# **USER MANUAL**

# \_MICROLAB MK3



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#### **Product version:**

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# Thank you for Purchasing Arturia MicroLab mk3!

This manual covers the features and operation of Arturia's **MicroLab mk3**, a portable and powerful MIDI controller designed to work with any DAW software or software instrument you own.

I While MicroLab mk3 is part of a package which includes our Analog Lab Intro software, this manual will focus primarily on the MicroLab mk3 controller hardware. Please refer to the Analog Lab user manual in order to learn about the features of the software.

In this package you will find:

- One MicroLab mk3 keyboard controller, with a serial number and unlock code on the bottom. You will need this information in order to register your MicroLab mk3 and download your software.
- · One USB-C to USB-A cable
- · A sheet with the serial number and unlock code for your included software.

#### Register your MicroLab mk3

There is a sticker on the bottom panel of the controller that contains the serial number of your unit and an unlock code. These are required during the online registration process.

To set up your controller, get your free Software, integrate MicroLab mk3 into your setup and access tutorials, just follow these two steps:

- 1. Connect MicroLab mk3 to your computer.
- 2. Go to https://link.arturia.com/mimk3st and follow the instructions.

Registering your MicroLab mk3 provides the following benefits:

- · Arturia Analog Lab Intro
- Access to the MicroLab mk3 user manual and the latest version of the MIDI Control Center software
- · Ableton Live Lite DAW software

# Special Message Section

## Specifications Subject to Change:

The information contained in this manual is believed to be correct at the time of release. However, Arturia reserves the right to change or modify any of the specifications without notice or obligation to update the hardware that has been purchased.

#### IMPORTANT:

The product and its software, when used in combination with an amplifier, headphones or speakers, may be able to produce sound levels that could cause permanent hearing loss. DO NOT operate for long periods of time at a high level or at a level that is uncomfortable. If you encounter any hearing loss or ringing in the ears, consult an audiologist.

#### NOTICE:

Service charges incurred due to a lack of knowledge relating to how a function or feature works (when the product is operating as designed) are not covered by the manufacturer's warranty, and are therefore the owner's responsibility. Please study this manual carefully and consult your dealer before requesting service.

## Precautions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Read and understand all the instructions.
- 2. Always follow the instructions on the instrument.
- 3. Before cleaning the instrument, always remove the USB cable. When cleaning, use a soft and dry cloth. Do not use gasoline, alcohol, acetone, turpentine or any other organic solutions; do not use a liquid cleaner, spray or cloth that is too wet.
- 4. Do not use the instrument near water or moisture, such as a bathtub, sink, swimming pool or similar place.
- 5. Do not place the instrument in an unstable position where it might accidentally fall over.
- Do not place heavy objects on the instrument. Do not block openings or vents of the instrument; these locations are used for air circulation to prevent the instrument from overheating. Do not place the instrument near a heat vent at any location with poor air circulation.
- Do not open or insert anything into the instrument that may cause a fire or electrical shock.
- 8. Do not spill any kind of liquid onto the instrument.
- Always take the instrument to a qualified service center. You will invalidate your warranty if you open and remove the cover, and improper assembly may cause electrical shock or other malfunctions.
- Do not use the instrument with thunder and lightning present; otherwise it may cause long distance electrical shock.
- 11. Do not expose the instrument to hot sunlight.
- 12. Do not use the instrument when there is a gas leak nearby.
- Arturia is not responsible for any damage or data loss caused by improper operation of the instrument.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

MicroLab mk3 is Arturia's most compact and portable USB MIDI keyboard controller to date. It has a 25-key, velocity-sensitive keyboard, a USB-C port that provides power and MIDI In/Out (cable included), and features for perfect integration with Arturia's Analog Lab as well as software synthesizers from other companies. The attention to detail poured into MicroLab mk3 makes it perfect for the on-the-go musician that needs an ultra-light, ultra-portable keyboard.



MicroLab mk3, white version

Beyond being a great MIDI controller, MicroLab mk3 comes with our **Analog Lab Intro** software, that includes an impressive array of classic synth and keyboard sounds. The integration of these two products results in a powerful hybrid synthesizer with excellent functionality and great sounds.



