

Microphonic Playground

User Manual



Platform for Sonic
Exploration

Version 1v0r0
Manual 1v0r0

LeafAudio 

1. Intro

What is Microphonic Playground?

Like its bigger sister, the Microphonic Soundbox, it's a playground for sonic exploration of any kind. It can also be your inexpensive entry into the Soundbox cosmos before you possibly upgrade later.

The difference to the Microphonic Soundbox are two things:

- 1) It is passive, has no active amplification and needs no power supply.
- 2) It's an open playground with no audio sources or objects built into it, so you are free to attach everything to it what you can imagine, for example our offered add-ons or any other objects.

The unit has an audio input and an output. Its audio output can be amplified by the external input of a Microphonic Soundbox and therefore act as an extension. Or it can be amplified by any pre-amplifier, mixing desk or audio interface. Multiple Playgrounds can be cascaded in series. Play it on its own, or extend your Microphonic Soundbox with one or two Playgrounds and some of the new add-ons.

You're free to use it as a platform for sonic experimentation or just convert it into a Bass Kalimba, for example, and leave it that way. Please choose your own way to play with it and let your imagination and creativity guide you.

Instant Sound Design

The Soundbox cosmos includes various instruments and add-ons for experimental sound design. Might it be used in music composition, film sound design, theater, cinema or radio plays - these are hands-on tools for quickly generating interesting and otherworldly sounds in high audio quality.

Body Sound Transmission

All this products work through body sound transmission on basis of contact microphones. In comparison to airborne sound transmission (via a microphone or the diaphragm of our ear), all sounds created on these instruments can be listened to in a very intimate and direct way. Imagine it like listening to the materials from the inside, very much in an ASMR way. This shift of the hearing perspective will be your best trick to create sounds, that will captivate your listeners.

Add-ons

The collection of offered add-ons is constantly expanding, but please feel free to go beyond that and look around your backyard or wherever to find objects that might sound cool. Please explore!

2. Using the Microphonic Playground

Who needs it?

These are the perfect sound design tools and meanwhile thousands of sound designers and musicians from all across the globe use it in their work. We feel very honored by that - it's a dream!

No power needed

It is a passive device, it has no amplification circuit and therefore needs no power.

Connecting the Microphonic Playground

Multiple units can be chained, that's what the input is for. Basically it is a simple woodbox with a contact microphone. Just connect its audio output to any kind of amplifier: the input of a Microphonic Soundbox, a studio pre-amp, audio recorder, mixing desk etc. But reality teaches us that the impedance between contact mic and amp is very important. That's the reason why we initially developed the Soundbox pre-amp, so the combination of these two devices will probably give the best sounding result, but many other pre-amps will sound good, too. Generally keep the cable length short between Playground and amplifier.

Integration into your setup

We recommend that you use it as an input device for your own processing chain like plugins, effect pedals, synths and so on. Just imagine your workflow and experiment! Everything might work and is worth to be tried. The Playground can be seen as an instrument on its own, but it can also be just the first part of your personal instrument consisting of a specific processing chain.

Worth trying generally are reverbs, delays, loopers, pitch effects. It's also worth trying to slow down or transpose recordings by two or more octaves and listen what kind of sound emerges then.

Generally reduction and precise playing is often the key. When people start with that kind of experimentation, they often do big movements and quite loud sounds. Try the same sound and technique (like bowing etc.) but vary the pressure, loudness, tempo etc. The results might be surprising. We recommend that you limit yourself to a single playing technique for about half an hour and try to get to know all its facets. Enjoy!

3. Legal stuff

Specifications

Mechanical

Width: 162 mm

Depth: 147 mm

Height: 60 mm

Weight: 244 g

Input & Output

1x internal contact microphone

1x input, 6,3mm / 1/4" TS

1x output, 6,3mm / 1/4" TS

Multiple units can be chained.

Intended use and safety instructions

The unit is intended to be used in dry places within a temperature range between 10°C/50°F and 70°C/158°F.

Generally it is ment to be bowed, rubbed, touched etc. in a more gentle way. If it sounds

interesting to you, you can drive over it with a tank, but then it most probably will be destroyed and it might damage connected audio equipment through high audio levels. If you really know what you are doing, try shit out.

Warranty terms

Tech Creation Lab Leipzig UG warrants this product to be free of defects in material or workmanship at the time of shipment for a period from one year from the date of purchase. During that period, any malfunctions which happen while normal use will be repaired or

serviced. The warranty does not cover any problems resulting from damages during shipping, incorrect use, wrong power supply or polarity, the use in improper working environment, abusive treatment or any other obvious user-inflicted fault.

Return policy

The device intended for repair or replacement under warranty needs to be shipped in the original packaging only! The packaging is part of the product, so keep it. Also a filled out RMA form must be included (email us, we'll send it). We cannot take any responsibility for transport damages. Before you send us anything, please

contact support@exploding-shed.com. Parcels that are not sufficiently franked or sent without request will be rejected and sent back. If you bought it from a distributor/reseller ouside EU and not from Exploding Shed directly, please contact the distributor/reseller first.

Disposal

For private households: Information on disposal for users of WEEE

This symbol (figure on the right) on the product(s) and / or accompanying documents means that used electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) should not be mixed with general household waste. For proper treatment, recovery and recycling, please take this product(s) to designated collection points where it will be accepted free of charge. Alternatively, in some countries, you may be able to return your products to your local retailer upon purchase of an equivalent new product.

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