

Seaboard Block Creator Manual



1 Introduction

Hello creator, and welcome to the Creator Manual for the Seaboard 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.

BLOCKS is the most accessible and versatile music creation system ever made. It is a modular music studio that lets anyone make music whether they're a professional musician or a total beginner. Each individual Block is powerful and

1 Introduction

1.1 Support and Feedback

2 Glossary of Selected BLOCKS Terms

3 Getting Started

3.1 Charging

3.2 What is BLOCKS?

3.3 What's in the Box?

3.4 System Requirements

3.5 Product Registration and Setup

3.5.1 Connect Blocks

3.5.2 Updating Firmware

4 Hardware

4.1 Connections and Specifications

4.2 The Keywave Surface

4.3 Controls

4.4 USB Connection

4.5 DNA Connectors

intuitive, offering unique capabilities that let people make music in simple but far-reaching ways. The Blocks connect together to create customizable kits that suit any budget, skill level, and musical style. With a click of magnetic connectors, music-makers can build their own instruments as they go.

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

The Seaboard Block is a multi-dimensional MIDI controller whose touch-sensitive interface – especially when paired with the NOISE mobile app or BLOCKS Dashboard – opens up new possibilities for musical expression. While most conventional keyboards offer one dimension of touch to control sound (initial velocity, or what we call Strike), the Seaboard Block offers five dimensions of touch, or 5D Touch for short. These can be mapped to a variety of sound parameters. The separate, optional Touch Block adds another layer of expressive control, allowing you to tune the touch responsiveness of the keywaves to match your personal taste in real time.

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

Please note that this is a digital manual updated regularly to reflect software updates and other improvements. This manual is current up to NOISE v2.4.0.

1.1 Support and Feedback

We want you to have the best experience possible with our instruments and would love to hear your feedback. Should you have any questions, experience

4.6 Bluetooth Connection

5 Playing the Seaboard Block

5.1 Five Dimensions of Touch or 5D Touch

5.2 Playing Techniques

5.3 The Five MIDI Messages of the Five Dimensions of Touch

6 Working with Other Hardware and Software

6.1 Multidimensional Polyphonic Expression

6.2 Working with Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)

6.3 USB MIDI Class Compliancy

7 Care and Maintenance

8 ROLI Support

8.1 My ROLI

8.2 ROLI Support

9 Appendix

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 support.roli.com.

We will respond as soon as possible.

2 Glossary of Selected BLOCKS Terms

BLOCKS

A modular music studio built of individual Blocks, each with specific capabilities, that connect together physically through BLOCKS DNA connectors and wirelessly through Bluetooth.

Block(s)

The individual hardware components of the BLOCKS system including the Lightpad Block, Live Block, Loop Block, Seaboard Block, Touch Block, and Developer Kit Control Block.

BLOCKS Dashboard

A desktop application for modifying and customising the internal settings of Blocks, making it easy to use BLOCKS with third-party digital audio workstations and synthesizers.

BLOCKS DNA Connectors

Six-pin connectors that magnetically connect multiple Blocks and also transmit power and data between the Blocks. Each Control Block has six DNA Connectors.

Control Block

Any one of several different Blocks with ten buttons and a row of LEDs, designed to control NOISE functions. Control Blocks include the Live Block, Loop Block, Touch Block, and Developer Kit Control Block. Control Blocks can also send MIDI messages to third-party applications.

Equator Player

Based on **Equator** – ROLI’s custom-built, multi-dimensional sound engine and software synthesizer – **Equator Player** is a Windows and MacOS app included with the Lightpad Block and Seaboard Block. Equator Player takes advantage of the Seaboard Block’s 5 dimensions of touch, maximizing your ability to express yourself using just the motions of your fingers on your Seaboard Block’s keywaves and Lightpad Block’s playing surface. It features a simplified user interface that allows you to easily modify the most important characteristics of a preset. If you’d like to create your own sounds and have full control of Equator you may [upgrade to the full version of Equator](#).

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, and Lift**.

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

- **Lift:** The release velocity or speed of liftoff from **Lightpad surface** or **keywave surface**.

Grid

A fixed configuration of pads on the NOISE interface and the Lightpad Block surface. Possible grid layouts include 2x2, 4x4, and 5x5. In each grid layout, the number of pads is the same on the X and Y axis.

Keywave

A wavelike element of the keywave surface of Seaboard that corresponds to a single key on a standard keyboard. Each of the Five Dimensions of Touch can be accessed on a single keywave.

Keywave surface

The entire playing Seaboard surface including all keywaves and the ribbons above and below them. The keywave surface corresponds to a keyboard.

Lightpad Block

A Master Block and the central Block in the BLOCKS system. The Lightpad Block features an illuminated tactile surface that enables creators to shape sound through Five Dimensions of Touch: Strike, Glide, Slide, Press, and Lift. When paired with NOISE it builds sequencing, looping, finger drumming and expressive control into one intuitive device. It can also be used with BLOCKS Dashboard to expressively control digital audio workstations and software and hardware synthesizers.

Lightpad Surface

The 15x15 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 play multidimensional or 5D Touch performances.

Live Block

A Control Block that provides quick access to music performance functions, so creators can be more expressive in real time. The Block's 10 buttons include controls for switching scales and octaves, playing chords and arpeggios, and sustaining notes in NOISE. The Live Block can also be used with BLOCKS Dashboard to transmit MIDI CC messages in order to control digital audio workstations and software synthesizers.

