

IRIDIUM^{MK2}

SYNTHESIZER

Quick Start Manual



 waldorf

Für deutsche Version
bitte umdrehen!

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Foreword

Thank you for purchasing the Waldorf Iridium MK2. You now own a high-class synthesizer featuring a wide range of unique sounds with approved Waldorf quality – made in Germany!

About this Quickstart

In this quickstart manual you will find the basic knowledge to get in touch with your Iridium MK2.

! The complete manual can be downloaded here: waldorfmusic.com/iridium-mk2

And now have fun with your Iridium MK2!

Your Waldorf Team

Hint

Waldorf Music is not liable for any erroneous information contained in this quickstart manual. The contents of this manual may be updated at any time without prior notice. We made every effort to ensure the information herein is accurate and that the manual contains no contradictory information. Waldorf Music extends no liabilities in regard to this quick start manual other than those required by local law.

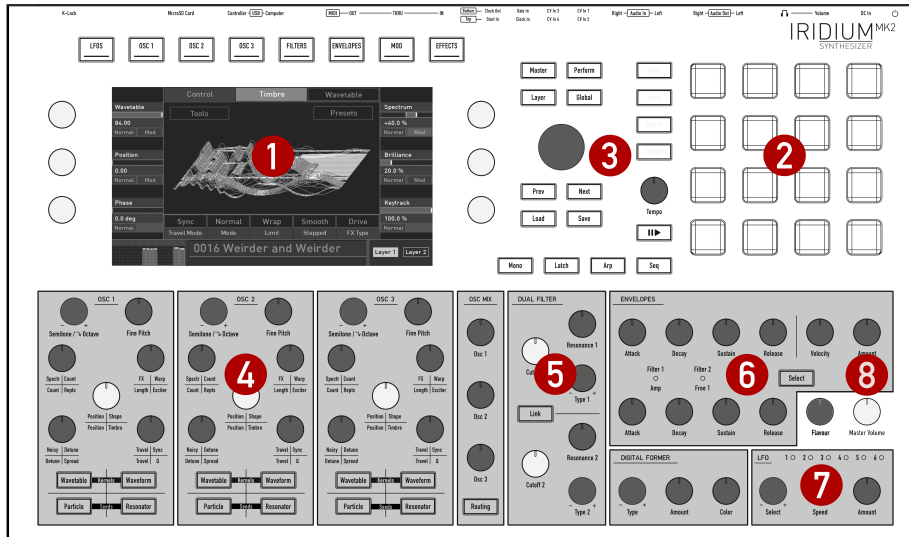
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Waldorf Music GmbH, Lilienthalstraße 7, 53424 Remagen, Germany

Rev.1, January 2026

Control Features & Connections

Front Panel



1) Touchscreen Display

2) Pad Section

3) Selection Dial & Mode Page Buttons

4) Oscillator Section

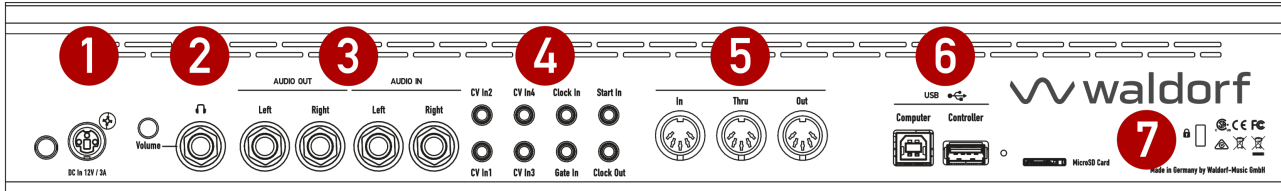
5) Filters Section

6) Envelopes Section

7) LFO Section

8) Master Volume

Rear Panel Connections



- 1) Power Supply Jack & Power Switch
- 2) Headphones Output with Volume control
- 3) Stereo Audio Outputs & Stereo Audio Inputs
- 4) CV/Gate/Clock Connections
- 5) MIDI Thru, MIDI Out, MIDI In jacks
- 6) USB 2.0 Connections
- 7) MicroSD Card Port & Security Slot

General Safety Guidelines



Please read the following safety tips carefully! They include several precautions you should always observe when dealing with electronic equipment. Read all of the instructions before operating your device.

