CRITTER & GUITARI™- Kaleidoloop™ Manual
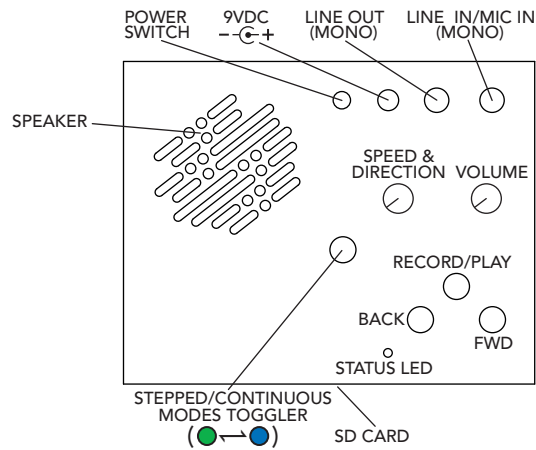
Updated May 1 2012

The Critter & Guitari KALEIDOLOOP is a social, portable sound collector. It's designed to be taken anywhere and everywhere to gather and manipulate all kinds of sounds. Record sounds from your kitchen, the recording studio, and campfire jam. The KALEIDOLOOP lets you sample and tweak!

This is the layout for the control surface of the KALEIDOLOOP:

The reference sticker on the bottom of the Kaleidoloop looks like this:

ZERO ONE - No Worries!   www.critterandguitari.com

KALEIDOLOOP™
CRITTER & GUITARI™

The SPEED & DIRECTION knob controls tuning. In STEPPED MODE (🟢), playback steps along the following divisions. As the playback speed increases, so will brightness of LED.

BACKWARDS   FORWARDS

On power up, the STATUS LED flashes up to four times to indicate how full memory card is:

🟢 0 - 25% full
🟢🟢 25 - 50% full
🟢🟢🟢 50 - 75% full
🟢🟢🟢🟢 75 - 100% full

If there is a problem, the STATUS LED will repeatedly flash one of these patterns:

🔴🔴🔴 No SD card or error: Try inserting new card.
🟡🔴🔴 Problem with SD card. Try reformatting it.
🟡🟡🔴 Erase SD Card

To ERASE/FORMAT card, turn off device, hold down Record/SkipFWD/SkipBKWD buttons while turning device on. LED will flash 3 times, pause, and flash 3 times again. It is now ready for recording.

For more information on KALEIDOLOOP, please visit: www.critterandguitari.com/kaleidoloop

© 2012. All Rights Reserved. Philadelphia, USA.

BASIC OPERATION

To power the Kaleidoloop, use four AA batteries or use a power supply. The Kaleidoloop requires 9VDC with a minimum of 300mA. The 2.1mm barrel plug should be center-positive as in this diagram:

On power up, the STATUS LED flashes up to four times to indicate how full the memory card is:

- 🟢 0 - 25% full
- 🟢🟢 25 - 50% full
- 🟢🟢🟢 50 - 75% full
- 🟢🟢🟢🟢 75 - 100% full
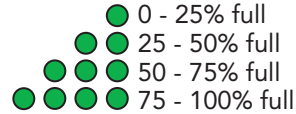
If the Kaleidoloop detects a problem, the STATUS LED will repeatedly flash one of these patterns:

- 🔴🔴🔴 No SD card or error: Try inserting new card.
- 🟡🔴🔴 Problem with SD card. Try reformatting it to FAT 16.
- 🔴🟡🔴 Erase the SD card.

Use the mic or another sound source plugged into the 1/4" input jack to record sounds. Pressing the RECORD/PLAY button once starts a new recording and changes the STATUS LED to red (🔴). Press it again to end that recording. It will immediately begin playing back the last track recorded. Use the FWD / BACK buttons to navigate previously recorded sounds.

During playback, the SPEED/DIRECTION knob controls the tuning of the track and in which direction (backwards or forwards) it plays. The range of playback speed is from **-4x** to **4x** in both directions.