Loop Block

A Control Block that provides quick access to music production functions so creators can easily layer sounds into a song in NOISE. The Block's 10 buttons include controls for setting a tempo, recording loops, and quantizing loops so they snap in time with the tempo. The Loop Block can also be used with BLOCKS Dashboard to send MMC messages to control the transport functions of digital audio workstations, and it can also transmit MIDI CC messages in order to control digital audio workstations and software synthesizers.

Master Block

Master Blocks – including the Lightpad Block and Seaboard Block – are the central Blocks of the BLOCKS system. To use BLOCKS you need at least one Master Block. Additional Blocks, including Control Blocks, connect via DNA to the Master Block.

MPE

Multidimensional 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 and BLOCKS. MPE enables independent, per-note control of multiple sound parameters such as pitch and timbre.

NOISE

A free modular music app that lets anyone create beats, melodies and songs using simple, easy-to-learn gestures on the touch screens of mobile devices. The app's expressive power can be expanded with BLOCKS. It is at the heart of the BLOCKS system.

Pad

A square that corresponds to a note in the grid layout of the Lightpad Block and NOISE.

Seaboard Block

The Seaboard Block pairs the powerfully expressive keywave surface of the Seaboard GRAND and Seaboard RISE with the portability and modularity of BLOCKS. It is a Master Block and includes 24 keywaves as well as lower and upper octave switches. Multiple Seaboard Blocks can connect together to create an extended playing surface.

Touch Block

A Control Block that adjusts the responsiveness of the Seaboard Block's and Lightpad Block's 5D Touch when used with NOISE or desktop applications. The Touch Block's 10 buttons control the sensitivity of Strike, Glide, Slide, Press, and Lift, lock Strike or Glide, or put the Seaboard Block into "piano mode," by turning off Glide. The Touch Block can also be used with BLOCKS Dashboard to

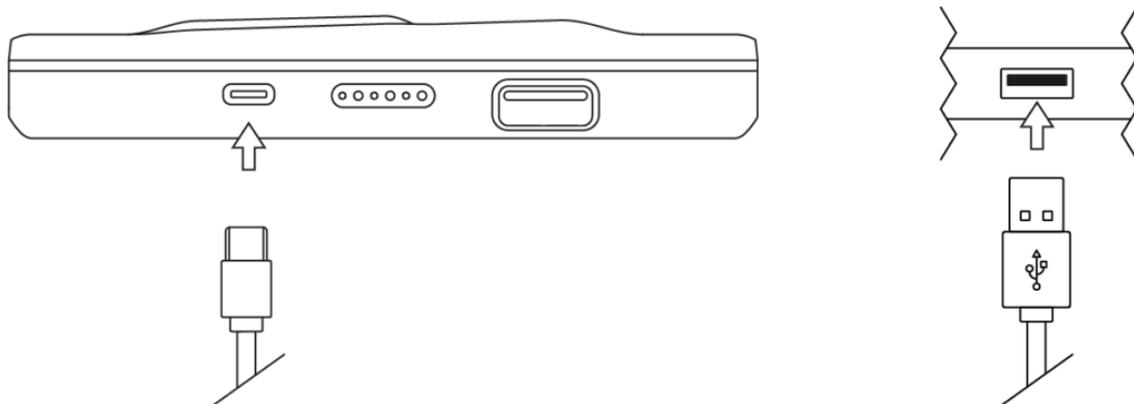
transmit MIDI CC messages in order to control digital audio workstations and software synthesizers.

USB-C

The type of USB connector used to connect and charge the Lightpad Block and Seaboard Block. There is a female connector on the block itself, and a male connector on the included USB-C-to-USB-A cable.

3 Getting Started

3.1 Charging



You should charge your Seaboard Block as the first step before proceeding. When connected to a suitable power source, the Seaboard Block can charge additional Blocks that are connected to its DNA connectors.

Plug the included USB-C cable into the Seaboard Block and plug the other end of the cable into a USB 3 charger or a computer with a USB 3 port.

- First connect the Seaboard Block to a USB 3 power source (like an iPad charger or Macbook USB 3 port) with the included USB-C cable.
- Connect the Control Block to the Lightpad or Seaboard Block via DNA connectors to begin charging it.
- For fastest charging times, turn the Blocks off during charging.

The Seaboard Block requires 5 watts of power to run and charge the battery efficiently. Adding more Blocks via the DNA connectors will increase the demand for power, so we recommend using a higher output charger such as an iPad charger (10–12 watts) or a higher output USB 3 charger.

Please note that when charging via a computer that you must use the ROLI-supplied USB cable to connect to the host computer. When using a laptop computer please make sure that it is plugged into a wall outlet and has its sleep feature disabled.

Note: Please do not use an iPhone charger to charge BLOCKS, as it is not a compatible charger.

3.2 What is BLOCKS?

BLOCKS is a modular music platform that opens new possibilities for musical expression. A BLOCKS system starts with either the Lightpad Block or the Seaboard Block, both of which are so-called **Master Blocks**. Other Blocks – such as the Live Block, Loop Block, and Touch Block – connect to the Master Block and allow easier, faster control of music performance and production. The modular system is powered by NOISE, a free iOS app that functions as the

software engine for the BLOCKS system. NOISE and BLOCKS connect wirelessly over Bluetooth.