Analog Lab Intro

To help you get rolling in the DAW world, we're including an Ableton Live Lite license.

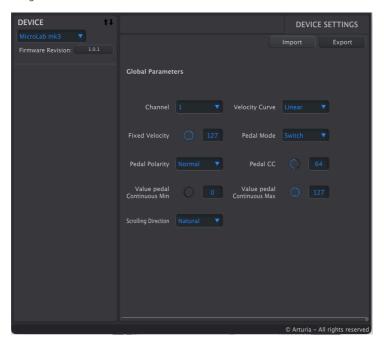
There's an affordable and simple way to upgrade Analog Lab Intro to the full version of Analog Lab, which provides access to many more thousands of the sounds you will hear in Analog Lab Intro! To upgrade, go to www.arturia.com/analoglab-update.



MicroLab mk3, black version

MicroLab mk3 also features our innovative pitch and modulation touch strips; low-profile controllers that offer a different take on the traditional "wheel" design while maintaining their expressiveness.

The included MIDI Control Center software lets you configure various functions of MicroLab mk3 in a simple and easy way directly from your computer. This lets you adapt MicroLab mk3 to suit your musical needs.



Made for the musician on the go or the performer with limited space, the MicroLab mk3 gives you a great depth of features in a portable package that is ultra-light and looks great. We hope it will enable you to capture your musical ideas, no matter where you happen to be.

# 1.1. MicroLab mk3 Features Summary

- · 25-key velocity sensitive slim keyboard
- Minimal design for maximum portability
- Smart Touch Controls for Pitch Bend and Modulation
- Hold button for hands-free (and feet-free) sustain
- One Finger Chord memorizes and plays user defined chords from one note
- · Octave Up and Down functionality
- Program Change via Shift + Oct buttons
- · Power and MIDI via USB-C
- 1/4-inch TRS input accepts sustain, switch, or expression/continuous control pedal
- Included software:
  - Arturia Analog Lab Intro
  - Ableton Live Lite DAW software

Arturia - User Manual - Introduction

# 2. OVERVIEW

# 2.1. Making the connections

Setting up MicroLab mk3 for use with Analog Lab Intro is fast and simple:

There is a sticker on the bottom panel of the controller that contains the serial number of your unit and an unlock code. These are required during the online registration process.

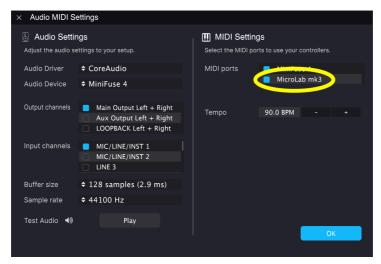
To set up your controller, get your free software, integrate MicroLab mk3 into your setup and access tutorials, just follow these two steps:

- 1. Connect MicroLab mk3 to your computer.
- 2. Go to https://link.arturia.com/mimk3st and follow the instructions.

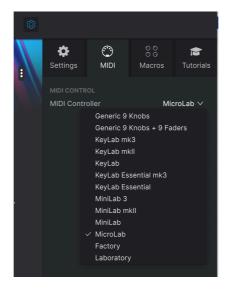


MicroLab mk3 is a class-compliant USB device, so its driver will be automatically installed when you connect MicroLab mk3 to your computer.

MicroLab mk3 is automatically detected as MIDI controller in Analog Lab. If it is not, select it from the Audio MIDI Settings page (under the Hamburger menu on the top left).



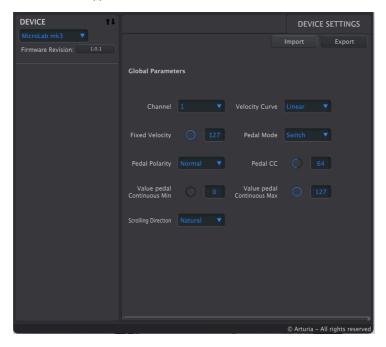
To select MicroLab mk3's MIDI functionality as a control map for Analog Lab, click the cogwheel icon in the top right in Analog Lab. Under the MIDI tab, select MicroLab as a MIDI Controller.