Pressing the STEPPED/CONTINUOUS MODES TOGGLER button during playback will change how the SPEED/DIRECTION knob works. In STEPPED mode, the STATUS LED is green (🟢), while CONTINUOUS it is blue (🔵). In STEPPED mode, playback steps along the following pitch divisions:

BACKWARDS   FORWARDS
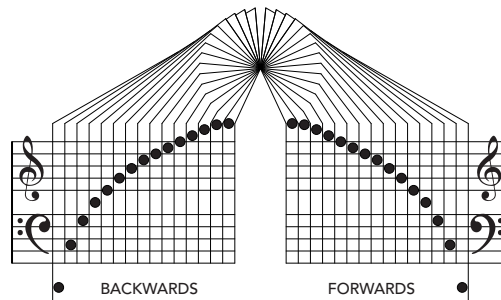
In CONTINUOUS mode, the SPEED/DIRECTION knob controls tuning across the same pitch range as the diagram above but has a much finer resolution.

The MICROPHONE may be removed and a LINE-LEVEL sound source with a 1/4" jack may be used as the input. Note that there is no monitoring of the incoming sound though the speaker.

ERASE

To erase the tracks, turn off the Kaleidoloop, press and hold the FWD, BACK, and REC/PLAY buttons while turning it back on. The STATUS LED will blink yellow (🟡) three times, pause for several seconds, and blink three more times. The SD Card has been erased and is ready to record the first track. After the first set of three blinks, you may release the three buttons.

DOWNLOADING SOUND FROM THE SD CARD

The recordings are stored on the removable SD CARD. To copy the sounds to a computer, locate the card slot on the front side, gently press the SD CARD in and then allow it to spring out. Insert SD CARD in computer and locate the SOUNDS folder. All of the tracks are in that folder.

The Kaleidoloop will erase everything on the SD CARD when it is erased, so it is best not to use the card with another device (camera, etc.) before backing up those files. If you wish to use another SD CARD other than the one that comes with it, most cards will work as long as they are formatted to FAT 16.
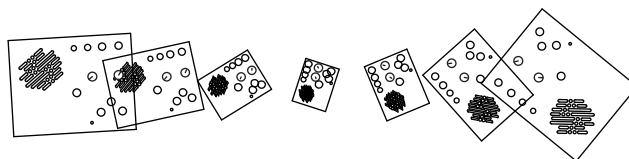
RECORDING SPECS
QUALITY: 16-bit / 22.5 kHz. Electret Mic
RECORD TIME: Included 256 MB SD CARD: 97 minutes (1'37"); 1 GB SD CARD: 388 minutes (6'28")
NUMBER OF TRACKS PER SD CARD: Feel free to record thousands of tracks before erasing.
FILE TYPE: Each track is its own .WAV file

The Fun Part: Getting Crazy with Kaleidoloops

The KALEIDOLOOP is great for experimenting. We're hoping that you will find sounds loud and quiet, simple and complex to record, deconstruct, rearrange, detune, and build back up in new crazy, fun ways. Here are some suggestions to help you get started:

Bounce tracks back and forth with two or more Kaleidoloops while adding to the new recording. "I am sitting in a room..."!

Use something like a pint glass or paper towel tube to make natural filters. This works great when recording - place the pint glass (or whatever you want to try) around the mic and alternate between enshrouding and pulling away from the mic.

Hit Record on one Kaleidoloop and CAREFULLY swing another one that is playing back for a Doppler-type pitch changing effect.

Get better at speaking backwards.

Automatic "wah" effect by covering and then uncovering speaker with your hand.

Press the STEPPED/CONTINUOUS MODE Button during playback to get a kind of warble effect.

A fun phasing technique happens when two Kaleidoloops record simultaneously but one records a little longer than the other. This is good for beat-making and other endeavors.

Thanks for being a part of KALEIDOLOOP and we hope you have fun! Feel free to let us know how you use it - we are always curious! Click on the links below to get in touch with us:

www.critterandguitari.com/contact
www.facebook.com/critterandguitari
www.twitter.com/critterguitari

ZERO ONE - No Worries!

©2012 CRITTER & GUITARI™