3.3 What's in the Box?

- Seaboard Block
- USB-C cable
- Quick start guide
- Warranty information

3.4 System Requirements

NOISE

NOISE, the free iOS app, is the software engine of BLOCKS. It is a powerful standalone instrument for iPhones and iPads and responds to 3D Touch technology on newer iOS devices. It also pairs with BLOCKS hardware via MIDI-over-Bluetooth and becomes the software synthesizer and sound engine for BLOCKS. NOISE and BLOCKS are integrally connected, and together they make a modular, mobile music platform.

Visit the Apple App Store and download NOISE on your iPhone or iPad.

iOS Device

NOISE requires iOS 9.0 or higher and can take advantage of Apple's 3D touch capabilities on the iPhone 6s or higher and the iPad Pro. 3D Touch capabilities

are not required as the Lightpad Block offers 5D Touch. The following iOS devices have been tested and are supported:

- iPhone 6 or higher
- iPhone SE
- iPad Mini 4 or higher
- iPad Air 2
- iPad Pro (9.7 and 12.9 inches)

What about Android?

NOISE is currently available in an early access beta version for Google Pixel and Samsung S8. More devices will be supported when NOISE for Android is fully released.

MIDI-over-Bluetooth

BLOCKS supports MIDI-over-Bluetooth and connects to any compatible MIDI-over-Bluetooth enabled iOS or OSX device and app. The Seaboard Block must be in pairing mode to do this.

BLOCKS Dashboard

BLOCKS Dashboard is a free desktop application available within My ROLI to all registered BLOCKS creators. BLOCKS Dashboard allows you to customise the behaviour of your Blocks – including the Seaboard Block – so that you may easily use your Blocks with third-party applications. To use BLOCKS Dashboard, your computer should meet the following minimum specifications:

- Mac OSX 10.11 or later
- Windows 10

- Minimum RAM: 4GB
- Recommended RAM: 8GB
- Processor: 2.5GHz Intel Core i5 or faster
- For Bluetooth connectivity: OSX 10.10+

Equator Player

The Seaboard Block comes with Equator Player, which is based on Equator and includes over 200 presets optimised for the Seaboard Block's 5D touch.

Equator Player also allows you to control the most important aspects of each preset. Equator Player is compatible with Mac OSX and Windows.

3.5 Product Registration and Setup

Once your Seaboard Block is charged, it's ready to make music with NOISE.

- Download NOISE from the Apple App Store.
- Launch the iOS Settings app and ensure that your iOS device's Bluetooth is turned on.
- Launch NOISE.
- Log in to your NOISE account if you've already created one, or create a new NOISE account. This will allow you to register your Blocks and access soundpacks and bundled software.

3.5.1 Connect Blocks

- Switch your Blocks on. If you are registering additional Blocks you may turn them all on to register them simultaneously.

- Tap the Settings cog in the top right corner of NOISE and select 'Connect BLOCKS'.
- Choose your 'Seaboard Block' from the Bluetooth MIDI Devices screen to complete MIDI-over-Bluetooth pairing.
- Connect via DNA any additional Blocks that you have purchased to connect them now. *(Note: additional Blocks should be connected to NOISE either by DNA or by Bluetooth but not by both.)*
- You may register your Blocks by tapping 'Register Blocks' now.
- If you are prompted to update the firmware, you should do so now (see below).
- You are now connected and ready to make music.

3.5.2 Updating Firmware

You may be prompted to update the firmware during this setup. It is essential that you update to the latest firmware, as periodic updates ensure functionality and introduce new features.

