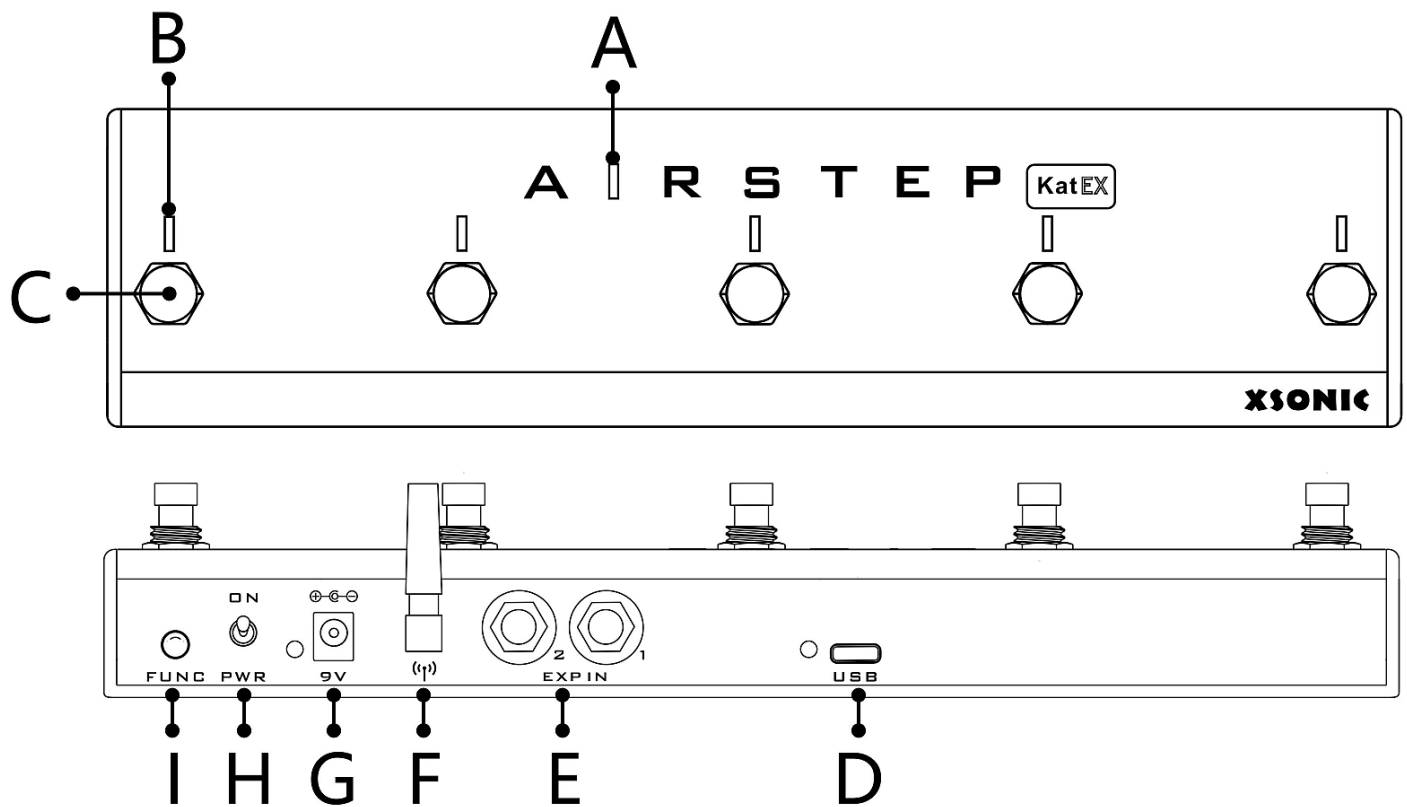# XSONIC

# Airstep Kat EX Edition
## User Manual

## Introduction

The AIRSTEP Kat EX is an advanced foot controller developed to extend and simplify the operation of BOSS KATANA amplifiers, particularly the 50W models which lack GA-FC compatibility. Building on the original AIRSTEP Kat, this updated version adds two major improvements: compatibility with the latest KATANA Gen3 series and two additional expression pedal inputs for expanded real-time control. It retains key functions such as hands-free channel switching, effect toggling, and wireless editing via the BOSS TONE STUDIO (BTS) app. The Kat EX supports all KATANA amplifier models, including Gen3, MkII, and MkI.

## Features

- Hands-free channel switching and effect toggling
- Wirelessly modify amp settings using BTS app (no BOSS BT-Dual Adapter required)
- Change effect types (color) and tap tempo hands-free
- Two expression pedal inputs with the same functionality as those on the GA-FC
- Program footswitches to toggle Solo, Pedal FX, EQ, Send/Return, and more
- Works simultaneously with the BOSS GA-FC footswitch
- Includes a "GA-FC Expand Mode" to cover all functions missing from the GA-FC
- Compatible with KATANA 50/50EX/100/Head/Artist (Gen3, MkII, and MkI)
- Unlocks five simultaneous effects on MKI models
- Firmware upgradeable to stay in sync with the latest BOSS updates
- Built-in rechargeable battery provides up to 15 hours of continuous use
- Sturdy extruded aluminum housing

# Interface



### A. Main LED Indicator
Indicates the connection status with the KATANA amplifier. It will light up when the connection is successfully established.

### B. Footswitch LED Indicator
Displays the current channel, bank, or effect toggle status.

### C. Footswitch
Provides hands-free control of the amplifier functions.

### D. USB Port
Used to connect to the USB port on the KATANA amplifier.

### E. Expression Pedal Inputs
Supports connection of two expression pedals simultaneously. Functions are identical to the GA-FC expression inputs and can be assigned to parameters in the BTS app.

