TriplePlay EXPRESS

Quick Start Guide



Welcome, and Thank You!

Thank you for making Fishman a part of your musical experience. We are proud to offer the best products available; high-quality professional-grade tools which empower you to sound your very best. All of our products are designed with the upmost thought and care given to quality and sound. We hope you enjoy TriplePlay Express and the limitless creativity it provides!

STriplePlay

MIDI Guitar Controller Quick Start Guide

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TriplePlay Definitions





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The **TriplePlay Express** Controller uses industry-leading software algorithms in conjunction with its hexaphonic magnetic pickup to detect the pitch of the notes played on a guitar and convert them into MIDI-note messages. MIDI ("Musical Instrument Digital Interface") is an industry-standard communications protocol that is used to control a wide range of electronic musical instruments, computers, and other devices for playing, editing, and recording music. Using TriplePlay to control these devices, your guitar can sound like any instrument, real or imagined. TriplePlay enhances the capability of a guitar by allowing access to an infinite number of sampled and synthesized sounds.

TriplePlay Express MIDI Guitar controller allows you to do the following:

- Perform MIDI note-detection on most electric and acoustic steel string guitars
- Control any device that can receive MIDI-over-USB

What is TriplePlay EXPRESS?

- Connect to hardware synthesizers with a MIDI interface or Audio Interface with MIDI
- Play Virtual Instruments on a computer, tablet, or mobile device

TriplePlay Software:

Included with your purchase is a software suite that provides tools specifically designed for production in a studio using a DAW (TriplePlay Utility), live performance (TriplePlay Host), and real-time music creation on-the-fly (TriplePlay Connect iOS). Together these tools provide a multitude of options and features for you Tripleplay controller. To check out and download the latest software, register here: https://www.fishman.com/support/tripleplay-registration/

The TriplePlay Software Suite includes:

- TriplePlay Host VST plugin host providing advanced features like fretboard splits, multiple layered instruments, guitar audio input channel with effects, and SynthMasterOne which includes over 1,200 sounds designed specifically for all TriplePlay controllers.
- **TriplePlay Utility** Designed to facilitate DAW users, the Utility provides quick access to the most fundamental controller settings and customization on-the-fly.
- TriplePlay Connect iOS A real-time preformance app for the Apple iPad that includes an extensive number of sounds, audio loops, fx, arpeggiators, the list goes on...

For more detailed information, please visit us at www.fishman.com/TriplePlayExpress





What's Included

TriplePlay Express includes a pickup and controller that mount on your guitar, a USB-C cable, hardware for multiple mounting options, and installation tools. You also get a library of software featuring stunning collections of sounds and virtual instruments.



TriplePlay *Express* Controller with attached hex-pickup



Magnetic Plate Mount that attaches to guitar body or End-Pin Bracket



USB Type-C Cable w/USB-C to USB-A adapter



1 End-Pin Bracket for mounting the controller

What's Included (continued)



Tune-O-Matic Bridge Bracket



Cable Strain Relief for end-pin



Screwdriver and Guitar-Shaped Spacer Tool for adjusting height of hex-pickup and to measure distance between strings and hex-pickup



4 Pickup Mounts, each a different thickness to accommodate a wide range of string heights



Quick Start Guide and Software Unlock Card





TriplePlay Express Hardware Installation

Installation overview. You'll be attaching both the TriplePlay Express controller with hexaphonic pickup to your guitar. Note that the installation may require slight adjustment to your guitar. If you are not comfortable with these procedures, please consider using a professional technician to complete your installation.

Mounting the TriplePlay Express Controller: There are two different ways of mounting the controller on your guitar, both of which use the Magnetic Plate. This plate is adhered either directly to the face of the instrument ("Direct mount" method), or onto one of the End-Pin Brackets ("End-Pin Bracket mount" method), which allows for a completely non-invasive installation. Most users select the end-pin bracket mounting method, but direct mounting can be useful for installing the controller in unique locations on the instrument.



Option 1

Direct Mount - Select a location on your guitar and test the placement of the controller to ensure a good fit, then simply remove the adhesive backing from the Magnetic Plate, place the mount adhesive-side down directly onto the surface of your guitar, and press firmly for 30 seconds.

Note: The adhesive used for this method is removable, but please use caution when doing so in order to protect the surface finish of your instrument. Sliding dental floss along the underside of the adhesive is an effective method for removing the bracket.

Option 2 - recommended method

End-Pin Bracket Mount - This method allows you to mount the controller without applying any adhesive to your guitar. Your TriplePlay Express controller comes with one End-Pin Bracket. Refer to the next page for installation instructions.