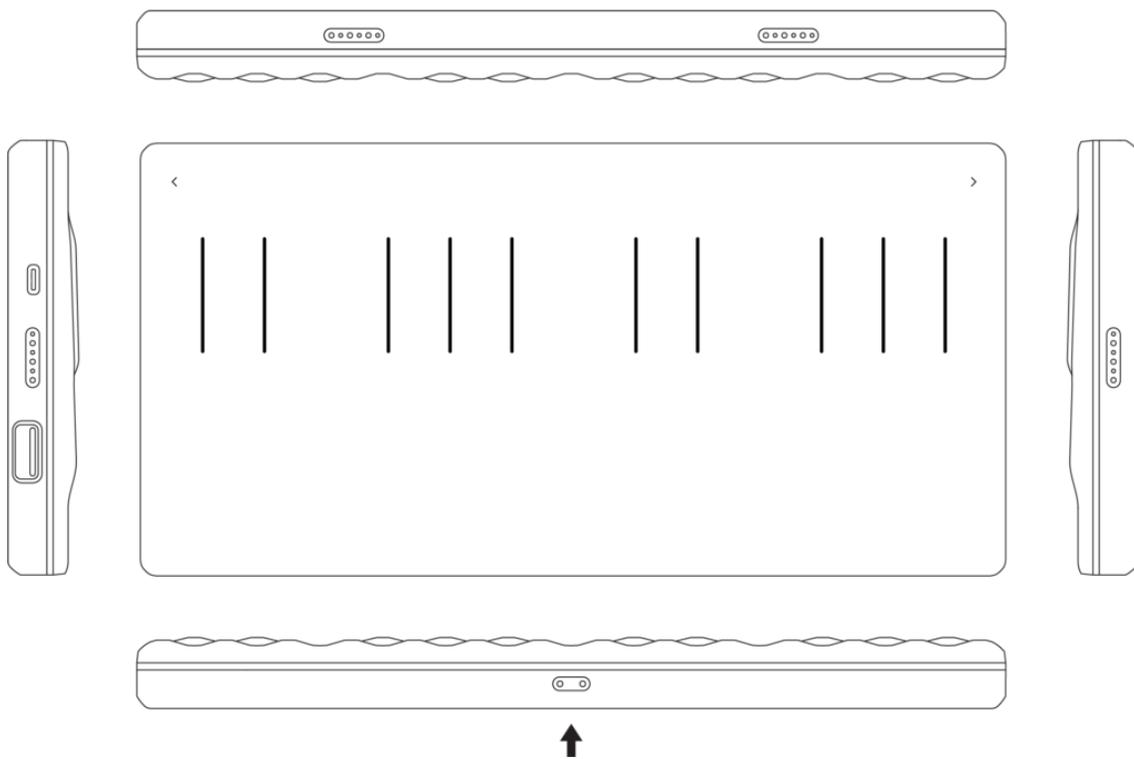
To update the firmware, launch NOISE and connect your Block. In NOISE, click the Settings icon in the upper-right corner, and then click "Firmware." If you have not already registered your Block, it may be registered now. NOISE will look for BLOCKS updates. If there are new firmware updates, you may select "Click to Update." *(Note: only one Block at a time should be connected via Bluetooth to NOISE while updating the firmware, and Blocks should be disconnected from each other via DNA.)* The update will take a few minutes to process. When the update is finished, your Block will restart. After your Block restarts, reconnect it to NOISE by clicking "OK" and then clicking on the name of your Block.

All Blocks need a certain amount of battery remaining in order to update the firmware. If you are not able to update your Block's firmware, make sure it is charged first and try again.

After updating your Block's firmware, you may re-connect it to NOISE.

4 Hardware

4.1 Connections and Specifications



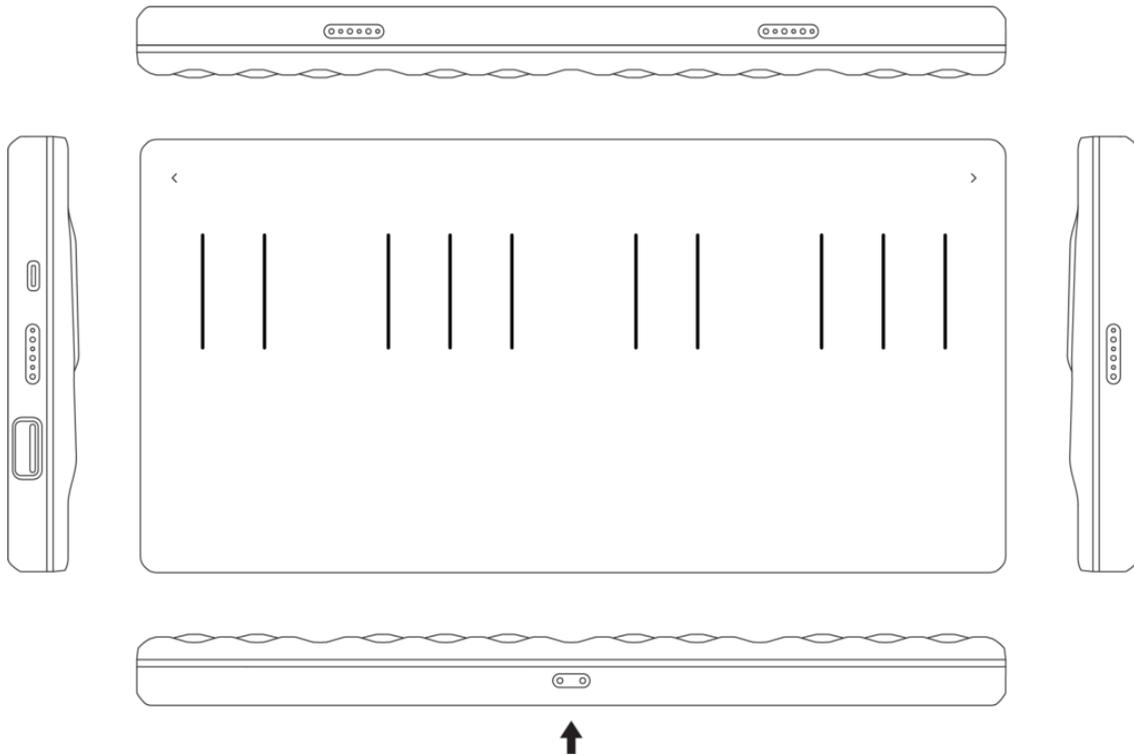
The Seaboard Block includes an expressive playing surface (the *keywave surface*), 2 octave switch buttons, a power button, a mode button, a USB-C port, 4 DNA connectors, and wireless Bluetooth connectivity.

4.2 The Keywave Surface

The Seaboard Block features a continuous, elastic, silicone surface divided into 24 **keywaves**. Following the order of notes on a standard keyboard, the keywaves represent the same pitches and intervals found on a piano. The touch-sensitivity of the **keywave surface** allows tactile control of parameters such as pitch, volume, and timbre, *all on a polyphonic, per-note basis*, through simple, intuitive movements. The keywave surface is sensitive even to gentle pressure, and strong force is not required to maximize its expressiveness. While made of durable silicone, the keywave surface should not be pinched, stretched, or pounded.