Suitable Operating Conditions

- Use the device in enclosed rooms only.
- Never use the device in damp conditions such as bathrooms, washrooms, or around indoor swimming pools.
- Do not use the device in extremely dusty or dirty environments.
- Make sure that adequate ventilation is available on all sides of the device.
- Do not place the device near heat sources such as radiators.
- Do not expose the device to direct sunlight.
- Do not expose the device to extreme vibrations.

Power Supply

- Only use the power cable that came with Iridium MK2.
- Unplug the device when you are not using it for longer periods.
- Never touch the plug with wet hands.
- Always pull the plug when unplugging the device - never the cable.

Operation

- Never place objects containing liquids on or near the device.
- Place the device on a stable base only. Use a suitable platform.
- Make sure no foreign objects find their way into the chassis. If for some reason this occurs, switch the power off, unplug the device, and consult a qualified repair center.
- This device can generate volume levels that may do irreparable damage to your hearing when used on its own or with amplifiers, speakers, or headphones. For this reason you should keep the volume at tolerable levels.

Maintenance

- Do not open the device or remove the cover. Refer all service and repair tasks to qualified personnel. The interior of the chassis contains no components that require user maintenance.
- Use only a dry, soft cloth or brush to clean the device. Never use alcohol, cleaning solutions or similar chemicals. They will damage the surface of the chassis.

Proper Use

This device is designed exclusively to produce low-frequency audio signals for the purpose of generating sound. Any other use is prohibited and voids the warranty extended by Waldorf Music. Waldorf Music is not liable for damages due to incorrect use.



Most Iridium MK2 compounds are insoluble, which makes absorption into the human body difficult.

Fast Setup and Connections

Waldorf Iridium MK2 comes complete with:

- The Waldorf Iridium MK2 Synthesizer itself
- An external power supply
- This printed Quick Start manual

Please ensure all the above items were included. If something is missing, contact your local dealer.

We recommend that you save the original packing material for future transport.

Setup

Place Iridium MK2 on a clean, even surface.

Basic Connections

In order to get started with your Iridium MK2 you will need an AC power outlet, a mixing console, an amp, and/or an audio monitor such as a speaker cabinet or a headphone.

You can also use a computer or sequencer to make use of Iridium MK2's MIDI features.

⦿ To connect the devices:

1. Turn all units off.
2. Connect the Iridium MK2's **Main Out** audio outputs to your mixing console or your computer audio interface. Optionally connect the stereo **Headphones** outputs to a headphone.
3. If you want to use a computer, connect the Iridium MK2's **Computer USB** port with a USB cable to your computer (Windows or macOS). Thereafter, Iridium MK2 becomes automatically available as a MIDI device.
4. To play notes on the Iridium MK2, you need a MIDI master keyboard. Connect its MIDI Out jack to the Iridium MK2's MIDI Input. Alternatively, you can trigger notes or chords via the 16 pads.
5. If desired, connect the **Controller USB** input to any suitable class-compliant USB hardware controller to send MIDI data to control functions of Iridium MK2.
6. Connect the power supply cable or the power cable that came with your Iridium MK2 with the Power supply jack. Plug the other side of the power supply cable into a suitable AC power outlet.

7. Press the power switch on the rear panel of your Iridium MK2.
8. Then switch on your computer (if connected), the mixing console and finally the amplifier or active monitor speakers.

- ⓘ The startup procedure is about 10-15 seconds. After this, Iridium MK2 is ready to play.
- ⓘ The overall volume of the Iridium MK2 can be controlled with the **Master Volume** dial. This also affects the **Headphones** output.
- ⓘ If you do not choose to connect a mixing console, you can patch the Iridium MK2's output signals directly to an amplifier or an audio interface. Use an input usually called Line, Aux or Tape input.
- ⓘ The Iridium MK2's audio outputs deliver unbalanced line levels. When connecting to an amplifier, a mixing console or an audio interface with automatic balanced/unbalanced sensing inputs, please make sure to use TS mono jack cables and not TRS stereo jack cables.



