LeafAudio 🍂

Microphonic Soundbox mk2

This is part of the instrument. Read it before you unpack and play the Soundbox!

Congratulations! Microphonic Soundbox is a handmade instrument and each one is individual.

What is Microphonic Soundbox?

Microphonic Soundbox is an acoustic wooden experimental instrument, which perfectly integrates in any audio setup to create interesting and otherworldly soundscapes. It comes prepared with metal springs, metal rods, sand paper and a Kalimba made from carbon strips, but it can easily be extended with any other found materials. If you modify it, warranty is lost of course.

How should it be played?

It can be played in many ways by scratching, bowing, etc.

Mounting the Metal Rods

To insert the 3mm metal rods in the two free holes on top of the wood bar, hold them near the lower end and push and "screw" them into the wood. There is no need to push them the whole way in, some millimeters are usually enough, specially if you want to remove it again later. To remove them do the same procedure backwards. Be careful not to bend them. If you destroy them once - any 3mm metal rod from the local store will do it. Be careful, not to hurt you and your eyes, while mounting/removing the metal rods or while playing the Soundbox.

Using the Bow

Before you use the bow on the metal rods or springs, you have to put some rosin on it. We guess that many of you will do that for the first time, so take a minute to check this video https://youtu.be/9uJPDLWettY or google for adding rosin to a bow. The bow has to be tightened before use or adding rosin by turning the screw on the back end. Please make it loose again after use or for storage.

Tuning the Kalimba

For transport we pushed the Kalimba strips all the way back, so for using it you have to adjust them and you can also tune them the same way. Hold the Soundbox with one hand, hold one Kalimba strip with the other hand. Now pull the strip and at the same time move it sidewards with quick moves until it has reached the desired position. If you want to transport the Soundbox, do the same thing backwards. It might happen that one strip slides out completely. In this case we use the end of a cable binder, lay it into the slot of the Kalimba
body from the back side with the flat side. Now insert the carbon strip from the front side, so the end rests on the end of the cable binder. Now you can push the strip and pull on the cable binder to help it getting through the Kalimba body.

Battery

Use a 9V Battery type 6LR61 or 6F22 (not included). Never use more than 9V, this will destroy the circuit. If the battery has less than 7V left, the LED will turn red. You still have hours of opration left.

Adjusting the Gain

By the Gain knobs you adjust the amplification of the pre-amps, not their output volume. If you play very loud events on the Soundbox, you might have to bring the gain down to avoid distortion. If the output level is too high for your mixer or audio interface, use the attenuation switch on the back to bring it down or if that is still not enough, use the Gain knobs.

Using External Signals / Impedance / Output

The external input is intended for usage with high impedance signals from non-amplified piezo microphones. Usage of other signals might work but is not covered by the warranty. Only use non-amplified signals. High impedance signals like piezo mics should always use shielded cables which are as short as possible between mic and Soundbox (pre-amplifier). Long or unshielded cables can easily introduce hum and noise. The built in pre-amplifiers amplify the signals in the range of amplification by 1 to amplification by 100, plus they work as impedance converters for the used contact microphones. Out comes a very strong low impedance line signal, here usually longer cables are no problem anymore, as the signal is really strong.

Usergroup

As a Soundbox user you are welcome to join our facebook usergroup. We created it to share music, knowledge and ideas how to use and integrate the Microphonic Soundbox. https://goo.gl/rtf2uh

Live-Set for Ableton

For getting you started, doing some sound design, we provide a Live-Set for Ableton. It contains Loopers and FX. Enjoy!

www.exploding-shed.com/info

Intended Use

Use and store the device in indoor environments with humidity between 40% and 70% and in the temperature range between 10°C and 35°C. Very dry or very moist sourroundings or extreme temperatures can destroy the wood box. The Soundbox is intended to play, scratch, bow it or hit it softly with fingers, any other treatment might damage it. That means: do not use it in combination with flamethrowers, tanks or pneumatic hammers or chain saws.

Warranty Terms

Tech Creation Lab Leipzig UG (Exploding Shed) 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.

Legacy Support

If the warranty is over and you experience problems, we are willing to help. Contact support@exploding-shed.com and we will figure out the best solution for you. We reserve the right to charge for labor, parts, shipping and possible transit expenses.

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 responsability 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.

General Inquiries

We are happy about user feedback or ideas and suggestions, feel free to email us. Also for general things like questions about manuals, firmware, tutorials etc. contact support@exploding-shed.com

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