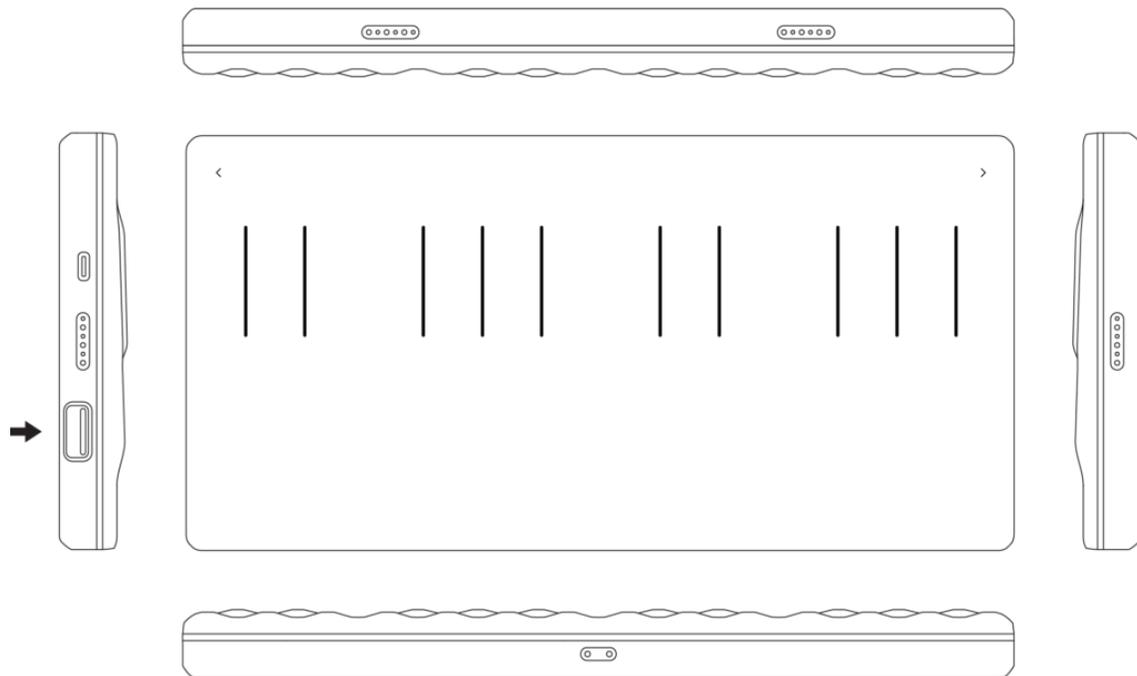
4.3 Controls

Power Button



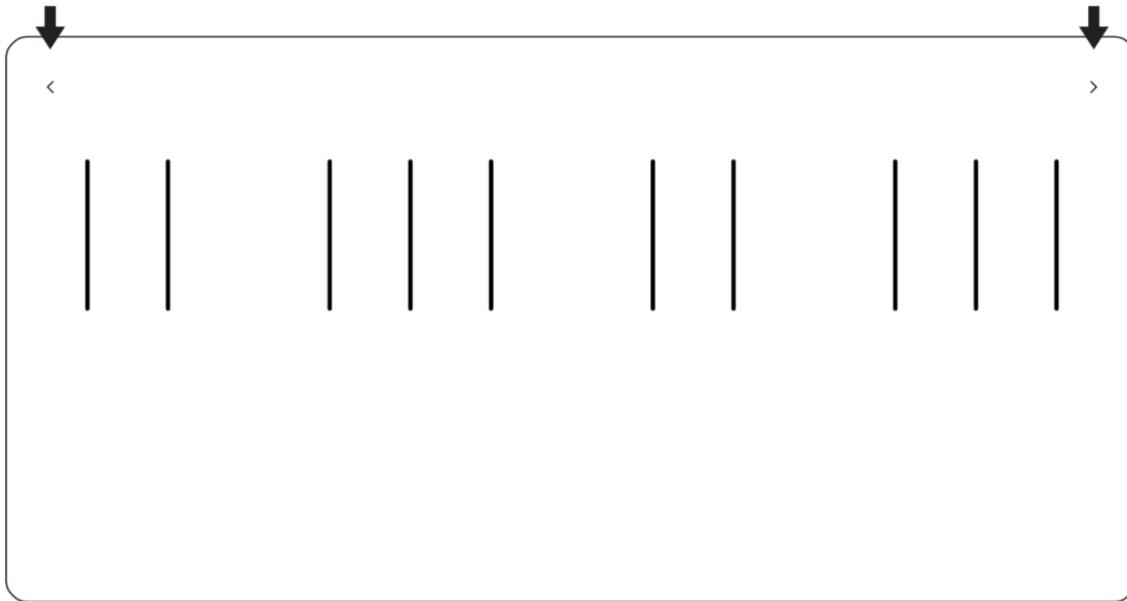
The **power button** is located in the centre at the front of the Seaboard Block (marked by the arrow in the above diagram). The power button turns the Seaboard Block on and off and contains two independently controlled LEDs indicating battery status & connectivity status. The left LED displays current battery level: green for full, yellow for medium, and red for low. The right LED displays light blue when in Bluetooth pairing mode, dark blue when connected via Bluetooth, and off when connected via USB.