### F. Antenna
Used for wireless communication with the mobile app.

### G. Charging Port
Supports charging via the included USB-to-DC cable or a standard 9V pedal power supply.

### H. Power Switch
Turn off the power when not in use to prevent unnecessary battery drain.

### I. Function Button
Reserved for future use; currently inactive.

# Instructions

## Before Using

### Amp Firmware Update
Update your amp's firmware to the latest version to ensure compatibility with AIRSTEP.

### AIRSTEP Firmware Update
Update your AIRSTEP Kat EX to the newest firmware for improved stability and the latest features.

[How to update firmware?](#)

### Connection
AIRSTEP connects to the KATANA amplifier using only a USB cable. When the connection is successfully established, the Main LED on the AIRSTEP will light up.

- For KATANA Gen3 models, use a USB-C to USB-C data cable (do not use a charging-only cable).
- For KATANA MKII or MKI models, use the included USB OTG adapter along with a USB-A to USB-B data cable (typically provided in the KATANA box).
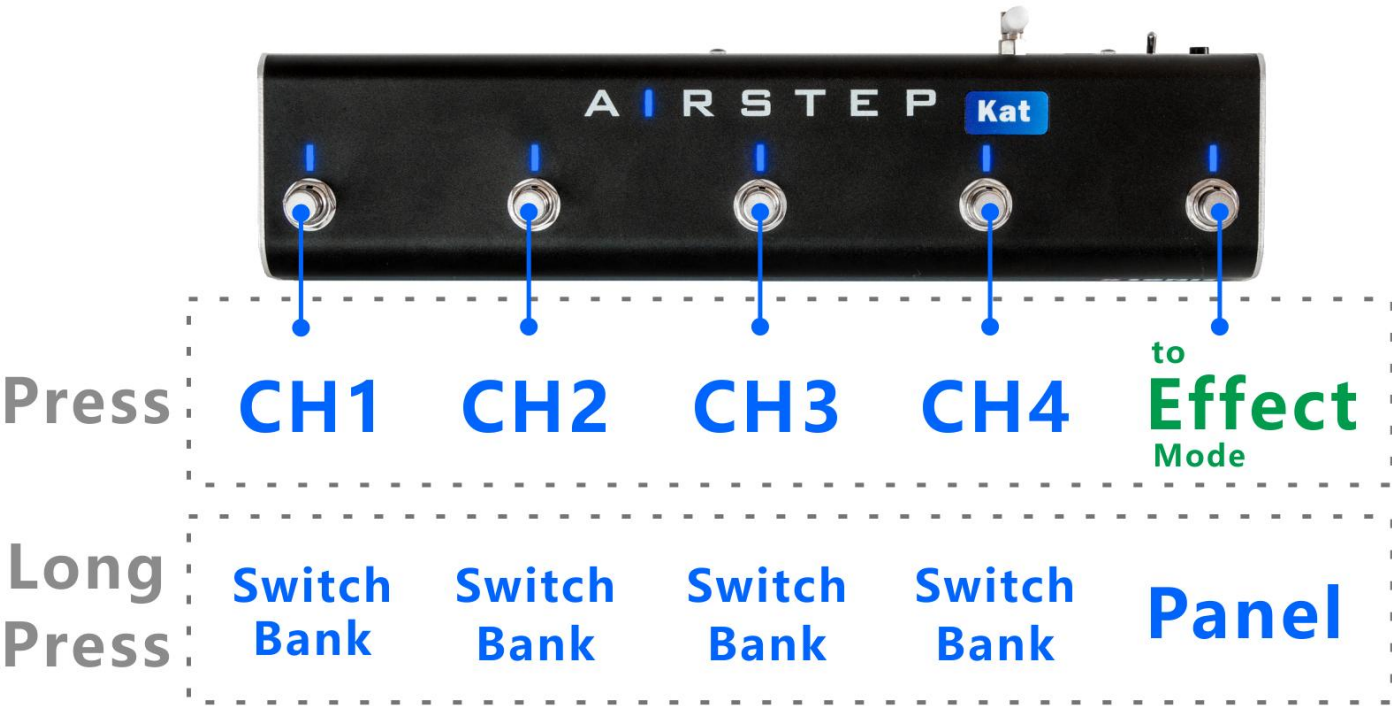
**Footswitch Function**