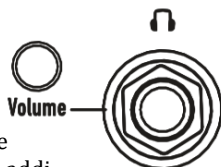
Before connecting and disconnecting the Iridium MK2 to a power supply source, turn your amp's volume control all the way down to avoid damage due to on/off switching noise. The Iridium MK2 produces a high level output signal. Please take care that the connected playback device is suitable for the high level of an electronic instrument. Never use the microphone or phono input of the connected amp!

The Rear Panel Connections

The Iridium MK2 provides an analog stereo audio outputs and a headphones output. The Audio and Headphone outputs are affected by the setting of the Master Volume control dial. Use 2 TS mono jack cables to connect the Audio output to a mixer. The Iridium MK2 is a stereo instrument. There is no inherent mono output. Use your mixing console to appropriately distribute the stereo channels in case.

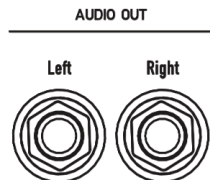
Headphones Output and Headphone Volume

Here you can connect any headphone with a 1/4-inch stereo plug. The headphone output uses the same signal as the main output. The **Headphones Volume** controls the Iridium MK2's headphone volume in addition to the **Main Volume** knob. Use this knob to amplify or attenuate headphones level to adjust for individual headphone loudness and impedance.



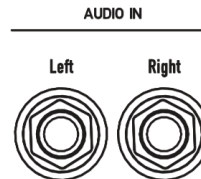
Audio Output

Connect the left and right jack with 1/4-inch mono plugs.



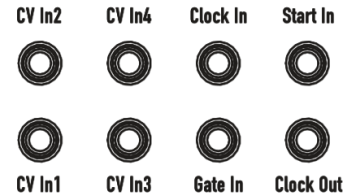
Audio Input

Iridium MK2 offers a stereo audio input (2x mono jacks) that can be used to feed an external audio signal into the Iridium MK2. Therefore, the signal can either be routed through Iridium MK2's signal path for real-time live processing or directly recorded by using the Audio Recorder on the Global page.



CV Input Section

We included some control voltage connections, giving Iridium MK2 the ability to interface with almost any kind of music-making modular technology.



By using **CV/Gate** inputs you are able to control Iridium MK2 with your modular devices. You can also start the Iridium MK2 arpeggiator and sequencer with an external signal or sync devices with **Clock In/Out**. All settings regarding the CV Input section are made here: Global -> Settings-> CV.

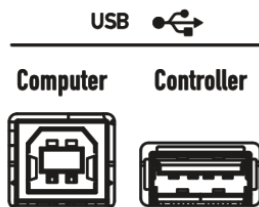
The USB Connections

Iridium MK2 offers two USB ports. The **Controller USB** input lets you connect any suitable class-compliant USB hardware controller to send MIDI data to control functions of Iridium MK2. You can also use the MIDI Learn function for most of Iridium MK2's parameters that can be controlled by an external MIDI hardware controller. Make sure that you use a USB 2 port on your computer and a USB 2 compatible cable to avoid problems with data transmission.

The **Computer USB** port connects the Iridium MK2 to your computer or iOS device with the following system requirements:

- Windows PC: Windows 7 or newer, a USB 2 port
- Apple: Apple Silicon/Intel Mac with macOS 10.9 or newer, a USB 2 port
- Apple iPad with iOS 9 or newer by using an optional adapter cable

The Computer USB connection of the Iridium MK2 allows transmitting and receiving of MIDI data transmitting.



Support for USB Storage Devices

All USB storage devices from a simple USB stick to a terabyte UDB SSD disk are supported provided that they adhere to the USB Mass Storage Device Standard.

⚠ It is important to use a FAT or FAT32 file system formatted USB device. Other file formats won't work.

The USB drives can be used in all scenarios where you currently use MicroSD cards like importing/exporting samples, presets, patches, wavetables etc. as well as for updating the system software. The only use case where you still would need a MicroSD card is doing a full system init as well as a rescue boot from MicroSD card.