Mode Button



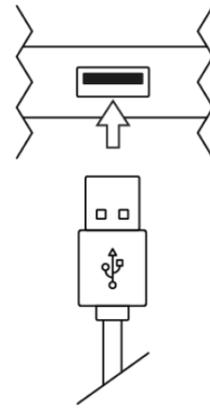
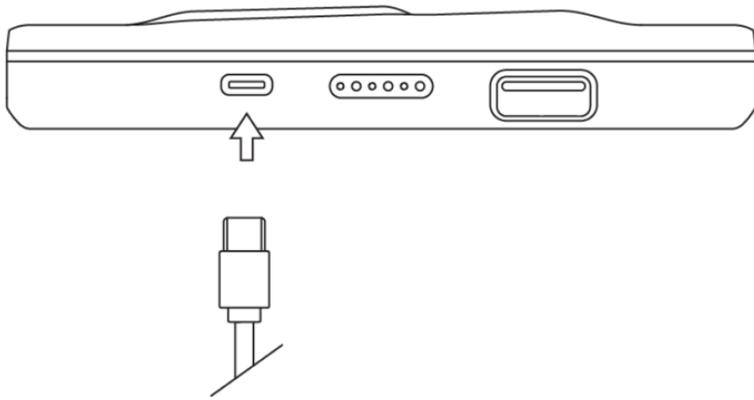
The **mode button**, on the Seaboard Block's left side, contains two LEDs indicating instrument status. The mode LEDs are off when a project has not been loaded, and are white during firmware updates. Used in conjunction with the Octave Shift Buttons the mode button can change presets via MIDI program change messages.

Octave Shift Buttons



In the left and right corners of the Seaboard Block's upper ribbon are buttons that switch octaves to extend the range of the controller. Pressing the right **octave shift button** once raises the Seaboard Block's pitch by an octave, and pressing the left octave shift button once lowers the Seaboard Block's pitch by an octave. The current octave shift in NOISE can be any one of 6 octaves, giving a single Seaboard Block a possible range of seven octaves (84 notes).

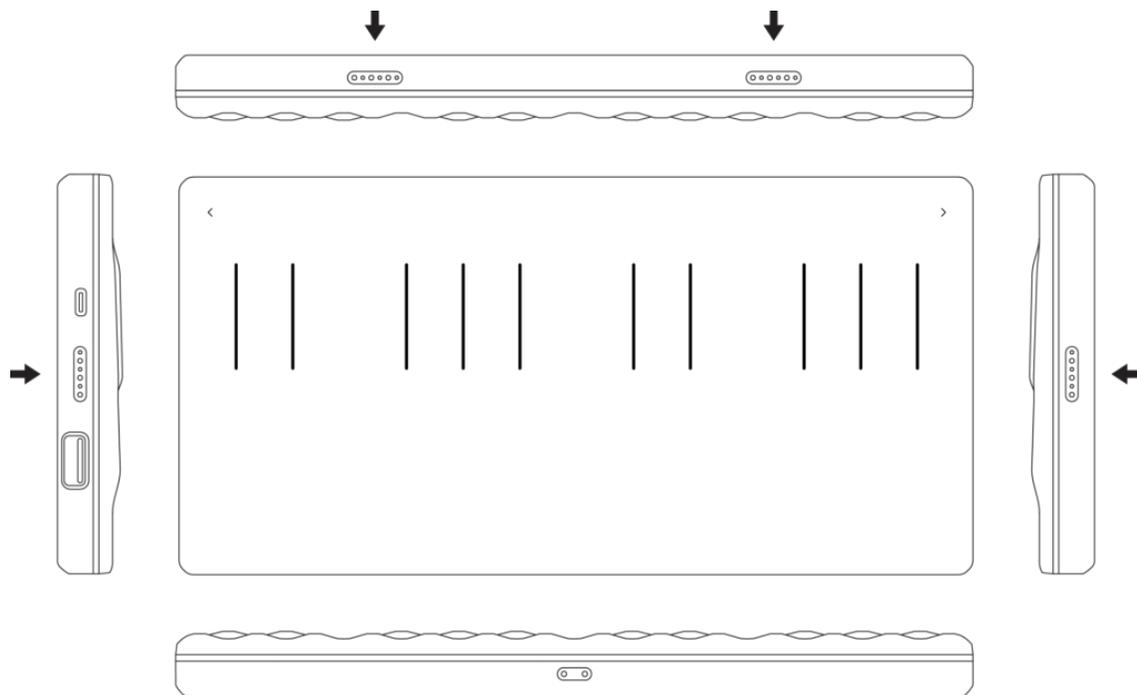
4.4 USB Connection



The **USB-C port** connects to a USB 3 charger to charge the Seaboard Block. When connected by the USB-C port to a computer, the Seaboard Block acts as a USB MIDI controller. It is USB-powerable, and its battery will charge when connected to a computer that itself is plugged in to AC power.

To use your Seaboard Block to control ROLI's NOISE for iPhone/iPad, you may connect wirelessly via Bluetooth (see section 2.6 below) or use the USB-C port with an Apple Camera Connection Kit.

