Xio™

GETTING STARTED GUIDE

What is the Xio™?

The Xio is all you need with or without a computer to record, synthesize, MIDI control and process effects for performing or studio use. In one mode, it's a standalone synth that works separately from the computer if desired (powering from batteries or an external power supply) or powers over USB when connected, and in another mode it's a MIDI controller, where its knobs, buttons, Xpression pad and stick can all be used to tweak software or additional hardware parameters. Furthermore, you can now utilise the onboard synth whilst MIDI controlling.

In both modes, the keyboard also functions as a 2 In/2 Out USB audio interface, for streaming audio from the computer directly to connected speakers or an amp, or for recording a microphone or line signal plugged into the rear panel. Alternatively, in standalone mode without a computer, the keyboard also works as a miniature mixer, for amplifying and blending a mic and line signal for recording or playback.

Getting Connected and Powering Up

If working with a computer then the Xio will power over USB, so the only action to take is to connect the keyboard to the computer using the supplied cable. However, batteries may want to be inserted if carrying out a mobile session or trying to conserve laptop power. If this is the case, insert 6 AA-size batteries after removing the panel on the rear of the keyboard.

An external power supply is also supplied, for an alternative means of powering the keyboard if not connected over USB. If using the keyboard in standalone mode, batteries or the external PSU can be used as a source of power.

When the unit is connected and plugged in, the switch on the rear of the keyboard should be set into the appropriate position, as follows:

Xio powering up options

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Running Installers

The Xio is class compliant, so no drivers are required for the keyboard to work with PC or Mac. As such, the keyboard can simply be connected over USB for it to work as an audio interface and MIDI controller for your sequencer, without having to run any Installers. However, lower latency drivers are available for both PC and Mac if you wish to improve the latency and make the keyboard more stable in some applications.

The lower latency drivers can be obtained by running the Installer found on the accompanying Resources disc. If running the Installer on a PC, make sure that the Xio is not connected to the computer before running the Installer; plug in when instructed to do so during the Installation process.

Basic Modes of Operation

The Xio works in two modes, one for Synthesizing and one for MIDI Controlling. In both modes, the keyboard also works as an audio interface/mixer. The two modes are accessed by alternate presses of the PLAY button, with the screen display indicating which mode is currently active by the display of Synth Prog (synthesizer program/patch) for synth mode or Xio Template (MIDI Template) for controlling mode, as follows:

Alternate presses of the PLAY button activate Synth and MIDI Controlling modes.
Currently in MIDI Controlling mode as shown by XIO Template Name and Number on screen

The remaining Mode buttons have different purposes, depending on which of the two modes the Xio is in:
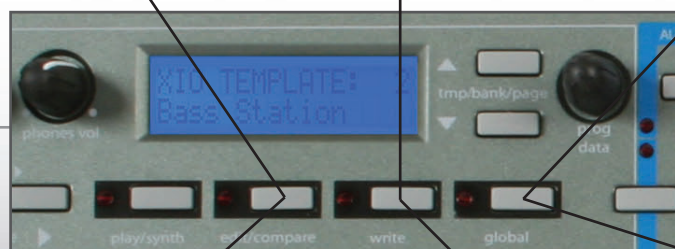
Press and hold to temporarily revert back to saved sound (Compare)

Press to save the current synth patch settings; press once to select the number, then press again to rename, then a third time to confirm

Alternate presses activate the Main and Synth Global Menus. Use the Page Up/Down buttons to scroll through the pages of each

SYNTH MODE

MIDI CONTROLLING MODE

Alternate presses activate the two Edit Menus (Individual and Common). The first Edit mode is for changing the parameters assigned to individual controls. The second Edit mode (the LED will flash) is for changing the settings across all controls within one Template

Press to save the current Template settings; press once to select the number, then press again to rename, then a third time to confirm

Press to activate the Main Global Menu where the general keyboard settings can be edited

Playing/Editing the Onboard Synth

In Synth mode, the Xio's keyboard can be used to play the synthesizer, whilst the knobs, buttons, touchpad and joystick can all be used to tweak its parameters. (The touchpad is assigned the filter frequency and resonance on all preset synth patches.) The knobs and buttons are labelled to indicate their function but, with there being few tactile controls and many parameters available, various select buttons and menus are included to make the keyboard as flexible and easy to use as possible.

Here is a guide to the front panel:

Displays the currently active Synth patch (name and number)

Selects a Synth patch (from 100-299)

Knob Control button. Selects the upper or lower row of parameters for the 11 knobs (indicated by LED 1 or 2, respectively)

11 knobs control the upper/lower row of Synth parameters selected by the Knob Control button. Alternatively, when LED 4 is active, they control the AUDIO and SYNTH level settings

Menus/Audio button selects the Menus (LED 3 active) or Audio (LED 4 active) mode. Press for Menus, press and hold for Audio. Once in Menus mode, press a buttons to select one of the 11 Synth Menus. This buttons also changes the character from capitals to lower case when naming Synth patches

11 buttons control Synth parameters as shown by the corresponding names, or activate each Synth Menu (shown on the blue strip below) when LED 3 is active

Buttons select an Effect for applying to the Synth, indicated by the corresponding LED

When using the Xio with a computer, remember that the onboard synth can be recorded directly to the sequencer via USB. Simply selecting the Xio as the input source for an audio track and pressing record is all that's required. Furthermore, MIDI data can be sent from the sequencer to the Xio to play the onboard synth, which can then be recorded to the sequencer. To play the onboard synth using the sequencer, make sure the MIDI track in the sequencer is being sent to the Xio and that it is sending on MIDI channel 16 (the default MIDI channel for the onboard synth – set in the Synth Global Menu).