## Channel Mode



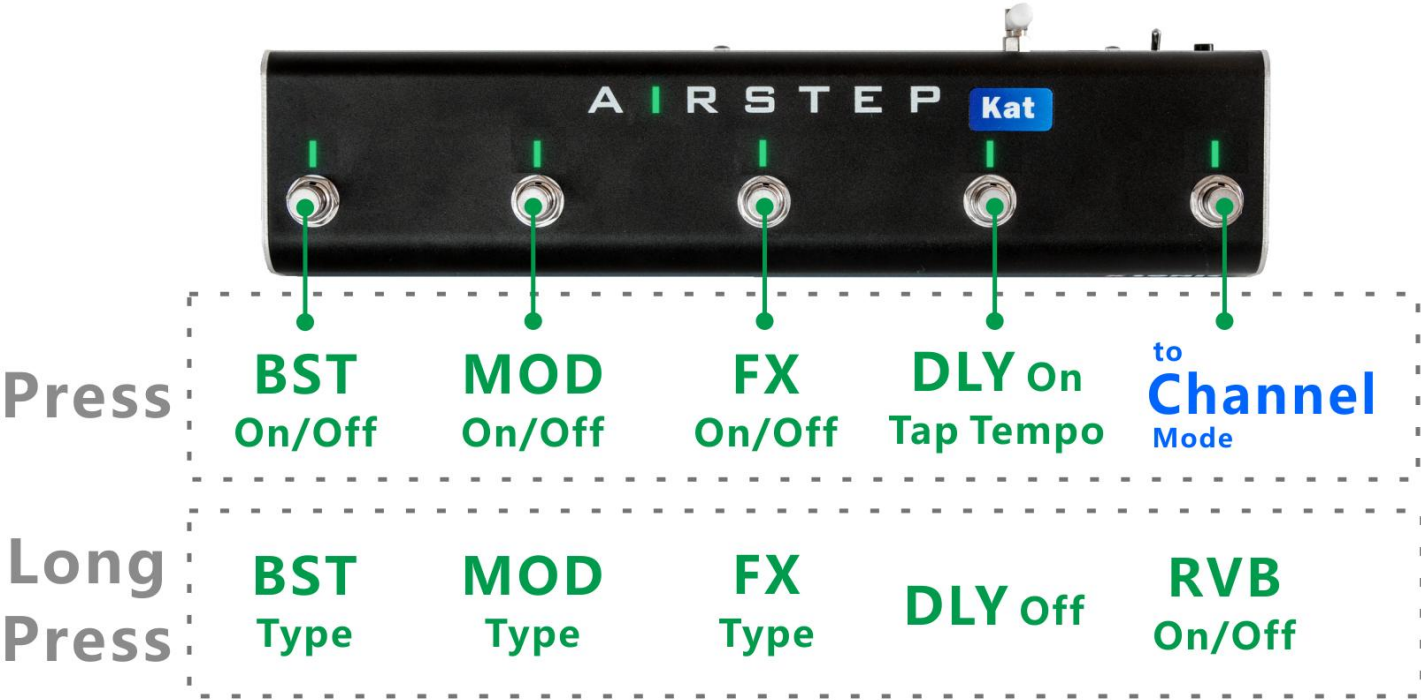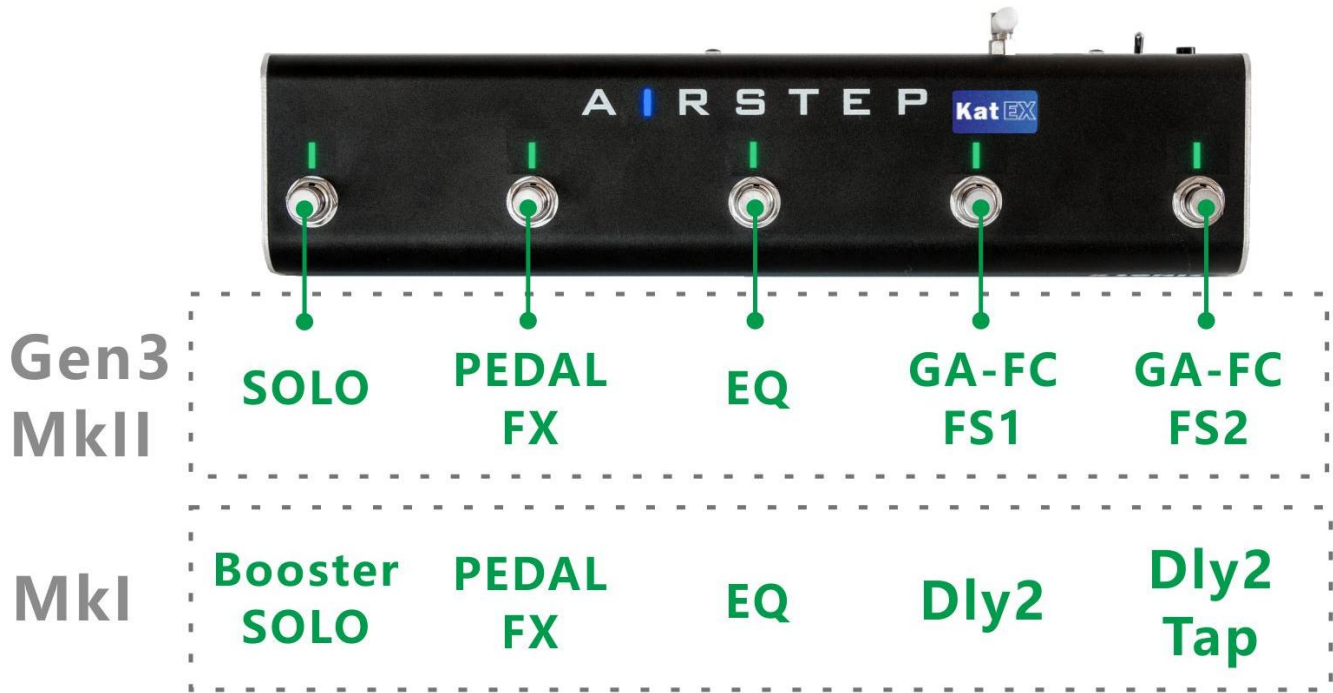| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Press** | **CH1** | **CH2** | **CH3** | **CH4** | to **Effect** Mode |
| **Long Press** | Switch Bank | Switch Bank | Switch Bank | Switch Bank | **Panel** |

**Channel Mode：** The device boots into Channel Mode by default, indicated by all LEDs lighting up blue. In this mode, the footswitches are used to switch between the four channels and the panel setting on the KATANA amplifier. For models above 50W, long-pressing one of the four channel buttons toggles between Bank A and Bank B. Pressing the 5th button switches the controller to Effect Mode.

## Effect Mode



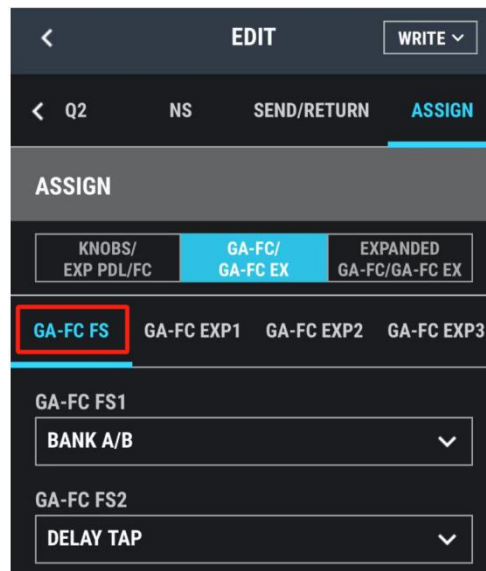| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Press** | **BST** On/Off | **MOD** On/Off | **FX** On/Off | **DLY** On Tap Tempo | to **Channel** Mode |
| **Long Press** | **BST** Type | **MOD** Type | **FX** Type | **DLY** Off | **RVB** On/Off |