TriplePlay Express Hardware Installation (continued)

Mounting the controller using the end-pin bracket:

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Loosen your guitar's end-pin, then attach the selected End-Pin Bracket by sliding the bracket's slotted tab onto the guitar's end-pin screw. Lower the bracket onto the face of your guitar, and re-tighten the end-pin.







Mounting the TriplePlay Express hex-pickup:

Guitars with a Tune-O-Matic Bridge require an additional procedure before attaching the hex-pickup. For all other bridge types, refer to the Vibrato Bridge Guitar Setup procedure.



Tune-O-Matic Bridge Guitar Setup: (Les Paul* type bridge)

On guitars with Tune-O-Matic bridges, you must first prepare a Tune-O-Matic Bridge Bracket. This bracket sits between the main bridge assembly and the supporting bridge mount posts. You will need to remove the strings on your guitar to install the bridge bracket. Once the bracket is in-place, the hex-pickup will be installed on top of the bracket.

See section - 'Preparing a Tune-O-Matic Bridge Bracket'



Vibrato Bridge Guitar Setup: (Strat** type bridge)

The hex-pickup attaches to your guitar by snapping into one of four supplied Pickup Mounts. This adhesive-backed Pickup Mount will be placed on your guitar between the bridge and the bridge pickup, as close to the bridge as possible. Each Pickup Mount has a different thickness to accommodate a wide range of string-heights. The pickup easily snaps into and out of the Pickup Mount, which remains affixed to your guitar.

See section - 'Mounting the hex-pickup on your guitar'

Preparing a Tune-O-Matic Bridge Bracket:

In order to properly install the Tune-O-Matic Bridge Bracket, you will need to remove the strings on your guitar. The supplied bracket is designed to fit on the bridge mount posts. You may need to re-adjust the height of the bridge after installing the bracket, as it may add some height to the bridge assembly. The hex-pickup mount will be affixed to this bracket.



After removing the strings, lift the bridge off of the bridge mounts. Fit the supplied Tune-O-Matic Bridge Bracket onto the bridge mount posts so that the bracket sits between the bridge and bridge pickup.



Proceed to the section "Mounting the hex-pickup on your guitar"





Mounting the hex-pickup on your guitar:

Pay close attention! The next 6 steps are critical.

Setting the correct spacing between the hex-pickup and guitar strings is essential for achieving the best accuracy and performance. If the hex-pickup is too far away from the strings, the TriplePlay controller will have trouble detecting notes properly. If the hex-pickup is too close to the strings, the controller can trigger notes unpredictably with wide pitch fluctuations. Follow the steps below to ensure that you have the correct spacing.



Each of the supplied pickup mounts have a different thickness to facilitate proper spacing between the pickup and strings. Test fit each mount to determine the best fit - simply snap the hex-pickup into the Pickup Mount, then slide that assembly under the strings just in front of the bridge. The hex-pickup should be as close to the strings as possible without touching them.



TriplePlay Express Hardware Installation (continued)

Mounting the hex-pickup on your guitar:



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Use the Guitar-Shaped Spacer Tool to check how close the hex-pickup is to the strings. It's important to set the spacing such that the tool can slide between the hex-pickup and strings with very little additional space. The spacing is too close if you have to force the tool between the strings. You'll have the opportunity to make micro adjustments in step 6.

Note: If the spacing is too close to the strings, despite any micro adjustments, consider replacing the Pickup Mount with one of the other mounts provided. In rare cases, the strings are too close to the guitar body to allow the correct spacing between the hex-pick-up and strings. If this is the case, you may need to adjust the height of the bridge or possibly adjust the neck of your guitar. We strongly suggest to have an experienced guitar technician make these adjustments for you.





Mounting the hex-pickup on your guitar:



Once you have chosen the best Pickup Mount, re-insert the hex-pickup into it, peel off the adhesive backing, and carefully slide the assembly underneath the strings without allowing it to touch the face of the guitar. Shift this assembly as close to the bridge as possible. As the hex-pickup is magnetic, allow the strings to hold it in place while you carefully adjust the pickup so that the strings line up in the center of each of the six pickup elements. Once positioned, press the assembly down onto the face of the guitar, and hold for 30 seconds. Mounting the hex-pickup on your guitar:



5 Re-check the spacing between the pickup and strings with the Guitar-Shaped Spacer Tool. The tool should slide between the hex-pickup and strings with very little additional space. The spacing is too close if you have to force the tool between the strings.