To use a USB drive, connect it to the **USB Controller** port.

The following is supported:

- Direct loading of samples from USB drive

MicroSD Card Slot

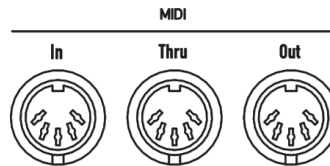
- ⚠ It is important to use a FAT or FAT32 file system formatted MicroSD card. Other file formats won't work.
- ⚠ Please insert the MicroSD Card with the contacts showing to the lower side. Please insert the card with normal force to avoid any damage.

A connected MicroSD card allows:

- Updating the Iridium MK2's operating system.  **MicroSD Card**

MIDI In/Thru/Out Jacks

This is the classic MIDI connection in case you cannot use the USB connection. Just connect the desired DIN MIDI port to your external MIDI gear, e.g. for using the Iridium MK2 knobs to control certain functions.



Physical Security

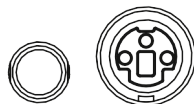
Users operating Iridium MK2 in areas with public or shared access such as live gigs, public studios or educational establishments can attach a standard security lock to the slot on the rear panel of Iridium MK2.



Getting Started

Switching On / Off

Iridium MK2 is equipped with a power switch.



DC In 12V / 3A

➤ To switch Iridium MK2 on:

- Press the **Power** switch to switch on Iridium MK2. The boot procedure may take a few seconds. After this, the display is lit and Iridium MK2 is ready to play.

➤ To switch Iridium MK2 off:

- Press the **Power** switch to switch off Iridium MK2.

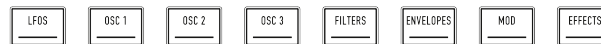
Master Volume

Use the **Master Volume** to control Iridium MK2's overall volume. The volume setting is global and affects the level of the Main audio outputs including the Headphones output.

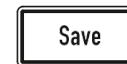


The Iridium MK2 Mode Pages

The Iridium MK2 offers mode pages in addition to the panel parameters or for global settings. To enter a desired mode page, just press the corresponding mode button above or right from the touchscreen display. The following mode pages are available:



- **LFOs** (6x Low Frequency Oscillators) mode page
- **OSC 1, 2 and 3** (Oscillators) mode page
- **FILTERS** (Dual Filters, Digital Former and Routing) mode page
- **ENVELOPES** (Amp-, Filter 1 & 2-, Free 1, 2, 3 envelopes) mode page
- **MOD** (Mod Matrix & Komplex & Note Locks) mode page
- **EFFECTS** (Effects 1 to 5 & Routing) mode page
- **Load** mode page
- **Save** mode page



- **Master** mode page
- **Perform** mode page (Wheels, Favorites, Autoplay & XY)
- **Layer** mode page (Mod, Mix & Pitch)
- **Global** mode page (Scope, Pitch, Audio, MIDI, Settings, System)



- ❗ Press a mode button several times to switch through the corresponding function tabs.
- ❗ All modes will be described in detail in the corresponding chapters of the main manual.

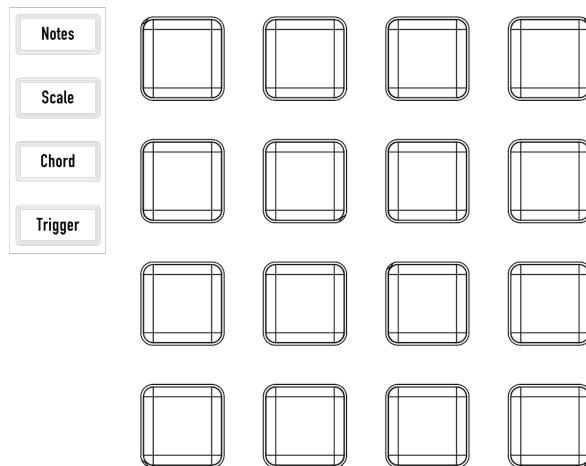
The Play Button Section



This section offers four buttons regarding playback and arpeggiator/sequencer functionality.