You're all set! Play some tunes and enjoy the amazing Presets!

# 2.2. Keeping MicroLab mk3 Updated

For maximum compatibility and functionality, it's a good idea to always use the latest firmware in your MIDI controller. Make sure MicroLab mk3 is connected to your computer. Then start the included app MIDI Control Center.



In the upper left corner, under **Device**, MicroLab mk3 should be automatically detected. If it isn't, please select MicroLab mk3 from the dropdown menu.

The top left corner will also reveal your controller's Firmware Revision number. If there is a newer version available, the MIDI Control Center app will automatically download it and update your MicroLab mk3.

# 2.3. Top Panel



Here's a general overview of the front panel of MicroLab mk3.

- Shift button: This button lets you access the secondary functions of MicroLab mk3, like Chord mode, Program Change and MIDI Channel selection.
- 2. Hold: Activates a sustain function, similar to a sustain pedal on a piano.
- Octave / Octave + buttons: Transpose MicroLab mk3 down and up several octaves.
- Pitch and Mod Touch Strips: These touch-sensitive strips generate pitch bend and modulation MIDI messages.
- 5. Keyboard: MicroLab mk3 sports a 25-key velocity-sensitive, slim-key keyboard.

#### 2.4. Rear Panel



The rear panel has the following connectivity.

- 1. Kensington Lock: Prevents your MicroLab mk3 from wandering away.
- 2. Control Pedal input: Connect a footswitch, sustain, or expression pedal here.
- 3. **USB-C:** The included USB cable provides power and MIDI connectivity.

# 2.5. MicroLab mk3 Functionality in Detail

Let's go through all functions and features in MicroLab mk3 on a more detailed level.

#### 2.5.1. Shift Button

When connecting MicroLab mk3 to USB, a short light show indicates that the controller is starting up. When the Shift button is lit, MicroLab mk3 is ready to be used.



Shift lets you access the secondary functions of MicroLab mk3, like Chord mode, Program Change and MIDI Channel selection. The secondary functions are listed in gray text under the buttons and strips and above the first 16 keys of the keyboard.

#### 2.5.2. Hold Button

Pressing Hold engages the "sustain" function for notes being played on the keyboard. This is like pressing the sustain pedal on a piano. Pressing Hold a second time, releases all notes. Pressing a connected Sustain pedal will also disengage Hold mode.



The button is lit when Hold is active

# 2.5.2.1. Latching Versus Momentary Mode

The Hold button works in **latch** mode. When you play some keys and press and release Hold, the notes will sustain. All consecutive notes will also sustain. To turn this mode off, press Hold again.

A sustain pedal connected to MicroLab mk3 will operate the same way as a sustain pedal on a piano; as a **momentary** switch. Notes are held only while the pedal is pressed.

lacksquare  $\Gamma$  Hold can be added to Chord mode. Just hit the Hold button to activate.

#### 2.5.3. Octave Buttons

With its two physical octaves (25 keys), MicroLab mk3 becomes an ideal ultra-compact travel partner. The Octave buttons gives the keyboard an extended range.



The buttons light up stronger as transposition increases

Pressing **Oct** – once transposes the keyboard down one octave. As a result, your connected sound module or virtual instrument will sound one octave (12 semitones) lower. Press Oct – again to transpose one further octave down. Maximum transpose range is minus or plus 4 octaves.

Pressing Oct + transposes the keyboard up to a maximum of 4 octaves.

# 2.5.3.1. Transpose Quick Reset

The fastest way to return to a non-transposed mode is by pressing the two Oct buttons simultaneously.

## 2.5.4. Pitch and Modulation Touch Strips

These touch-sensitive strips generate pitch bend and modulation MIDI messages that are sent to your music software. Use them to add expressivity to your playing.



The touch-sensitive pitch and modulation strips are low-profile controllers that offer a different take on the traditional "wheel" design while maintaining their expressiveness. If you touch the **Pitch Bend Strip** at its center and move your finger forward or backward, it will raise or lower the pitch of the played sound.