A Carefully slide the hex-pickup out of the mount, then press down and rub along the top of the mount to ensure that there is good adhesion to the guitar body. The Pickup Mount will remain on your guitar.

Note: The adhesive used for this method is removable, however use caution when doing so in order to protect the surface finish of your instrument. Sliding dental floss along the underside of the adhesive is an effective method for removing the bracket.



6 There are small screws on either side of the pickup that, when turned, will raise or lower the hex-pickup for micro adjustments. Turn the screws until the spacing allows the Guitar-Shaped Spacer Tool to slide between the hex-pickup and strings with very little additional space.





TriplePlay Express Getting Started

TriplePlay Software Suite - TriplePlay's Best Friend

We highly recommend you download the the free apps provided in the TriplePlay Software Suite when connecting to your computer and/or DAW. In addition to offering a wide range of instruments and other music-making features and utilities, it helps you tune your TriplePlay to achieve the most accurate performance.

- The TriplePlay Software Suite includes:
- TriplePlay Host VST plugin host providing advanced features like fretboard splits, multiple layered instruments, guitar audio input channel with effects, and SynthMasterOne which includes over 1,200 sounds designed specifically for all TriplePlay controllers.
- TriplePlay Utility Designed to facilitate DAW users, the Utility provides quick access to the most fundamental controller settings and customization on-the-fly.
- TriplePlay Connect iOS A real-time preformance app for iPad that includes an extensive number of sounds, audio loops, fx, arpeggiators, and more. Available exclusively from the Apple App Store.

Installing the TriplePlay software is guick and easy!

Follow the instructions below to download the software. The process is quick and easy and will have you playing sounds on your computer in minutes.

2. Find the Software Unlock

TriplePlay Wireless box.

Card provided in the

1. Register your product by using the QR code below or navigate to:

https://www.fishman.com/ support/tripleplay-registration/









Once you have registered TriplePlay, download the apps from the TriplePlay Software Suite, available in the software downloads section, install, and follow the instructions.

TriplePlay Express Basic Mode Operation

Just connect it!

What is Basic Mode? If you want to get started playing right away, simply plug the TriplePlay Express USB-C cable into the USB port of a computer, tablet, mobile, or device that accepts USB MIDI. By default, TriplePlay Express will appear as a MIDI device transmitting all strings on MIDI Channel 1.

TriplePlay Utility Software

Basic Mode is configurable from the TriplePlay Utility app. The default settings for Basic Mode are defined below, but the Utility app allows you to reprogram the Basic Mode settings, so the controller can power on with a configuration customized by you. Check out more features of the TriplePlay Utility app by visiting our website here: www.fishman.com/tripleplayutility



Working in Basic Mode

Default Settings:

- Channel Mode: Single Channel (Poly Mode)
- Bend Range: +/- 2 semitones
- Bend Mode: Trigger

Button Programming:

(buttons can be reprogrammed from the TriplePlay Utility app)

- Up/Down Buttons sends MIDI Program changes: Bank 0, Program +/-1 (starting from program 001) (programmable from the TriplePlay Utility app)
 - Volume Knob sends MIDI Volume CC 007
- Simultaneous Press turn On/Off Pitch-bending





Hardware Mode Operation

The TriplePlay *Express* controller has the ability to store Hardware Presets for connecting to hardware MIDI devices such as a synthesizer. The list at the bottom of the page details the configuration of the default presets provided. The presets were programmed with the most common settings when connecting to hardware devices on the fly.

Programming Hardware Presets

All Hardware presets are programmable from the **TriplePlay Host** software. Once the TriplePlay Host software is installed on your computer, the hardware presets can be accessed from the patches window. For more info visit our website at www.fishman.com/tripleplay

To start the TriplePlay controller in Hardware Mode:

- While holding down the 'Up Button' (shown in "Hardware Mode Controls" graphic), plug the USB-C cable into the controller to power-up in Hardware Mode. Note: If plugging into an FC-1, the controller will automatically go into Hardware Mode, unless connected to the TriplePlay Host software.
- The 001 Poly Preset, shown in the diagram below, will be the first preset loaded.
- Press the Up/Down buttons to step thru the presets.

The chart below details the default hardware presets. You can select the presets with the Up/Down buttons on the controller. All hardware presets can be programmed with the TriplePlay Host software.