The 16 Pads and Pad Mode Buttons

Here, you find four buttons to determine the behaviour of the 16 pads. Based on the selected mode (Notes, Scale, Chords, Trigger), the pads offer a different functionality when hit.



Tempo and Play Button

With the **Tempo** dial, you can determine the tempo for a selected sound programm. It affects the arpeggiator and sequencer, beat-synched LFOs and other tempo-based effects



Tempo

Press the **Play** button to start or stop the arpeggiator or sequencer for the selected sound program.



About the Touchscreen Display

The touchscreen display gives you an overview of the actual Mode page, parameter changes, and delivers additional information. To select a desired function, open a pop-up menu, or to edit a graphic (e.g. envelopes) just tap on it and move your finger up and down or from left to right (and vice versa). The six endless dials on the left and the right side of the display control the corresponding parameter that is shown in the display next to the dials. The display presentation depends on the selected mode, but the lower part always shows the same overview

The **Sound Name** section shows the current loaded sound program. Left to the sound name the program number is shown. Tap on the program number to select a program by entering its number.

The **Layer** controls show which of the 4 layers are active. Tap on the corresponding controls to change the selected layer and multi-mode settings.

Below the sound name, Iridium MK2's tempo is displayed in Bpm and if it is generated internal or synced to an external tempo.

Loading Programs

Iridium MK2 offers different ways of loading sound programs:

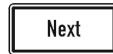
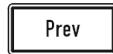
- When in Load mode (press **Load** button, it lights blue), use the **Selection dial** to select the desired sound program in the sound list. Turning the dial clockwise increases the Program number, turning the dial counterclockwise decreases it. To load the desired sound program, press the **Selection** dial once. You can also tap on the **1234** button to enter a desired sound number. After that, tap on **Return** to load this sound program. Tapping a sound in the list will select the sound and the details section on the right is shown more information about the sound. Selection is depicted by showing a turquoise frame. Tapping the sound a second time, i.e. tapping an already selected sound



will load it. The loaded sound in the list is depicted by a white background.

- ❗ You can also enter the **Load** mode page by tapping on the sound program name.
- ❗ You can also enter the sound number by tapping on the sound program number.
- ❗ You can filter sounds by attributes, banks, and authors. Use the three endless knobs to the left of the display. When set to *All* you have access to all existing sounds.

- Press the **Next** or **Prev** buttons to load the next or previous sound program immediately. This function is available in nearly every mode and on every display page.



The right section of the Load Patch page gives you more information about the selected sound. Beside the sound name, here you find the **Bank**, the **Author** and also the **Attributes**. These settings can be made while saving a sound program (see chapter 'Saving Sounds').

Tap on the **Favorites** button to open a new page for managing your favorite sounds. You can select any sound

from the left list and add it to the Favorites list on the right side. You can add sounds to empty slots, replace or remove sound programs or change their positions (Up & Down). Tap on **Back** to leave the Favorites page.

Editing Parameters

In order to change or edit a sound program, you must access the appropriate parameters. Depending on the type of parameters, there are different ways to achieve this:

- The controls on the Iridium MK2's front panel offer direct access to the most important sound parameters. The panel is divided into several sections, each containing knobs and dials associated with that section. By adjusting the controls on the panel you have instant access to the sound. These parameters are called **Panel Parameters**. When editing a Panel parameter, this is displayed in the lower part of the touchscreen display (parameter name and corresponding value).
- Most sections offer additional sound parameters that are available through the touchscreen display. To edit an additional parameter, press the corresponding mode button above or beside the touchscreen (e.g. **LF0s**) and use the six display knobs to the left and the right of the touchscreen display. The touchscreen display page includes additional parameters that are not accessible directly via the control elements on the panel. These parameters are called **Display Menu Parameters**. For each parameter the original value from a loaded patch is indicated by a vertical bar in the main bottom area and in the encoder displays.

