ROLI Live Block
Creator Manual

September 2016

Introduction

Hello creator, and welcome to the Creator Manual for the Live Block. We think of the people who buy and use ROLI's products as creators more than customers. Our products are designed to expand the bandwidth of creative expression and thereby empower people as the creators they are. Everyone who buys and uses BLOCKS is investing in this vision of creativity and therefore is also a co-creator of ROLI.

You may already be playing your BLOCKS and discovering its creative possibilities. This comprehensive Creator Manual explains all of the details about your Live Block to ensure that you get the most out of it.

BLOCKS is a modular, digital music making platform which open new possibilities for musical expression and is the world's first truly mobile music studio. The individual Blocks are user-configurable and connect to each other magnetically in countless ways to suite your specific musical needs or style. There are currently 3 different Blocks to choose from: The Lightpad Block, the Loop Block, and the Live Block.

On the next page we have included a short list of terms specific to BLOCKS. We will refer to these terms throughout this Creator Manual.

Please note that this is a digital manual updated regularly to reflect software updates and other improvements. Be sure to check for updates on noise.fm. This Manual is current up to **NOISE** v1.1.57.

Support and Feedback

We want you to have the best experience possible with our products and would love to hear your feedback. Should you have any questions, are experiencing any problems, or just want to say hello, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The easiest way to reach us is to send a support enquiry from: noise.fm or www.support.roli.com. We will respond as quickly as possible.

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Glossary of Selected Seaboard GRAND Terms

Glossary of selected BLOCKS terms

BLOCKS: BLOCKS refers to the MIDI-over-Bluetooth enabled Live Block, Live Block, and Loop Block coupled with the NOISE App. Together these components create a modular, digital music making platform which open new possibilities for musical expression through the use of 5D Touch. BLOCKS can be physically connected to each other magnetically in multiple configurations and and connect with the NOISE App wirelessly. BLOCKS is the world's first truly mobile music studio .

Block(s): refers to the individual Blocks that make up a BLOCKS system. The Live Block, Loop Block, an Live Block are all examples of Blocks.

Control Block: refers to one of the two currently available Blocks that allow for realtime recording and manipulation of 5D Touch musical performances. The Live Block and Loop Block are both examples of Control Blocks.

DNA Connector: Proprietary ROLI magnetic connector which serves two purposes: 1.) to connect the Blocks together and hold them in place. 2.) to serve as a charging port

The Five Dimensions of Touch (5D Touch): The feature of real-time control and modulation of sound through the basic movements of: **Strike, Press, Glide, Slide, Lift.**

- **Strike:** The velocity and force with which a finger makes contact with the **Lightpad Surface**.
- **Press:** The pressure and continuous touch applied to the **Lightpad Surface** after the initial **Strike**.
- **Glide:** Horizontal left and right movements on **Lightpad Surface**.
- **Slide:** Vertical movements up and down the **Lightpad Surface**.
- **Lift:** The release velocity or speed of liftoff from **Lightpad Surface**.

Grid Mode: Grid mode selects the number of active areas on the Lightpad Block when you are playing in Drum Mode. Resolutions of 1x1, 2x2, 3x3, 4x4, and 5x5 are possible.

5x5: Melodic Grid
4x4: Clip triggering/ Drum Kit Option 1
3x3: Drum Kit Option 2
2x2: Drum Kit Option 3
1x1: Controlling FX

Lightpad Surface: the 15 x 15 LED matrix made up of individual cells (225) and covered with laser etched silicone which makes up the surface of the Lightpad Block and enables users to input multidimensional or 5D Touch performances.

Lightpad Block: the 5D Touch sensitive 15 x 15 LED matrix made up of 225 individual cells covered with laser etched silicon which enable the input of 5D Touch performances.

Live Block: the Control Block which features 10 buttons and enables performers to change octave, arpeggiated, play chords or individual notes, sustain notes, change scales, and adjust volume.

Loop Block: the Control Block which features 10 buttons and enables performers to record, play, loop, snap, change grid resolution, adjust tempo, and turn click “On” or “Off”.

MPE : MIDI Polyphonic Expression (MPE) is a protocol for using standard MIDI messages to communicate with and enable the operation of multidimensional instruments such as the Seaboard RISE and BLOCKS. MPE enables multidimensional devices like the Seaboard to control multiple parameters of every note independently such as pitch, timbre and other nuances when used within MPE-compatible software like Equator. MPE accomplishes this by spreading MIDI data that pertain to each note across a range of MIDI channels and reserving one channel (usually the lowest) for global MIDI messages such as program change, pedal, and fader positions. These global messages affect all notes equally.

Media: Picture of BLOCKS Connecting to NOISE

1. Getting started

1.1 What are BLOCKS

BLOCKS is a modular, digital music making platform which opens new possibilities for musical expression through the use of 5D Touch. BLOCKS starts with the Lightpad Block and can be made up of one or more individual Blocks such as the Loop Block and Live Block and can be connected to each other magnetically in multiple configurations. The BLOCKS hardware can connect with the NOISE App wirelessly and serve as the interface for the NOISE app allowing for maximum expression. BLOCKS is the world's first truly mobile music studio.