**Effect Mode：** In Effect Mode, the footswitches are used to toggle individual effects, control tap tempo, and change effect types—same to the Effect Color button on the amplifier. Pressing the 5th button switches back to Channel Mode.
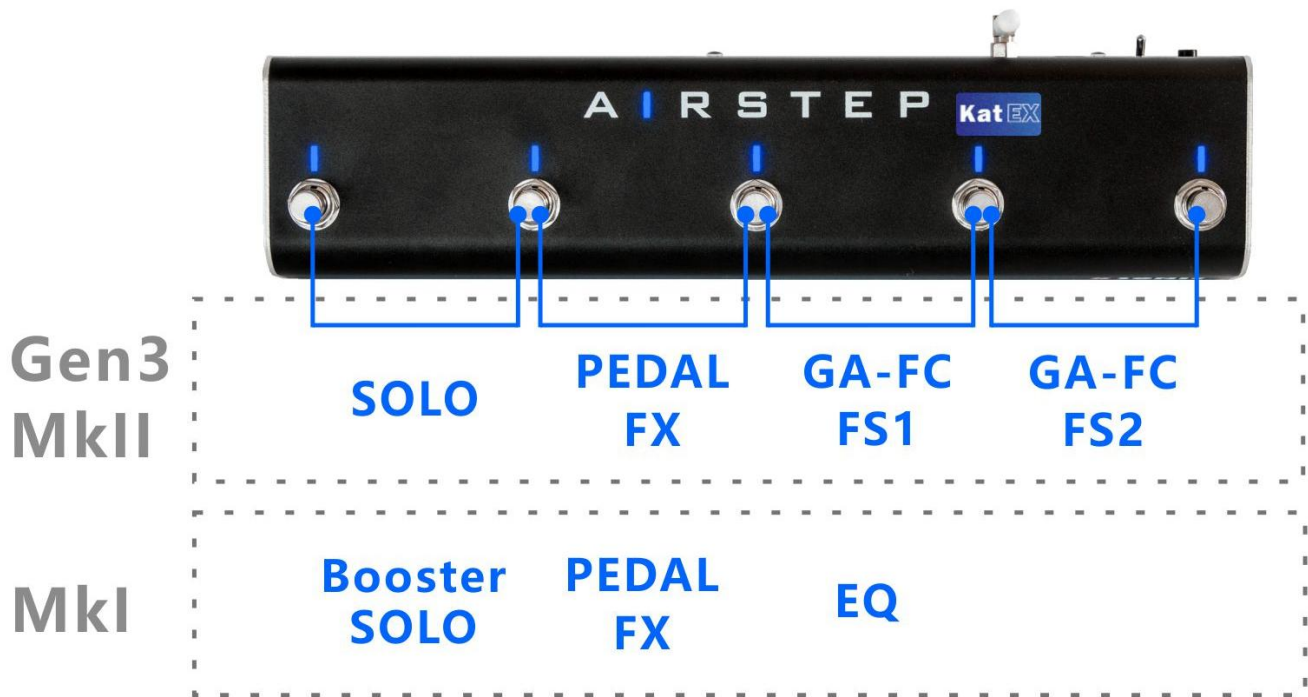
# GA - FC Expand Mode



| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Gen3 MkII** | SOLO | PEDAL FX | EQ | GA-FC FS1 | GA-FC FS2 |
| **MkI** | Booster SOLO | PEDAL FX | EQ | Dly2 | Dly2 Tap |

**GA-FC Expand Mode**：  This mode is designed to be used alongside the BOSS GA-FC footswitch, expanding control possibilities and unlocking the full potential of the KATANA amplifier. In this mode, the Main LED lights up blue, and the Footswitch LEDs turn green. Functions corresponding to GA-FC FS1 and FS2 can be assigned in the BTS App.



**To enter or exit this mode, press and hold Buttons 2 and 3 simultaneously while powering on the device.** When GA-FC Expand Mode is active, Channel Mode and Effect Mode are disabled.

# Dual Press



**Gen3 MkII**

SOLO  PEDAL FX  GA-FC FS1  GA-FC FS2

**MkI**

Booster SOLO  PEDAL FX  EQ

**Dual Press：** In any of the above modes, additional functions can be accessed using Dual Press (simultaneously pressing two footswitches). Functions corresponding to GA-FC FS1 and FS2 can be assigned in the BTS App.

**BTS App Editing**

Once AIRSTEP is connected successfully, you can wirelessly edit all parameters of your KATANA amplifier using the BTS app.

- For **KATANA Gen3** models, use either the "**KATANA Gen 3**" app or the "**Katana Librarian**" app. No BOSS BT-Dual Adapter is required.
- For **KATANA MkII** or **MKI** models, use either the "**KATANA AIR**" app or the "**Katana Librarian**" app.

**Note**: When using the KATANA AIR app with MkII models, certain parameters may not be accessible. For full editing capabilities, it is recommended to use the Katana Librarian app.