- Some functions can be edited via the touchscreen display directly. Use your finger to tap on the corresponding parameter/option/button on the touchscreen to open pop-up menus or sliders which can be moved to change values or to edit graphics (e.g. envelopes).
- On most display pages the **Selection** dial can be used to control the most important parameter – for example **Cutoff 1** on the Dual Filter page.
- If a parameter from the bottom row is edited and in focus (with popup control and marked with colored frame), this parameter can be then also changed with **Selection** dial while in focus.

⚠ Some parameters can be found on the panel and also as touchscreen display parameters – for example the Envelope phases.

Some rotary controls consist of endless dials or potentiometers. Turning a dial clockwise increases the corresponding value; turning it counterclockwise decreases it. Bipolar parameters (parameters with positive and negative values) use special gradation when changing their values. As soon as the value 0 is reached, the sweep is stopped for a short period to make it easier to edit Iridium MK2.

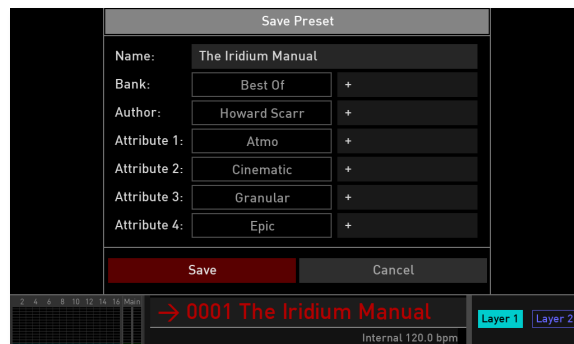
- ❗ For each parameter the original value from the loaded patch is indicated by a vertical bar in the main bottom area and in the encoder displays.
- ❗ Some useful hint: Press a button above the display several times to switch through the corresponding function tabs.
- ❗ The **Monitor** section in the lower left corner displays a VU meter unit to show the sound level of the left/right channels of the audio output signal and the 16 played voices. Here you can also see the polyphonic workload as well as the used voices for each Layer with its own color code. Tap on the monitor section to open a pop-up menu. Here you can choose other representations of this section.




Want to start with a clean initialized sound? By tapping on the Init button, you can initialize the current loaded sound. No sound program is overwritten during this action.

Saving Programs

After you have finished editing a sound you must save it if you intend to use it again. All memory locations are available for this purpose.



⊙ To save a sound program:

1. Press **Save** to activate the Save Preset page. The **Save** button is lit red. 
2. To edit the **Name**, tap on the **sound name** in the touchscreen to open a virtual keyboard. The name can use up to 32 characters. Tap on **Return** to confirm. Tap on **Cancel** to cancel the procedure.

3. Tap on the **Bank** name to open a pop-up menu and select a desired sound bank. You can add a new bank by tapping on + next to the bank name.
4. Tap on the **Author** name to select a desired author in the pop-up menu. You can also add a new author name by tapping on + next to the author.
5. You can also choose up to four attributes for your sound. Tap on the corresponding **Attribute 1 to 4** on the touchscreen to open a pop-up menu selection list. Select the desired attribute. You can also add a new attribute by tapping on + next to the corresponding attribute name. It is recommended to select an appropriate attribute for your sound. This helps you to locate your sound later.
6. Use the **Prev/Next** button or the **Selection** dial to select the desired sound program number, where the sound is saved to. Alternatively, tap on the number field at the bottom of the screen to enter the sound program number manually.
7. Finally, tap on **Save** on the touchscreen to store the sound program at the selected location.
8. By tapping on **Cancel** in the touchscreen or pressing any button on the front panel, you can discard the storing process at any time.



Whenever you save a program, the selected memory location is overwritten. Therefore, any previously stored program at this location will be erased and there is no way to get it back. So, you should do backups of your sounds regularly by using **Export** in the Load screen's **Action** pop-up menu.



Use the **Save** function for copying sound programs. There is no need to edit a program before storing it.

What about MIDI and System settings?

Press the **Global** button above the **Selection** dial to enter the Global mode.



Here you can make all settings regarding the overall tuning (**Pitch** tab).

You will find an easy-to-use Audio Recorder (**Audio** tab).

You can make further settings relating to the MIDI inputs and outputs as well as for the synchronisation (**MIDI** tab).