Similarly, moving your finger along the **Modulation Strip** alters the modulation amount of the played sound, from no modulation (bottom) to maximum modulation (top).

\$\mathcal{I}\$: The amount of pitch bend and type of modulation you hear when using these controls depends entirely on your selected Preset and how it is programmed. In some cases, you may find that a Preset may not make use of these parameters and in that case, manipulating the touch strip controls of MicroLab mk3 will have no effect on your sound.

#### 2.5.5. Shift Functions

MicroLab mk3 has a limited number of controls due to its small size, but the Shift button allows the buttons, strips and keys to serve useful secondary functions.

#### 2.5.5.1. Chord Mode

Chord mode allows you to program a chord and trigger it by playing only one note on MicroLab mk3. This can be a fun and creative way to compose and perform music.



The Hold/Chord button blinks slowly when Chord mode is active

To program a chord, hold the **Shift and Hold** buttons and then play a chord or enter notes of the chord individually (from 2 to 16 notes). All notes you enter while holding the Shift and Hold buttons will be recorded as part of your programmed Chord, and the Hold button will blink slowly to indicate that you are in Chord programming mode.

When you release Shift and Hold, the Hold button will blink slowly to indicate that chord mode is active. You can now play a single note and it will trigger your programmed chord. Playing up and down the keyboard will transpose your programmed chord, with the lowest note being the reference note for the transposition.

To exit Chord mode, press and release Shift and Hold buttons again. The Hold button will stop blinking and the keyboard will return to normal operation.

# 2.5.5.2. More about Chord Mode Functionality

- Programmed chords must contain at least 2 notes, as it is not possible to create a "chord" with just one note.
- If you want the lowest note in the chord to be the root note (this should be the
  most common preference), make sure to play the lowest note before the other
  notes (when creating a chord).
- When creating a Chord, notes don't have to be played legato. As long as Shift + Chord are pressed, you can play keys and press the octave buttons to edit the chord.
- When MicroLab mk3 is powered on, it remembers the previously programmed Chord.
- Programmed chords do not take into account the velocity with which you play
  each note. Instead, the velocity of the entire chord will be based on the velocity
  of the note that you play when triggering a chord.

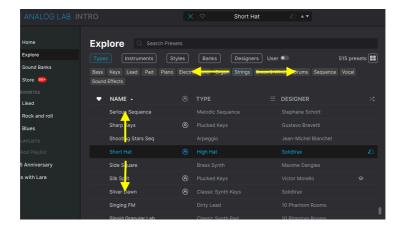
## 2.5.5.3. Selecting Presets in Analog Lab

If you are using MicroLab mk3 with Analog Lab, you can easily step forward or backward through the Preset list by holding **Shift** and pressing the **Oct** - (Previous) or **Oct** + (Next) buttons. This is a handy feature when you are on stage or otherwise not near your computer.



# 2.5.5.4. Selecting Filters and Presets with Strips in Analog Lab

If you are using MicroLab mk3 with Analog Lab Intro, you can easily select filters and scroll through Preset filter lists without having to use your computer's mouse or trackpad.



- Hold Shift and drag the Pitch strip up or down to navigate through the various Preset filters.
- To activate or deactivate a selected filter, hold Shift and tap the Pitch strip (without dragging).
- Hold Shift and drag the Mod Strip to scroll through the filtered list of Presets.
- To load a selected Preset, hold Shift and tap the Mod strip (without dragging)

↑ The MIDI Controller setting (under Cogwheel → MIDI in the upper right corner of Analog Lab) must be set to MicroLab for this feature to work correctly.

## 2.5.5.5. Selecting the Keyboard MIDI Channel:

To select the output MIDI Channel for MicroLab mk3, hold **Shift** and press one of the 16 lowest keys. The channel numbers (1–16) are labeled directly above the first 16 keys of the keyboard.



You can also set MIDI channel in the MIDI Control Center app.



# 3. USING MICROLAB MK3 WITH ANALOG LAB

This chapter will focus on using MicroLab mk3 with the included Analog Lab Intro software. There are several versions of Analog Lab, and they all work the same way, with more or less the same functionality. Between Analog Lab Pro and Analog Lab Intro, the only differences are the amount of presets and the availability of the Playlist and Stage View. Analog Lab Pro is the top model.