4.5 DNA Connectors



DNA connectors magnetically link multiple Blocks and share power and data across Blocks. DNA connectors are on the right and left sides and the back of the Seaboard Block (marked with arrows in the image above). With DNA connectors, you can connect multiple Seaboard Blocks to create a larger range, and you can connect other Blocks – like a Touch Block and Lightpad Block – to make a powerful setup customised to your needs.

4.6 Bluetooth Connection

The Seaboard Block transmits MIDI-over-Bluetooth to compatible devices.

To connect the Seaboard Block to NOISE using Bluetooth:

- Switch your Blocks on. If you are registering additional Blocks you may turn them all on to register them simultaneously.
- You do not need to connect additional Blocks via Bluetooth as long as you have a Seaboard Block connected via Bluetooth. Additional Blocks connect directly to your Seaboard Blocks via the DNA connectors.
- Open NOISE, press the Settings cog in the top-right corner of NOISE and select 'Connect BLOCKS'.
- Choose your Seaboard Block from the Bluetooth MIDI Devices screen to complete MIDI-over-Bluetooth pairing. Your Lightpad Block will be listed as 'Seaboard Block XXXX' with the X's representing the last 4 digits of the serial number which is located on the underside of the Block.
- Connect any additional Blocks that you have purchased to the DNA ports of the Seaboard Block to register them now.
- Once your Blocks are connected, select "Register Block."
- Your Blocks will now be registered to your NOISE account.
- If you are prompted to update the firmware, you should do so now.
- You are now connected and ready to make music.

To connect your Seaboard Block to a MacOS device via Bluetooth:

1. Press the Seaboard Block's power button to enter Bluetooth pairing mode
– the power button's right LED will be light blue.
2. Open Audio MIDI Setup from the Utilities folder inside Applications.
3. Click Window → Show MIDI Studio.
4. Double-click the Bluetooth icon.
5. A new window will open and scan for nearby Bluetooth devices.
6. When the Seaboard Block is detected, click "Connect." The Seaboard Block power button's right LED will now display dark blue indicating that it is connected via Bluetooth.

These instructions are for Mac OSX 10.10+. Mac OSX 10.11+ is required to use your Seaboard Block with BLOCKS Dashboard.

What about Windows? Although Windows has recently introduced some support for MIDI-over-Bluetooth, it is not yet adequate for use with BLOCKS. We hope to see MIDI-over-Bluetooth functionality for Windows in the future, and in the meantime we recommend connecting via USB.

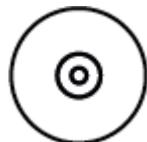
5 Playing the Seaboard Block

5.1 Five Dimensions of Touch or 5D Touch

The Seaboard Block is a multi-dimensional instrument that lets you modulate sound through five dimensions of touch. Through simple movements and gestures, you can shape sound easily and discover new modes of expression. The icons below depict the **Five Dimensions of Touch** on the Seaboard Block and its accompanying software. The **Five Dimensions of Touch** are:



Strike: The velocity and force with which a finger makes contact with a keywave. This dimension of touch corresponds to MIDI velocity on a standard keyboard.



Press: The pressure applied to the keywave after the initial **Strike**. The **keywaves** respond to each moment of continuous touch, transmitting minute variations of pressure to sound. This continuous pressure-sensitivity allows for swells, fades, and other detailed expressions.



Glide: Horizontal movements from side to side on a keywave and left right movements along the ribbons. **Glide** movements bend and adjust pitch as naturally as on a string instrument, allowing effects such as vibrato and glissando, all on a polyphonic basis. You can even bend two (or more) notes in opposite directions, gliding up and down at the same time. **Glide** is typically assigned to pitch, but it can be assigned to other sound parameters.



Slide: Vertical movements up and down a keywave. **Slide** is assigned to various expressive parameters in **NOISE** and **Equator Player**. For example, an upward movement can open a filter that turns an organ sound into a brassy sound, while a downward movement can close the filter. Your initial point of contact with the keywave, no matter where this point is, becomes the basis for sound modulation on the Y axis above and below that point.

Lift: The release velocity or speed of liftoff from a keywave. **Lift** is assigned to various parameters in **NOISE** and **Equator Player** depending on the preset. For example, a rapid **lift** can create a lingering resonance, a hard pluck, or the “key-off” sound of vintage keyboards such as electric piano and “clav.”

5.2 Playing Techniques

You can apply playing techniques associated with keyboard, string, and electronic instruments to the Seaboard Block. Playing techniques include:

Strike and hold: **Strike** the keywave and hold for a duration without adding any additional movement.

Glide vibrato: Pressing into a keywave and holding the point of your finger there, wiggle your finger from side to side. The pitch-modulation effect of vibrato will widen as you widen the arc of movement of your finger.

Glide glissando : Move your fingers along the pitch ribbons at the top and/or bottom of the keywave surface. **Glide** bends can be up to two octaves long in either direction.

Continuous Press modulation: While sustaining a note, increase and decrease downward pressure on the keywave to modulate the note. A typical use would be to add tremolo (amplitude or volume modulation) to the sound.

Legato bend: **Press** and continue to hold any note on the keywave surface with one finger and play another note a half-step above or below with another finger

Slide modulation: After striking a note, move your fingers up or down the keywave to modulate the note. A common application is to raise or lower a filter cutoff frequency in order to make the sound brighter or darker, but again, any modulatable parameters in NOISE are fair game.