TriplePlay Hardware Presets	Pitch Bend Range	Pitch Bend Mode	MIDI Channel Mode
001 Poly Preset	+/- 2 semitones	Trigger	Poly Mode - MIDI Ch. 1
002 Poly Preset	+/- 12 semitones	Auto	Poly Mode - MIDI Ch. 1
003 Mono Preset	+/- 2 semitones	Trigger	Mono Mode - MIDI Ch. 1-6
004 Mono Preset	+/- 12 semitones	Auto	Mono Mode - MIDI Ch. 1-6
005-128 Poly Presets	+/- 12 semitones	Auto	Poly Mode - MIDI Ch. 1
128-240 Mono Presets	+/- 12 semitones	Auto	Mono Mode - MIDI Ch. 1-6





Working in Hardware Mode

- Enter Hardware Mode While holding the 'Up Button', plug the USB-C cable into the controller to start in hardware mode
- Up/Down Buttons send MIDI Program changes. Bank and Program numbers are programmable in the TriplePlay Host software.
- Simultaneous Press Toggles between two different pitch bend modes. Auto - bend or step between notes automatically. Trigger - no bending; re-trigger's notes in semitones.
- Volume Knob sends MIDI Volume CC 007.





TriplePlay Express Setups

TriplePlay Express compatibility with various devices

Setting up TriplePlay *Express* to work with your MIDI devices can range from extremely simple to very complex, depending upon your needs. The following pages will show different examples of how to set up TriplePlay *Express* to work with various devices, including different guitar audio configurations.

Check out www.fishman.com/tripleplayexpress for more detailed information.



TriplePlay Express Setups (continued)

Simple MIDI setup for TriplePlay Express with Tablet or iPad







TriplePlay Express Setups (continued)

TriplePlay Express with MIDI DIN Interface to vintage Keyboard

TriplePlay Express FC-1 Setups

IMPORTANT: The FC-1 will not work with TriplePlay Express without the latest FC-1 firmware update, which requires connecting the FC-1 to a computer and running the latest version of the TriplePlay Host software, TriplePlay Utility software, or the TriplePlay Connect iOS app.

The Fishman TriplePlay FC-1 provides MIDI footswitch control and hardware MIDI DIN In and Out for use with hardware synthesizers. Shown here are different configurations that can be achieved with the FC-1. For more information about the FC-1, visit www.fishman.com/tripleplay/fc-1



Simple MIDI setup for TriplePlay Express with FC-1 and Hardware Synthesizers













Guitar Audio Configuration

TriplePlay Express with Guitar Audio Setups

How to setup a guitar input channel with the TriplePlay Host software

The TriplePlay Host software offers an audio input channel to route your guitar audio into the TriplePlay Host software and add a VST effect to the channel. Detailed instructions about the TriplePlay Host software are available online along with a number of other videos and tutorials.

Note: Audio Interface is required to send the guitar audio through TriplePlay.

In the Tripleplay Host software, navigate to the 'Preferences' window in the TriplePlay Host software. Select 'input' under 'Audio Device Settings', choose the audio interface device from the list, then check the input channel the guitar is connected to.



Other setup options are diagrammed on the following pages. These include connecting to your computer's built-in audio hardware, using a conventional guitar amp or hardware amp simulator, and using TriplePlay to control hardware synthesizers.

Visit us online to learn more about how to mix your guitar with virtual instruments in the TriplePlay Host software here: www.fishman.com/tripleplay









TriplePlay Express with FC-1, computer, Hardware Synth, and guitar audio







FCC Compliance Statement:

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

FCC Interference Statement: Model # 494-000-990

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital devices, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to switch the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

EU Declaration of Conformity CE: Model # 494-000-990 Hereby, Fishman declares that this Triple Play Express is in compliance with the essential requirements and other relevant provisions of Directive 2014/30/EU. The Declaration of Conformity can be found at: www.fishman.com/support.

UK Declaration of Conformity UKCA: Hereby, Fishman declares that this Triple Play Express is in compliance with the essential requirements of Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2016. The Declaration of Conformity can be found at: www.fishman.com/support.

