

# © MASCHINE MIKRO



## IT'S WORTH EVERY EURO YOU'LL SPEND ON IT!

First of all we got to thank Native Instruments for “*Keeping it Real*” with us.

Native Instruments had just presented the Maschine Trinity when we received a special UPS delivery containing a brand new Maschine Mikro. The Maschine Mikro completely dazzled us. With the big Maschine we were convinced it couldn't get any better than that. Now that Native Instruments released Maschine Mikro and iMaschine there's nothing else to say that the Maschine Trinity is the future to producers and beatmakers.



### INSIDE THE BOX

- Unit
- Complete Elements
- Maschine Software & Sounds
- USB cable
- Manual

## DESIGN

It seems that the design department at Native Instruments really put effort in improving the portability of the unit. The original design was an eye-catcher. On the Maschine Mikro Native Instruments simplified, almost cut in half the Maschine and took out the midi ports. The new unit looks like it belongs in every studio set-up. The Maschine Mikro is a one master knob, one 128 x 64 pixel Black-and-White display; state of the art production unit with 16 high velocity backlit pads and only weights 1,2 kilograms.

## SOFTWARE

Maschine Mikro is delivered with the Maschine software package (Drivers, Software, Service Centre and Controller Editor) and the Komplete Elements package. This is exactly the same software package you receive with its big brother. Controller Editor can be used to set up your Maschine or Maschine Mikro controller with Audio Production software other than Maschine.



The software package is quite a lot of files and sounds, somewhat around 11 GB sound files. It's going to take you some time to install all of it. For the ones who haven't made use of any Native Instruments products it's important to know that Native Instruments has a dope application, called Service Center, in which you register your products and through which you receive the software updates. When you installed all the software Maschine has to scan all the sounds. This will only happen the first time you start up.

*Go get yourself a drink.*

## THE MASCHINE MIKRO EXPERIENCE

Once all the sounds are scanned you're ready to go. While browsing through the stock sounds for the first time you'll hear that the sounds are of very high quality. The stock database offers you a lot of drum sounds and patterns, as well as a wide range of instruments and effects. Maschine software also has features such as the vintage sampler mode with emulations of the SP1200 and MPC60. The new integration techniques enable you to use Native Instruments and 3rd party VST's and Audio Unit plug-ins in your projects. This is where Komplete Elements comes into play. The Komplete Elements package offers you an unbelievable amount of high quality VST's. Not to make it all sound good, but every one that has previously worked with any Native Instruments plug-ins has probably experienced the same.

It didn't took long to figure out how the Maschine Mikro controller functions. Once you understand how the menu works and where to find your sounds and sound effects its quite simple.

Comparing the Maschine Mikro controller to Maschine controller its inevitable to say that replacing the 11 knobs by 1 and replacing the 2 screens force you to navigate through the different screens of the menu a lot. Another thing is the fact that replacing the screens and knobs force you to look at your computer screen while working on the Maschine Mikro, where on Maschine the screens and knobs enable you to skip looking to your computer screen. Depending on your production methods; the Maschine Mikro is perfect for producers that are used to using only software and who would like to have a little more hands-on control. The Maschine Mikro enables the producer to work while travelling having an entire production set up in a backpack with just a laptop and the Maschine Mikro controller. To our opinion the big Maschine controller is heaven to the type of producer with more of a hardware production method with full hands-on control.

**If you're a "Sample Head" working with Maschine will change your life.**



It's important to know that the workflow hasn't changed that much. Creating a sequence on the Mikro is done with the same speed and precision as on the Maschine. The way of arranging patterns, scenes and groups is still as smooth as before with the same easy access to sounds and effects. It's possible to create 8 different groups of 16 sounds in a range of 64 patterns and a total of 64 scenes. The Maschine database also offers a wide range of effects, which can be added on three levels. Sound Level, Group Level and Master Level. On every sound you can add 3 effects, add a groove to it and manually adjust the levels of the parameters to your own taste. On the Group and Master Levels you can add 4 effects and you can also add groove to it and adjust levels.

If you're a "Sample Head" working with Maschine will change your life. Those who have worked with the Maschine before know that the speed sampling an internal or external source, slicing and assigning the slices to the pads is incredible. When it comes to the sampling process both Maschine's have the same software features but due to the new simplified design the Mikro only features one screen and one knob. So in fact slicing a sample on the Mikro requires more manual navigation actions while on the big Maschine turning a couple knobs easily adjusted the start and end points of your slices. But it is what it is; it's just a minor change of approach.

The overall experience working with the Maschine Mikro is nothing other than expected. The Maschine Mikro offers you Complete Elements and the total Maschine package in a smaller format and at a lower price. If you have been thinking about getting a Maschine but you weren't sure about the price.

Compared to other midi-controllers the Maschine and Maschine Mikro really stand out based on the design and features. For the price of € 349,- Maschine Mikro in combination with Complete Elements is worth every Euro you'll spend on it!

Looking at the Maschine Trinity it's easy to say that Maschine is the future of beat production. iMaschine is one of the craziest music production apps out there. Groove sequencing, recording and sampling on your iPhone. You can export these files between iMaschine and the Maschine Software on to your Mac or PC and continue working on you project The Maschine Trinity is truly a world of difference.

For more information on the Maschine Mikro and the Maschine Trinity visit your local dealer or [www.native-instruments.com](http://www.native-instruments.com).

[www.bcescapades.com](http://www.bcescapades.com)

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