**Note**: Grant Bluetooth and location permissions when prompted.

# Apps for different models



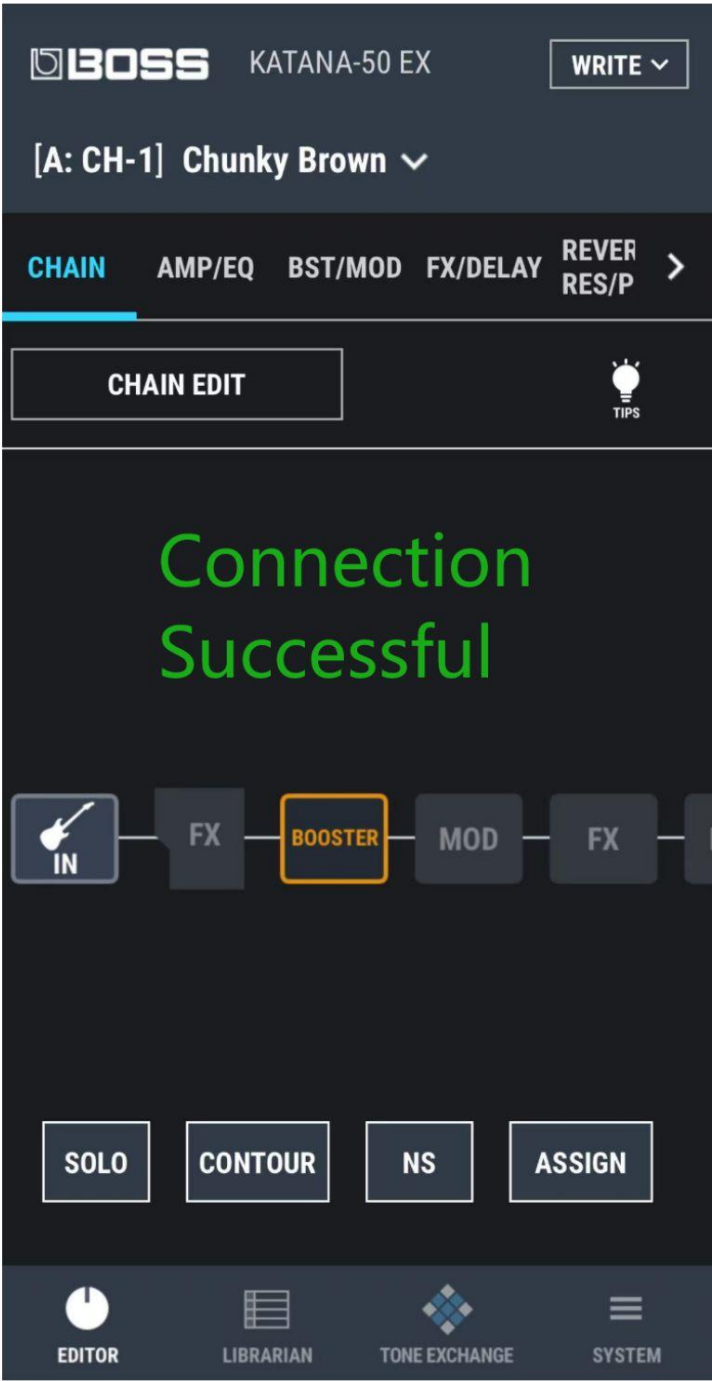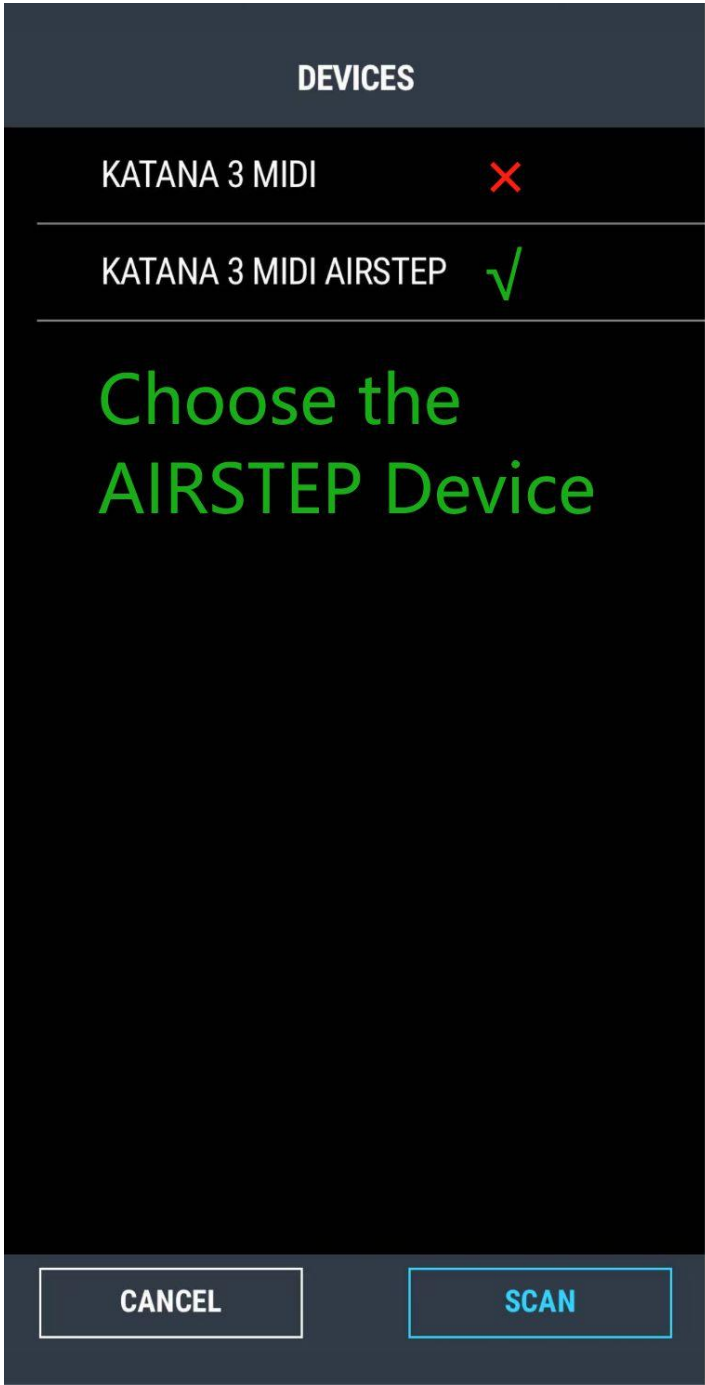