Help

Open User Guide: Select this to open this *User Guide*.

About: Select this to view information about this version of the MPD218 Editor.

Mac OS X users: This option is in the **MPD218 Editor** menu.

Trademarks and Licenses

Akai Professional is a trademark of inMusic Brands, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

Mac and OS X are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries.

All other product or company names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

akaipro.com



akaipro.com