

Ztar Trigger Cap Assembly ExpressionPad Option:

The **TCA-1** (TriggerCapAssembly-1) is an optional set of Expression Pads that are added to the Ztar top surface in place of the standard hex pickup cover. The TCA-1 is comprised of six narrow rubber pads resting in line with the strings on the fingerboard and the StringTriggers for the picking hand. These six Pads may be programmed to a variety of MIDI event such as Notes, chords, Sequences, Loops, Program changes, EFX level changes, and Continuous Control messages. These pads may also be used to Trigger notes fretted on the fingerboard.

The TCA-1 pads are referred to as “TriggerPads” or “TPads” in the menu system. As a default they are programmed to a set of Drum notes on MIDI Channel 10. With a little practice it's easy to fingerpick a drum pattern on the TriggerPads.

The settings for the TriggerPads can be easily changed to accomplish a variety of MIDI functions. To make these settings go to the SENSORS screen in the menu system and tap one of the TPads. You should see the screen jump to an edit-screen for that TPad. Refer to the discussion regarding the SENSORS menu for details about making the settings.

In general you will be setting three things:

- 1) the **PlayFunction** shown at the top of the SENSORS screen shows *BASIC, ALL, SEQUENTIAL, CONTINUOUS-CONTROL, ETC.* This sets what type of messages are sent and in what sequence.
- 2) The **EVENTS** screen shows the settings for up to 8 events such as *Notes, CC changes, Program Changes*, and more. By combining different Events with different PlayFunctions you can achieve a huge variety of performance techniques.
- 3) The **TIMING** screen is set to
 - a. TOUCH if the duration or the Events (notes) is simply as long as the Pad is held down,
 - b. TIMED when the Events' duration is set in terms of milliseconds or MIDI clocks (governed by the MIDI clock source such as the internal metronome or external clock) or,
 - c. LATCHED which plays the Events and holds them until you hit the Pad again.

Some fun tricks with the TCA1:

- 1) Hold a chord on the fingerboard. Press the “REC” hotkey and see the “REC” LED flash. While holding the chord, tap one of the Trigger Pads and the chord will appear there.

If you only hear one note, go into the SENSORS/ EVENTS screen for that TPad and set the **PlayFunction** from *BASIC* to *ALL*. Now you’ll hear the full chord. You can tap the chord with one finger and play a bassline or melody on the fingerboard with the other hand. Set up all six TPadS with chords this way.

You can also turn one of these chords into a sequence in the SENSORS/EVENTS by setting the **PlayFunction** to “*SEQUENTIAL*” to make the chord a sequence. Also, in the SENSORS/EVENTS screen you can change the note-duration from milliseconds to MIDI-clocks so you can adjust the sequence-timing with the onboard metronome. Press the softkey where it says gate-time and see the *asterix(*)* appear after the number to indicate MIDI-CLOCKS.

Then, go to the SENSORS/TIMING screen to set the Hit-Mode to *TIMED* so the TPad will play out its notes using the onboard metronome rather than timing the notes from your touch. Set the BPM where you like it in the UTILITIES/CLOCKS screen.

These little (up to 8-note) sequences may be also single-stepped by setting the PlayFunction to *ALT-UP*, *ALT-DN*, or *ALT-RANDOM*.

Bend individual strings from the TCA-1

- 1) Set up a Ztar Song (preset) such as “6STRING” that has each fingerboard string on a different MIDI channel.
- 2) In the SENSORS screen, tap a TPad to select it. Set the MODE to *EVENTS*.
- 3) In the EVENTS screen set the **PlayFunction** to “*ContCtl*”
- 4) At the bottom of the EVENTS screen set the (only one) Event to *PitchBend-Up* and set the MIDI channel to the channel of the corresponding fingerboard string. If you set up all the TPadS to match the fingerboard strings this way you’ll be able to hold a chord and bend individual strings by pressing the proper TPadS.