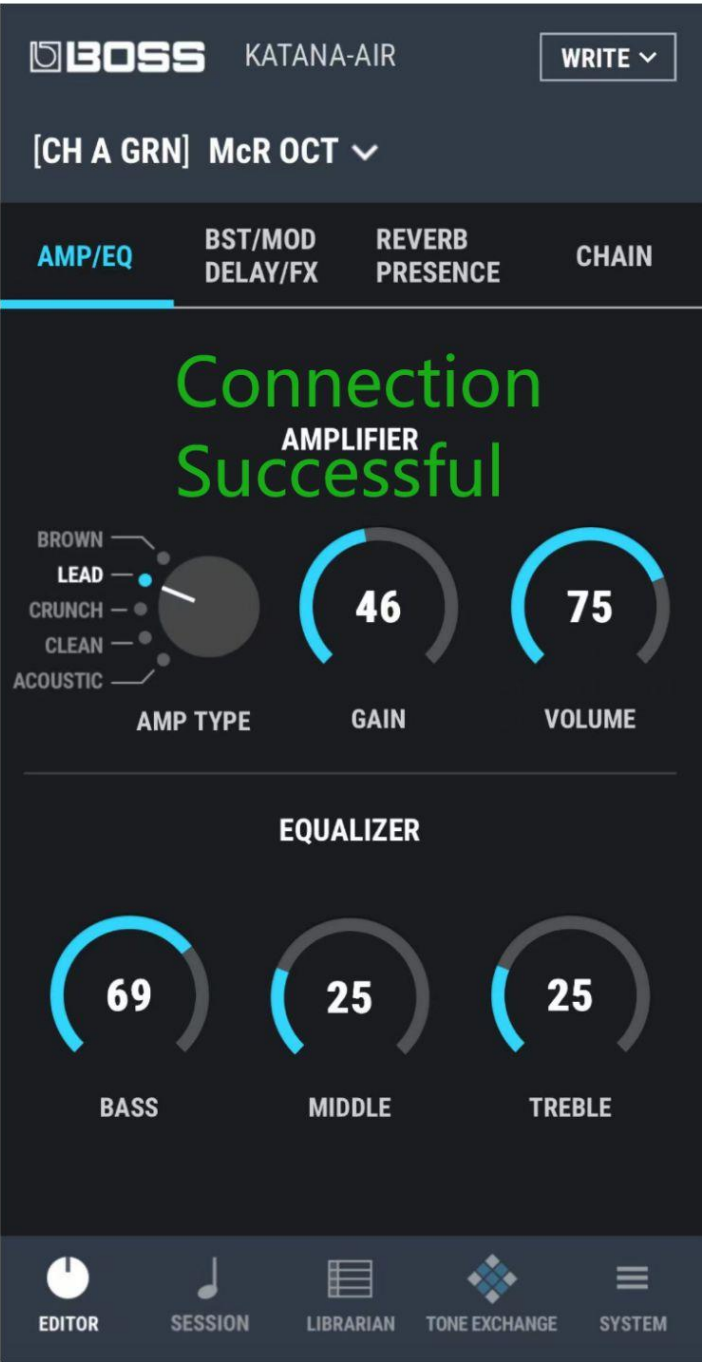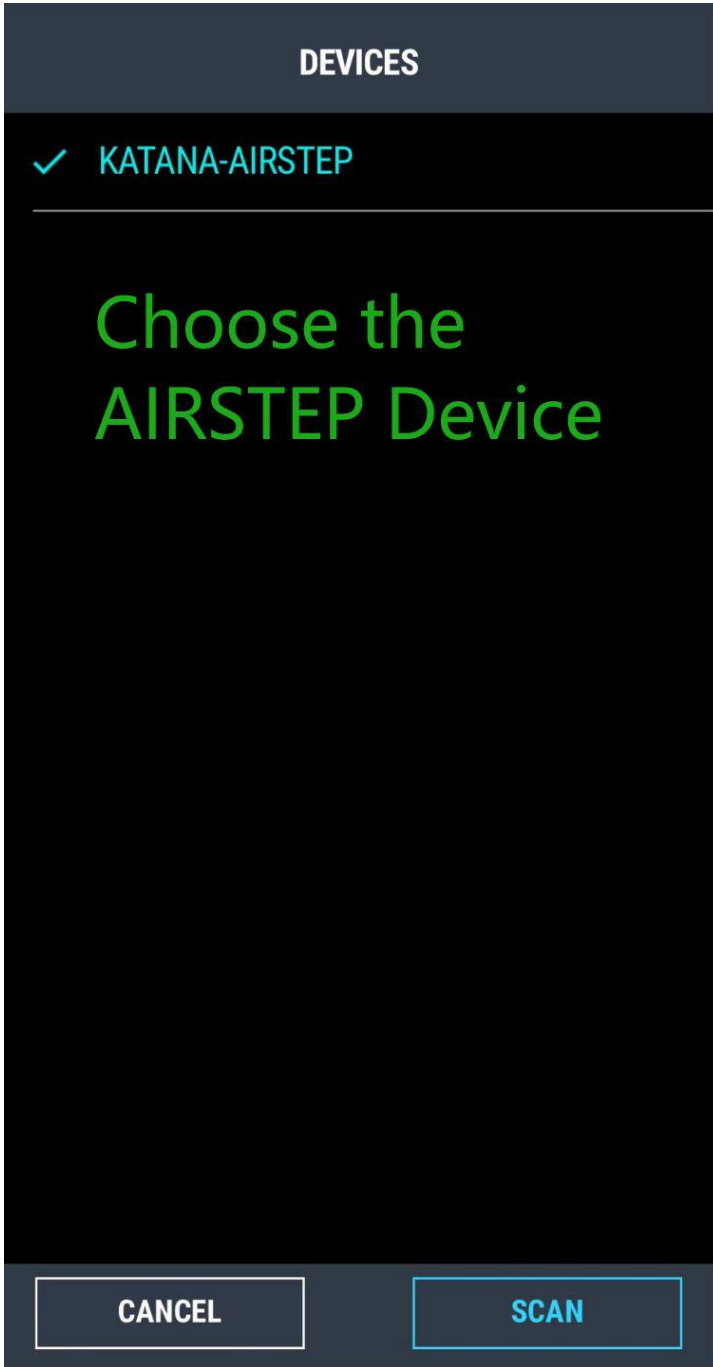KATANA Gen 3     KATANA Librarian       KATANA AIR     KATANA Librarian