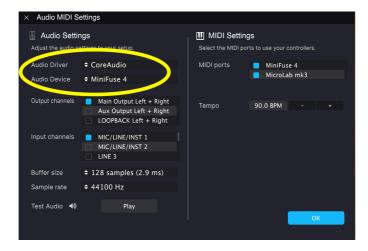


Please note that you will find only basic coverage of Analog Lab features in this manual. For more details about Analog Lab, please refer to the Analog Lab user manual.

# 3.1. Audio and MIDI Setup

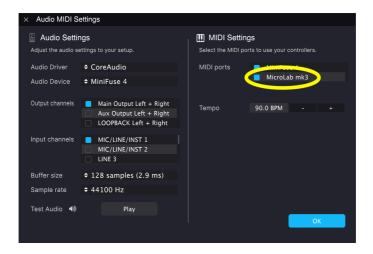
The first thing to do after launching Analog Lab is to make sure the software is set to output audio correctly and that it will receive MIDI from the MicroLab mk3 keyboard.

Click on the Hamburger menu in the top left of the Analog Lab app and select **Audio MIDI Settings**. This is where the preferred audio output device will be selected.



Now click the Play button. If you hear a short sine wave, then your audio is set up correctly. If not, make sure the correct audio driver is selected and that your headphones or speakers are properly connected and turned on.

If MicroLab mk3 (or any MIDI controller) is connected to your computer, the Audio MIDI Settings window will reveal a section labeled MIDI Settings. In this section, check the box labeled **Arturia MicroLab mk3** so that you can use it to play Analog Lab.



That's it! You should now be able to use MicroLab mk3 to play Analog Lab.

# 3.2. Playing Sounds

To play sounds in Analog Lab, simply play the MicroLab mk3 keyboard. Use the Pitch and Mod strips to modulate your sounds and the Octave +/- buttons to shift MicroLab mk3's keyboard range up or down. The Hold button sustains notes (similar to a sustain pedal on a piano) and the Chord function lets you program and trigger complex chords using a single key. These buttons and functions are all detailed in the Top Panel [p,8] section in Chapter 2.

# 3.3. Selecting Presets

You can always select presets in Analog Lab using your computer's mouse or trackpad.



In Analog Lab, click the Bookshelf icon at the top center to explore the Presets

However, thanks to MicroLab mk3's handy Shift functions you can do this even faster without having to touch your computer at all! This is very handy if, for example, you are on stage and don't have the computer within arm's reach. Simply hold **Shift** and press **Oct** – or **Oct** +.

More info in the Selecting Presets [p.12] section in Chapter 2.

## 4. MIDI CONTROL CENTER

Arturia's MIDI Control Center is a powerful application that lets you dive into various Arturia hardware and configure the controls (keys, pads, knobs, buttons, sliders, etc.) so that they best serve your musical needs.



## 4.1. The Basics

Note that this chapter only covers the MIDI Control Center features that pertain to MicroLab mk3. As a result, much of MIDI Control Center will *not* be described in this guide. This is because MicroLab mk3 is an ultra-portable product with a minimalist feature set that does not use many of MIDI Control Center's powerful features (like preset management capabilities, for example). If you would like to see detailed explanations of *all* MIDI Control Center features, please refer to the MIDI Control Center User Manual.

\$\text{\$1 MIDI Control Center works with most Arturia devices. If you already have an earlier version of MIDI Control Center installed on your computer, be sure to download the latest version to ensure it includes support for MicroLab mk3.

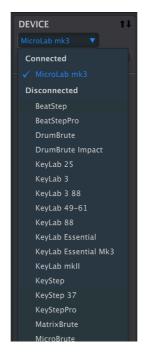
## 4.1.1. Installation and Location

After downloading the MIDI Control Center installer, double-click on it and follow the on-screen instructions.

The installer will place the MIDI Control Center app with the other Arturia applications on your system. In Windows, you should be able to find it in the Start menu. In macOS you'll find it inside the Applications/Arturia folder.