Slide vibrato: After striking and holding a note, **Slide** your fingers up and down the vertical axis of the keywave rapidly. This will have a repeating modulation effect on whichever parameter(s) **Slide** is assigned to modulate in the active **NOISE** or **Equator Player** preset.

5.3 The Five MIDI Messages of the Five Dimensions of Touch

When used with **Equator Player** or other software or hardware, the Seaboard Block communicates its dimensions of touch by using standard MIDI messages:

- **Strike** sends note-on messages in addition to velocity 0–127.
- **Press** sends channel pressure (affertouch).
- **Glide** sends pitch bend.
- **Slide** sends MIDI CC 74.
- **Lift** sends note-off in addition to release velocity 0–127.

See the next section, “Working with Other Hardware and Software,” for more details on assigning the Seaboard Block’s MIDI messages to other applications.

6 Working with Other Hardware and Software

In addition to **NOISE** and **Equator Player**, the Seaboard Block is compatible with any electronic instrument that can receive MIDI and produce sound in

response. It transmits MIDI on up to 16 MIDI channels simultaneously, enabling polyphonic pitch bend and the other expressive modulations available via 5D Touch.

The receiving instruments that you use must be *multi-timbral* for you to experience the full expressive capabilities of the Seaboard Block. They should have a pitch bend range of at least +/- one octave and be able to respond to aftertouch.

Note: a *multi-timbral* software or hardware instrument is one that can play multiple sounds at the same time by using multiple MIDI channels. Here, we're using those extra channels for note-by-note expression as opposed to different sounds.

6.1 Multidimensional Polyphonic Expression

The Seaboard Block supports MPE (multidimensional polyphonic expression), a protocol for using standard MIDI messages to communicate with and enable the operation of multidimensional instruments such as the Seaboard Block and the Lightpad Block. MPE-capable devices can control multiple parameters of each 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 state, and fader positions. These global messages affect all notes equally. Since each note gets its own channel, it's effectively its own sound "program" – even though you still see a single preset on-screen –

and thus can be pitch-bent, filtered, and otherwise modulated independently of other notes.

Please refer to the BLOCKS Dashboard Creator Manual for information on MPE and how to alter the MPE settings for the Seaboard Block.

6.2 Working with Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)

The Seaboard Block can be used with many digital audio workstations (DAWs) and is especially expressive when used with a multi-timbral plugin like **Equator** or **Strobe2**. Because the Seaboard Block transmits standard MIDI messages, it is also compatible with any other software instruments which you might also use in your chosen DAW.

In many DAWs, a single track can receive multiple MIDI channels from the Seaboard Block and send the MIDI data to a multi-timbral synth like **Equator**. Other DAWs are limited to a single channel per track, so configuring your project to take full advantage of the Seaboard Block's dimensions of expression is not a uniform process. It depends on the DAW.

You can find detailed guides about working with most DAWs on our Support page at support.rolidigital.com. If you do not see your preferred software on the list, get in touch with the Support Team through our Support page.

6.3 USB MIDI Class Compliancy

The Seaboard Block is a USB Class Compliant device. It can be connected directly to other USB Class Compliant devices which receive MIDI data and produce sound in response, without the need to download and install special drivers.

Although the Seaboard Block does not have traditional five-pin DIN connectors, it lets you connect to hardware that requires these connectors. One option is to connect to a computer and transmit MIDI via a MIDI interface. Or you can connect a USB MIDI Class Compliant device that converts MIDI over USB to traditional five-pin DIN connectors.

7 Care and Maintenance

Basic care and attention will protect your Seaboard Block and help it stay in optimal condition for years to come. Avoid excessive force on the **keywave surface**, and try to keep the Seaboard Block away from direct sunlight, sharp objects, liquids, and especially oils – including greasy fingers after eating food.

To clean the keywave surface you may use damp, bleach-free, oil-free cleansing wipes. Do not use any abrasive cleansing agents on the Seaboard Block or its **keywaves**.

When not in use, it's best to store the Seaboard Block horizontally, as in normal playing position.

If you anticipate not using your Seaboard Block for three months or longer, we recommend that you take the following steps to ensure its functionality:

- Keep it fully charged when not in use.

- Store it in an environment with low humidity and a temperature between 10-25°C.
- Keep it away from corrosive gas.

To protect the health of the lithium polymer battery, we recommend you charge your Seaboard Block every six months at the minimum.

8 ROLI Support

8.1 My ROLI

Manuals and other resources on [My ROLI](#) should help answer initial questions about your Seaboard. Visit our Support page at support.rol.com for a wider range of resources that should help answer questions about the Seaboard and its software. The page includes frequently asked questions, tutorial videos, and guides for connecting the Seaboard with third-party plug-ins and DAWs.

8.2 ROLI Support

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

9 Appendix

Power Supply

Power for the Seaboard Block is supplied from either an internal lithium polymer battery (3.7V, 2000mAh), an external USB power source (such as a plug-in adapter or laptop) or via the DNA connectors. Circuitry ensures selection of the correct power source (if a USB source is present this takes precedence).

The presence of an external supply (either via USB or the DNA connector) will automatically begin to charge the internal battery, assuming sufficient current is available from the source.