## Gen3       MkII & MkI

**KATANA Gen 3 App Connection Diagram**

**KATANA-AIR App Connection Diagram**

# Katana Librarian Connection Diagram



**Left screen:**

🧰 **Connect Amp** ← ①

**All Patches** ⊙

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| McR CLEAN 2 | MKI | ••• |
| McR CLEAN test | MKI | ••• |
| PANEL | MKI | ••• |
| Picking Pushed | Gen 3 | ••• |
| Solo | MKII | ••• |
| Katana Clean | *Demo* MKI | ••• |
| Katana Demo 1 | *Demo* MKI | ••• |
| Katana Demo 2 | *Demo* MKI | ••• |
| Katana Demo 3 | *Demo* MKI | ••• |
| Katana Demo 4 | *Demo* MKI | ••• |
| JNs ACDC | *Demo* MKI | ••• |
| JNs Fusion Lead | *Demo* MKI | ••• |
| JNs FusionCrunch | *Demo* MKI | ••• |
| JNs GMoore Clean | *Demo* MKI | ••• |

Library | Editor | Virtual GA-FC | Settings

**Right screen:**

**Connect Amp**

A compatible Bluetooth adapter is required in order to connect to the amp.

View Compatible Bluetooth Adapters  >

②

**STEP 1**

Connect Bluetooth Adapter  >

**STEP 2**

Connect to Amp via 网络

Cancel

BLUETOOTH MIDI DEVICES ③

**KATANA-AIRSTEP**       Connected
Input / Output

# Choose the AIRSTEP Device

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**Connect Amp**

A compatible Bluetooth adapter is required in order to connect to the amp.

View Compatible Bluetooth Adapters ›

STEP 1

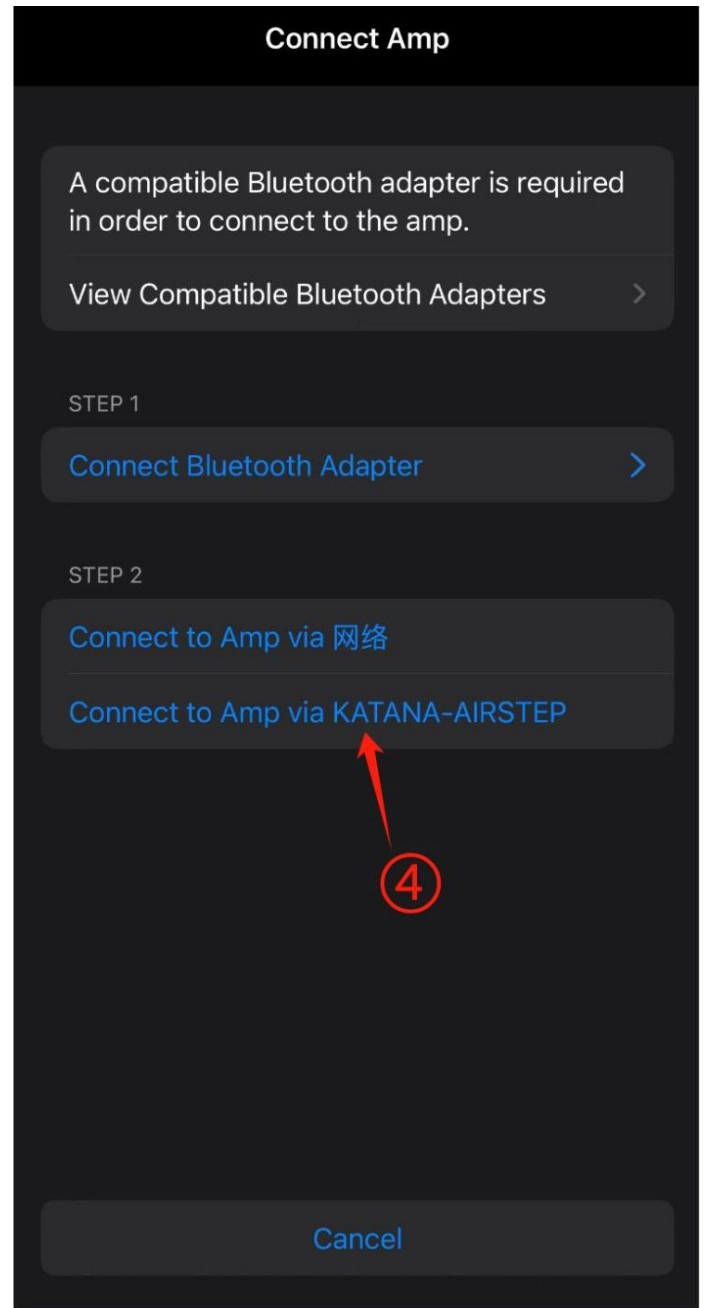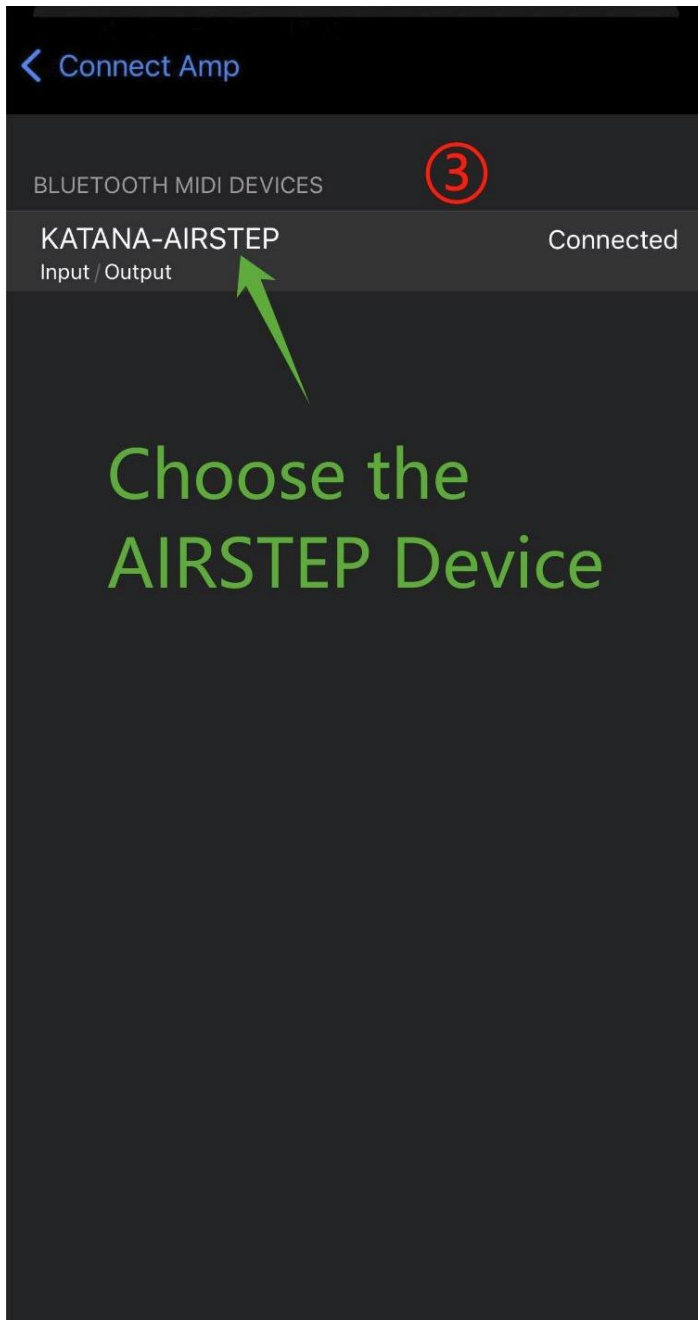Connect Bluetooth Adapter ›