1.2 System Requirements

Lightpad Block
iOS 9.0 and up
iPhone 6 or higher
3rd generation iPad or higher

1.3 The NOISE App

The NOISE application is the musical heart of BLOCKS. NOISE is available for free in the Apple App Store. The NOISE app is a very powerful mobile instrument that can take advantage of the 3D Touch capabilities of the iPhone 6 and iPad Pro. When paired with BLOCKS hardware via Bluetooth the combination becomes an extremely powerful mobile, modular, digital music making platform. Begin the installation process by visiting the App Store on your iPhone or iPad and downloading NOISE.

1.4 Product Registration

In order to fully unlock the potential of BLOCKS and the NOISE app, please register BLOCKS. BLOCKS can be registered either through the NOISE Application or by visiting www.noise.fm.

Launch the NOISE app on your compatible iOS device. Upon launching the BLOCKS app for the first time, you will be asked to sign in or register with noise.fm.

Registration on noise.fm makes it possible to store all of your NOISE app data such as presets, clips, projects, and songs in the cloud. You can also easily share data with other users. Just register from within the app or visit www.noise.fm and click “Register BLOCKS”

2. The Live Block

2.1 Connections and Specifications

DNA Connectors

There are 6 DNA connectors located on all four sides of the Live Touch. Two on the top and bottom panels and one on both side panels. These connectors make it possible to magnetically attach the Live Block to the Lightpad Block and any additional Blocks such as the Loop Block. The Lightpad Block serves as a charging hub to charge the Live Block and all other Blocks that are connected to its DNA connectors. The orientation of the DNA connectors BLOCKS allows for countless configurations of multiple Blocks ensuring that users can create their own perfect setup.

Buttons

LED Strip

Dimensions and Weight

The Live Block measures 94mm x 47mm x 20mm (3.7in x 1.85in x 0.78 in) / and weighs 100g (0.22lbs)

2.2 Charging the Live Block

Connect the Live BLOCK to the Lightpad Block with the Lightpad Block plugged into a USB power source such as a computer or USB equipped charger like the iPad charger. Please refer to the table in Chapter 2.2 of the Lightpad Block Creator Manual for charge times.

2.3 Connecting to the NOISE App

The NOISE App which is downloadable on the Apple App Store is the heart of BLOCKS. Based on our Equator software, it is the sound engine that is driven by the BLOCKS hardware. Connecting your Live BLOCK to NOISE is done through your Lightpad BLOCK.

Please follow the instructions below for connecting your BLOCKS to the NOISE App has been downloaded from the Apple App Store.

- Turn Bluetooth “ON” for the mobile device.
- Turn on the Lightpad Block by pressing the power button. When the Lightpad Block is not connected by cable it will automatically power up in pairing mode as indicated by a blue light on the power button and an “R” displayed on the Live Surface. If there is no blue light then please press the power button once to enter pairing mode.
- Press the Bluetooth icon in the NOISE App.
- Pair BLOCKS with the mobile device by selecting the Lightpad Block from the list of Bluetooth MIDI devices.

2.4 The Live Block Controls

There are two rows of buttons located on the face of the Live Block. These buttons allow you to navigate the different functions of the NOISE App. Here is a list of their functions.

2.5 Make Music Now

3. The Playing Modes

3.1 Drums Mode

3.2 Synth Mode

3.3 Sequencer Mode

3.4 Learn

4. Care and Maintenance

4.1 Cleaning the Live Block

Basic care and attention will protect your Live Block and help it stay in optimal condition. Keep it away from direct sunlight, sharp objects or edges,corrosive solvents, liquids, and especially oils - including greasy fingers after eating food. The Live surface is designed for finger and hand pressure/impact, but NOT for hard objects, such as drum sticks.

To clean the **Live Surface** you may use a damp, bleach-free and oil-free cleansing wipes. Do not use any abrasive cleansing agents on the Live Block.

4.2 Information About the Battery

The Live Block features a Lithium Ion battery (2,000 mAh) capable of powering the Live Block for the period in excess of four hours when fully charged. Using USB3 power supply, the battery will charge nominally within three hours. However it will take longer (five hours) if the device is connected via USB2. If additional Blocks are connected the charging time will increase accordingly, as the current is shared between all of them. 2 Live Blocks connected to a single USB charger will take double the time to charge.

The battery will retain over 80% of its capacity for over 300 charge cycles. A charge cycle is defined as a complete discharge from 100% to 0%, and subsequent recharge back to 100%. For example, charging a device going from 50% charge up to 100% and back twice would be equivalent to one charge cycle.

5. ROLI Support & Feedback

5.1 noise.fm

noise.fm is the online environment where creators can interact with each other, save NOISE clips, presets and projects, download additional content, and browse other noise.fm users

shared work. Login to noise.fm to access the BLOCKS Creator Manuals and other helpful information.

5.2 ROLI Support

Contact the ROLI support team directly on www.roli.com/support for any questions. You will receive an answer within 24 hours. Our support team is here to help you.