Legal

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TriplePlay Definitions

- Mono Mode Sets the TriplePlay Controller to output six MIDI channels simultaneously, with each channel dedicated to
 a single string. This function allows duplicated notes on seperate strings to play individually from each other, such as a
 fretted note that's duplicated on an open string. In addition, Mono Mode allows string bending to work properly.
 Sending the individual strings on independent MIDI channels allows each string to bend without affecting the pitch of
 the other strings.
- **Poly Mode** Sets the TriplePlay controller to output all notes on MIDI channel 1. While this mode is more limiting than Mono Mode, it is simple and allows the controller work with other synths that can only receive on a single MIDI channel. Pitch bending in Poly Mode will only work on a single intentionally bent note. If multiple notes are sustaining or being played, any string bending will increment the note up or down one semitone or half-step.
- Pitch Bend Range Determines the maximum range of semitones the controller can send during a pitch bend on the
 guitar. Pitch Bend Range is a two part setting; one setting is for the TriplePlay controller, the other is in the synth being
 played. The settings on the controller and the synth must be identical, otherwise string bends will not work properly.
 Some synths do not allow changing of the Pitch Bend Range, in which case the TriplePlay controller should have a pitch
 bend range of +/-2 semitones. For the best results, set the TriplePlay Pitch Bend Range and the connected instrument to
 +/-12 semitones.
- Pitch Bend Mode determines how to bend the note played. There are 4 different modes to choose from.
 - a. Auto determines when the string is bending, then glides the pitch to the closest semitone at a fixed rate. Slides up and down the neck of a guitar will increment notes in semitones. Subtle tuning and intonation problems are forced to be in tune, while deliberate bends are still respected. Overall Auto bend mode will sound more in tune than Smooth bend mode, but vibrato techniques will not work as well. This is the easiest mode to use if you want to bend notes while staying more accurately in tune.
 - **b. Trigger** keeps all notes in tune with no string bending. Bending the strings will not bend the notes, but will re-trigger new notes at every semitone increment, whether bending the string or sliding up and down the neck of the guitar.
 - **c. Smooth** allows all bends to occur. While this mode may seem ideal, it requires very good intonation and a well tuned guitar. If you are a very accurate player, this mode may be the best setting for you.
 - **d. Stepped** bends the notes to the nearest half step without re-triggering the note. This mode is very similar to Trigger, but depending upon the type of instrument/synth played, Stepped can provide more natural results.
- Touch Sensitivity and Playing Style Playing Style consists of 2 different types, Pick and Finger Style, with 5 different Touch Sensitivity ranges for each type. This setting will affect the overall sensitivities and pitch detection to closer resemble the way the guitar is played. This setting can be saved to individual presets in the software. Some sounds in particular will react very differently to various playing styles. Adjust this setting to your playing style for better accuracy.
- Dynamics Sensitivity and Dynamics Offset Dynamics Sensitivity determines the expressiveness of the patch. A higher
 value allows for a greater dynamic range, while a smaller value provides a more compressed dynamic range. Dynamics
 Offset applies an overall adjustment to the velocity outputs of the controller, either attenuating or amplifying the
 controller's response to your playing. For example, a negative Dynamics Offset value would reduce the overall velocity of
 the MIDI notes sent by the controller for that patch, whereas a positive value would increase the overall velocity.
 Tweaking this setting may allow a soft instrument, such as a harp, to stay soft when playing the guitar loudly, or a loud
 instrument, such as a synth lead or drums, to stay loud even when playing the guitar softly, or a very dynamic instrument,
 such as a string section, to react to the full dynamic range of guitar playing.

TriplePlay Tips

Install the free software from the TriplePlay Software Suite

As noted earlier, we highly recommend using the free apps from the TriplePlay Software Suite when connecting to your computer. Aside from offering a wide range of music-making features and utilities, it helps ensure you achieve the most accurate performance. In particular, the Sensitivity settings and controller installation are crucial to get the most accurate MIDI data from your instrument. It works hand-in-hand with the string spacing procedures mentioned earlier in this guide (see 'Adjusting the hex-pickup on your Guitar').

TriplePlay Pickup and Sensitivities

The relationship between the pickup-string spacing and the sensitivity settings in the software is the key to capturing the most accurate performance. If the pickup is too close to the strings, the pitch of the notes will act erratically, sometimes playing completely wrong notes. If the pickup is too far from the strings, the controller will have trouble detecting any notes. The same applies to the sensitivities settings. If the sensitivities are too high, incorrect notes may trigger erratically, but when set too low, TriplePlay can have trouble detecting notes altogether. String sensitivity settings are saved to your TriplePlay controller and will always travel with your device.

By default, the Sensitivity settings for all strings are set to a value of 8 (1-16), which will most likely allow the controller to work at an acceptable level, provided the string spacing was set properly during installation. With that being said, we highly recommend installing the software and setting the string sensitivities properly before trying to use the controller outside of the TriplePlay software.

Watch TriplePlay Videos Online

The Fishman website offers a number of videos that can help with installation, setup, features, usage, and more. Check them out at www.fishman.com/tripleplay.







Controller Quick Reference - Basic Mode Operation

Quick Note: The **TriplePlay Utility** software can reprogram Basic Mode so that the controller will power-up in a custom configuration. The below diagram refers to the default state of the controller.









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