STEP 2

Connect to Amp via 网络

Connect to Amp via KATANA-AIRSTEP

④

Cancel

**Using Expression Pedals**

AIRSTEP Kat EX supports most standard expression pedals. For best compatibility, it is recommended to use BOSS or Roland expression pedals. Two expression pedals can be connected simultaneously for real-time control of various KATANA parameters, which can be assigned in the BTS app.

- **EXP IN 1** on AIRSTEP corresponds to **GA-FC EXP1** in the app.
- **EXP IN 2** on AIRSTEP corresponds to **GA-FC EXP2** in the app.



## Battery Charging

AIRSTEP Kat EX provides up to 15 hours of continuous use on a full charge. To conserve battery life, please turn off the device when not in use.
**Important**: Charging is only supported through the **Charging Port**. Do not attempt to charge via the USB port.

You can charge the unit using the included **USB-A to DC cable** or a standard **9V pedal power supply**. While charging, the LED next to the charging port will light **red**, and it will turn **green** once fully charged.

## Firmware Update

To update the firmware, download the "**AIRSTEP Updater**" app from your mobile app store. After installation, launch the app and make sure to **grant Bluetooth and location permissions** when prompted.

To enter firmware update mode, **press and hold the 4th footswitch while powering on** the AIRSTEP. The **LED above the 2nd footswitch** will light up, indicating that the device is now in firmware update mode.

Follow the on-screen instructions in the app to complete the update process step by step, as shown in the diagram below.

## AIRSTEP Updater

MODEL  SELECT UPDATE MODEL ①

AIRSTEP Kat EX Edition

Device  SELECT UPDATE DEVICE

DEVICE NAME

File  SELECT UPDATE FILE

Experimental Mode for Spk Edition

AIRSTEP BW Edition

AIRSTEP YT Edition

②

AIRSTEP Kat EX Edition ✓

AIRSTEP Kat Edition

For Test Only

CHOOSE

## AIRSTEP Updater

MODEL  SELECT UPDATE MODEL

AIRSTEP Kat EX Edition

③

Device  SELECT UPDATE DEVICE

AIRSTEP Kat EX

④

File  SELECT UPDATE FILE

AIRSTEP Kat EX ✓

NPYDLD/4Q5kEzyqh/nUalZqME

AIRSTEP Kat

AIRSTEP

AIRSTEP

KATANA-AIRSTEP

Mustang Micro Plus

CHOOSE

# AIRSTEP Updater

MODEL  SELECT UPDATE MODEL

AIRSTEP Kat EX Edition

Device  SELECT UPDATE DEVICE

AIRSTEP Kat EX

⑤

File  SELECT UPDATE FILE

KatEX_Firmware_V1.1 ✓

KatEX_Firmware_V1.0

⑥

Choose the
latest version to
update

CHOOSE

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MODEL  SELECT UPDATE MODEL

AIRSTEP Kat EX Edition

Device  SELECT UPDATE DEVICE

AIRSTEP Kat EX

File  SELECT UPDATE FILE

KatEX_Firmware_V1.1

START UPDATE

⑦

How to Update

## AIRSTEP Updater

MODEL  SELECT UPDATE MODEL

AIRSTEP Kat EX Edition

Device  SELECT UPDATE DEVICE

AIRSTEP Kat EX

**Updating**

KatE

START UPDATE

How to Update

## AIRSTEP Updater

MODEL  SELECT UPDATE MODEL

AIRSTEP Kat EX Edition

Device  SELECT UPDATE DEVICE

DEVICE NAME

**Updating**

Update successfully.

Exit

FILE

START UPDATE

How to Update