MIDI Controlling – Onboard Templates

In MIDI Controlling mode, the Xio's assignable controls (knobs, buttons, touchpad and joystick) as well as the keyboard can be used to control software or external MIDI equipment. There are 16 preset Templates onboard the Xio for controlling popular sequencers and plug-ins, but many of these have individual setup procedures that must be carried out for them to work. Check the Onboard Templates Guide section of the Xio User Guide for details of how to set up and use each Template. Once the setup procedure has been carried out, Templates can be selected and played as follows:

Displays the currently active Template (name and number)

Select a Template (from 1-16)

Sends Program Change data (select the sound of a soft synth or the onboard synth in hybrid mode)

Group A/B button. Selects Group A (LED 1 active) or Group B (LED 2 active), e.g. switches between the first and second set of parameters for the knobs and buttons

11 knobs control up to 22 parameters in each Template

Menus/Audio button. Selects Audio mode (LED 4 active) where the knobs can adjust Audio Input and Output settings. Menus mode is only applicable in Synth mode

11 buttons control up to 22 parameters in each Template

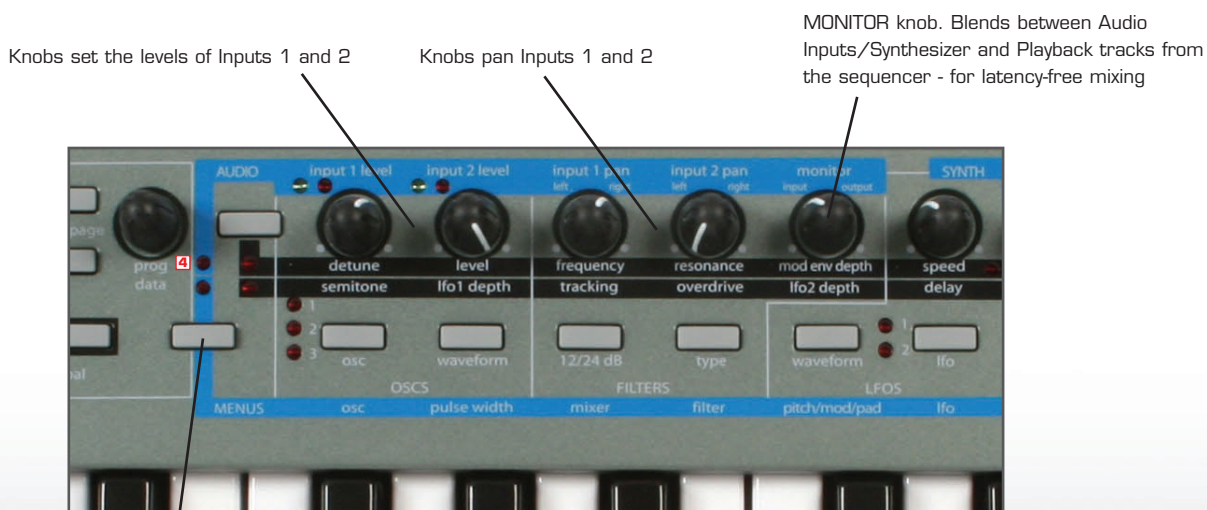## MIDI Controlling – Onboard Templates (continued)

The Xio has 2 fantastic Hybrid modes, where the Synth can be played using the keyboard (and/or joystick/pad) or by MIDI data sent from the sequencer. This is activated on an individual Template by going to the Template Common Menu (the second EDIT Menu, accessed by two presses of the EDIT button so that the LED flashes) and then using the Page Up button to scroll to the last two pages. Consult the Xio Tutorial movies or comprehensive User Guide for details.

Audio Recording and Playback

Whilst in either mode, the Xio's audio interfacing capabilities can be utilised. To record/playback audio to/from a sequencer, the Xio simply needs to be connected over USB and then set up as an audio interface within the sequencer preferences. Once done, active speakers or an amp connected to passive speakers can be connected to the Line Outputs on the rear of the Xio.

To record audio, a microphone can be connected to Input 1 (XLR Input) or a line-level signal to Input 2 (TS Jack Input). If recording with a condenser microphone, phantom power will need to be activated. This is done in the main Global menu, accessed by a single press of the GLOBAL button in either Synth or MIDI Controlling mode. (Two presses of the GLOBAL button in Synth mode activates the Synth Global Menu.) Once in the main Global menu, use the Page Up/Down buttons to scroll to the Phantom Power page and then select 48V using the Data encoder.

To adjust the Input levels and panning, and crossfade between Input and Playback track levels (using the Monitor knob for latency-free monitoring), the knobs on the front of the Xio need to be in AUDIO mode, as follows:

MONITOR knob. Blends between Audio Inputs/Synthesizer and Playback tracks from the sequencer - for latency-free mixing

Knobs set the levels of Inputs 1 and 2

Knobs pan Inputs 1 and 2

Menus/Audio button activates Audio mode (LED 4 active), where the knobs adjust Audio settings shown on the blue strip above. Press once in MIDI Controlling mode or press and hold in Synth mode, until LED 4 lights

To return to normal PLAY mode, where the knobs control the onboard synth or the assigned parameters in the selected Template, press the MENUS/AUDIO button again so that the LED goes out.