In the **Settings** tab, you can make general settings relating to the dials, the display, and further options.

Finally, the **System** tab gives you information about the software version. Here, you also can update the Iridium firmware.

Updating the System Software

Iridium MK2 has a service-friendly feature that makes it possible to update the system software without changing any parts.

All software updates come in the form of a .bin file that can be copied on every FAT file formatted MicroSD card or a USB storage device.

Please log into your MyWaldorf account at:

waldorfmusic.com/my-account

Choose *Hardware OS Updates & Files* at the left window area and navigate to Iridium MK2.

Please make sure to download the correct file: iridium_mk2.update.bin



Keep in mind that you do not accidentally use an update file from the first version of Iridium.



To update Iridium MK2's system software:

- Copy the .bin file onto the top-level of a suitable MicroSD card or a USB storage device.
- Insert the MicroSD card into Iridium MK2's card slot or connect the USB device to the Controller USB port.
- Press the **Global** button to enter the Global page.
- Tap on the **System** tab to open the System sub page.
- Tap on the **Update** button and follow the onscreen instructions.
- After the file is installed correctly, Iridium MK2 burns the update into its FLASH memory.
- Wait until the operation is completed. If updating was successful, the Iridium MK2 will perform a system reset and start up.



Do not under any circumstances turn off Iridium MK2 while the update step is in progress.

Technical Data

Power Supply

Supply Voltage Input	100 – 240 V AC / 50-60 Hz
Nominal Voltage Output	12 V DC
Maximum current consumption:	1 A max.
Maximum power consumption:	13,5 W

Dimensions and Weight

Width:	440 mm
Depth:	305 mm
Height (including knobs):	85 mm
Total weight:	5,4 kg

Declaration of Conformity

General Compliance Information

This product meets the key requirements outlined in the European Directives 2014/53/EU and/or 2014/30/EU (Low Voltage Directive: 2014/35/EU; General Product Safety Directive: 2001/95/EC).

A complete copy of the EU Declaration of Conformity is available upon request. Please contact us at the following email address for further details: **support@waldorfmusic.com**

FCC Compliance Advisory

Please note that any modifications or alterations made to this device that are not explicitly approved by the responsible compliance authority may result in the loss of permission to operate the equipment.

This product has undergone testing and has been confirmed to meet the criteria for a Class B digital device, as outlined in Section 15 of the FCC regulations. These standards are intended to offer a reasonable level of protection against radio frequency interference in residential settings.

The equipment emits and utilizes radio frequency signals which, if not properly installed and operated according to the provided instructions, could negatively impact radio or

television signals. While such interference cannot be guaranteed in every situation, the following actions may help mitigate it:

- Adjust or move the reception antenna,
- Relocate the device,
- Increase the distance between the device and affected equipment,
- Plug the unit into a power outlet on a different circuit than the receiver,
- Ensure all cables are adequately shielded; use ferrite cores or chokes where necessary,
- Consult with your product vendor or a qualified radio/TV technician for additional guidance.

This device adheres to the FCC's Part 15 regulations and may only operate under the following conditions: (1) it must not generate disruptive interference, and (2) it must accept any interference it receives, even if this results in undesired functionality.

FCC Exposure Information

The device complies with the FCC guidelines for exposure to radio frequency energy applicable to environments without special restrictions. Maintain a minimum space of 20 cm (approximately 8 inches) between the RF transmitter and the user's body during setup and operation to ensure compliance.

Product Support

Service & Repair

Iridium MK2 does not contain any user-serviceable parts. If your Iridium MK2 develops a fault or needs servicing, please refer to a Waldorf authorised service center. For more information, please ask your musicians dealer or your local Waldorf distributor.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about your Waldorf product, feel free to contact us. We're here to help.

❗ You should definitely read our FAQ, perhaps your question will be answered there.

① Use the support page at our website. This is the most efficient and fastest way to find our FAQ or to contact us. Your questions will be forwarded immediately to the resident expert and you will quickly receive an answer.

support.waldorfmusic.com

② Although we are in the new millennium, you can also write us a letter. It will take a bit longer, but it is just as dependable as an email.

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