#### 4.1.2. Connection

Connect MicroLab mk3 to your computer using the supplied USB cable and launch the MIDI Control Center app. You should see MicroLab mk3 listed under connected devices:



Should MicroLab mk3 not be listed as a connected device, please select it from the list.

# 4.2. MicroLab mk3 and MIDI Control Center



Editing MicroLab mk3 parameters in MIDI Control Center is simple. Various editable parameters are shown on the right side, and all changes are sent automatically to MicroLab mk3.

#### 4.2.1. Available Controls for MicroLab mk3

In MIDI Control Center you can modify the following items on MicroLab mk3:

- MIDI Channel: Select what channel MicroLab mk3 transmits on. Same as holding Shift and playing one of the lower keys on MicroLab mk3.
- · Velocity Curve:
  - Linear = an even increase in velocity when you play harder, like an acoustic piano.
  - Logarithmic = lower velocity when you play soft.
  - Exponential = higher velocity when you play soft.
  - Fixed = MicroLab mk3 always outputs the same velocity, like an organ.
- Fixed Velocity: If Velocity Curve is set to Fixed, you can enter the fixed value here.
- Pedal Mode: Select Switch if you have a sustain pedal or footswitch. Choose Continuous if you have an expression pedal.
- Pedal Polarity: If your pedal action is reversed, change polarity.
- Pedal CC: Sustain has MIDI Control Change number 64. Expression ("volume")
  has CC 11. Depending on your pedal and needs, you can select what task you
  want it to perform here.
- Value Pedal Continuous, minimum: When using a continuously variable pedal, set the value for the minimum position here.
- Value Pedal Continuous, maximum: When using a continuously variable pedal, set the value for the maximum position here.
- Scrolling direction: When using Shift + Pitch and Mod Strip to select Category and Preset in Analog Lab, you can reverse the direction.

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The above warranties are in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. No oral or written information or advice given by Arturia, its dealers, distributors, agents or employees shall create a warranty or in any way increase the scope of this limited warranty.

## 11. No Liability for Consequential Damages

Neither Arturia nor anyone else involved in the creation, production, or delivery of this product shall be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damages arising out of the use of, or inability to use this product (including without limitation, damages for loss of business profits, business interruption, loss of business information and the like) even if Arturia was previously advised of the possibility of such damages. Some states do not allow limitations on the length of an implied warranty or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

# 6. DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

#### USA

#### Important notice: DO NOT MODIFY THE UNIT!

This product, when installed as indicate in the instructions contained in this manual, meets FCC requirement. Modifications not expressly approved by Arturia may avoid your authority, granted by the FCC, to use the product.

*IMPORTANT*: When connecting this product to accessories and/or another product, use only high-quality shielded cables. Cable (s) supplied with this product MUST be used. Follow all installation instructions. Failure to follow instructions could void your FFC authorization to use this product in the USA.

NOTE: This product has been tested and found to comply with the limit for a Class B Digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide a reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential environment. This equipment generate, use and radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used according to the instructions found in the user manual, may cause interferences harmful to the operation to other electronic devices. Compliance with FCC regulations does not guarantee that interferences will not occur in all the installations. If this product is found to be the source of interferences, which can be determined by turning the unit "OFF" and "ON", please try to eliminate the problem by using one of the following measures:

- Relocate either this product or the device that is affected by the interference.
- Use power outlets that are on different branch (circuit breaker or fuse) circuits or install AC line filter(s).
- In the case of radio or TV interferences, relocate/ reorient the antenna. If the antenna lead-in is 300-ohm ribbon lead, change the lead-in to coaxial cable.
- If these corrective measures do not bring any satisfied results, please the local retailer authorized to distribute this type of product. If you cannot locate the appropriate retailer, please contact Arturia.

The above statements apply ONLY to those products distributed in the USA.

#### CANADA

NOTICE: This class B digital apparatus meets all the requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulation.

AVIS: Cet appareil numérique de la classe B respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

#### **EUROPE**



This product complies with the requirements of European Directive 89/336/EEC

This product may not work correctly by the influence of electro-static discharge; if it happens, simply restart the product.