

# GETTING STARTED

If you're absolutely new to MIDI and want to know more, you can find the MIDI specifications at [www.midi.org](http://www.midi.org)

## Basic layout of the instrument:

1] The Ztar is divided into two main categories, the **Fretboard** and the **Sensors**. The Sensors include the String Triggers and all the Pads, Pots, Pedals and other performance devices on the instrument.

2] There is a row of Function "**HotKeys**" on the top of the Z7S and at the side of the Z6 model Ztar. These HotKeys control functions that you are most likely to change quickly while you are playing music.

3] There is also a **Programming/Display** module onboard that you will use to setup up the various functions of the Ztar in detail.

Press EDIT and you will see selections for programming the features of the Ztar.

The Fretboard is programmed in the *Fretboard* or *Zones* screen.

The Sensors are assigned MIDI Events in the *Sensors* screen .

The Sensors physical response is set up in the *Response* screen and the *Curves* screen

## Power Up the Ztar:

The Ztar can be powered from either a **DC power supply** or a **USB 2.0 port** on your computer. If the instrument is equipped with USB, a 3-position power switch is provided with **DC <>OFF<>USB** power positions.

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### ***To Power from the AC/DC adapter:***

- Use a **5-conductor** MIDI cable (all 5 pins must be wired) from the Ztar MIDI Output to the Controller connection on the PB-1 power supply adapter.
- Connect a MIDI cable from the SYNTH jack of the PB-1 to the MIDI IN on your synth or other MIDI system.
- Connect the supplied DC wall-supply to the PB-1.

- Flip the power switch on the instrument and you should see the display light up. If it doesn't, check your MIDI cable and wall-wart for correct type and connections. If you're stuck here go the Troubleshooting section at the rear of the manual.

DC power is supplied to the instrument from a wall-mount AC/DC power supply that connects to your PB1 phantom power adapter. A standard 5-wire MIDI cable from the PB1 to your Ztar MIDI Out Port will power the Ztar and route MIDI data to your synth.

Move the 3-position rocker switch to the DC position.

*If you have a Starr Labs Phantom Battery Supply for use with your onboard MIDI wireless transmitter, connect it to the Ztar input port instead of the MIDI cable.*

**Connecting to USB Power:**

Connect a USB cable from the USB port on the Ztar to the USB 2.0 compliant USB port on your computer.

Move the 3-position rocker switch to the USB position.

***She's Up and Running when you see the first bank of 8 presets showing on the Display Screen.***

**Note:**

*In the startup Display menu you will see the first bank of eight presets or zTar "Songs".*

**Song #1** is set up to play like a guitar, the String Triggers are ON and the fingerboard is playing one-note-per-string with Hammers=ON, Guitar-tuning.

**Song #2** is the same as Song #1 but a second 'Zone' has been added to the full fingerboard that will let you tap the notes in addition to picking the notes. This will have the tendency to make your picking seem a bit more fluid. You may want to adjust the volume of the Zone#2 so the tapped notes are not so loud.

**Adjusting String Tension:**

**If the string tension is incorrect you can adjust it at the tailpiece using the row of screws nearest the center of the zTar.**

**Plugging in the Battery Pack:**

## Basic Performance Setup:

The Ztar can be strummed and picked like a guitar or tapped like a keyboard, or both together. Use the function keys and the *Fretboard (Zones)* screens in the programmer to set up the Ztar the way you like it. Your settings are saved in battery-backed memory.

### The basic HotKey functions:

If the **TRIG** and **G/POLY** LEDs are now lit you're set up like a guitar so start picking! *Hold a key on the fingerboard* and press the **TRIG** button to play the fingerboard tapping-style. Hold a key and press the **G/Poly** button to play more than one note per string. Use the same method to change Patches or Octaves.

**Use the Live Menu**, the power-up run-time to select onboard patches or **SONGS**.

Hit the **EDIT-KEY** to enter the **Song Menu**, the Ztar's top-level Edit-screen. From there you'll access all of the edit functions.

**Use the Zone Menu** to set up the fingerboard according to your needs. This includes defining areas of the neck for selected voices, MIDI channels, transpositions, Velocity Inversion, and Base Volume setting.

**Use the Sensor Menu** to program the Pads, Triggers, Joystick, and Pedals for MIDI effects, chords, and sequences.

**Use the Utilities/Tuning Menu** to set the tuning for the fingerboard, the Open Strings, Right/Left switch and Enable the HammerOns/PullOffs.

**Use the Triggers front-panel key** to turn on/off the Triggers. With the Triggers On you can strum them like a guitar. With the Triggers Off you can tap the fingerboard like a keyboard.

**Use the Guitar/Poly key** to switch between One-Note-per-String or All-Notes-per-String. You can play the "Open Strings" in GUITAR mode with the TRIGGERS ON. Strike the Trigger with nothing fretted to hear the open string.

**Use the Pat+/Pat-** and **Oct+/Oct-** Hotkeys to set the synth patch(es) and Octave.

After you've created a special setup, or "Song" in Ztar-speak, for the Fingerboard and the Sensors according to your needs you can save it to battery-backed memory by using the **Write** key or the "Write" menu from the display.

**IF YOU GET STUCK AND NEED HELP PLEASE HARVEY at STARRLABS,  
858-271-9827**

## **Ztar Embedded RF TRANSCEIVER Instructions**

### **Power:**

The Ztar Embedded Transmitter is connected to the power supply inside the instrument and it is always powered-up with the Ztar.

The AirPower receiver may be powered either of three ways:

- 1) (2) AA batteries
- 2) 9VDC wall adapter
- 3) USB

The Receiver's 3-way power switch settings are USB/Batteries<>OFF<>DC Power

### **MIDI Port:**

On the transmitter the MIDI data that feeds its MIDI Input Port is wired internally directly to the Ztar's MIDI Output.

On the Receiver the MIDI port is connected to the MIDI Input of your synth or MIDI system.

Also, you can connect the AirtPower receiver via USB to your host computer which will both power the receiver and send USB-MIDI data into the computer.

### **Receiver Indicator Lamps:**

Power: Power will blink if the battery is low

MIDI: The lamp will blink when MIDI information is being transmitted.

Link: The lamp will blink when the link is experiencing a fringe reception condition.

### **Channel select:**

The Transmitter and receiver are equipped with 16-position rotary switches to select a vacant RF channel. The Transmitter embedded in the Ztar has its channel selection set at the factory to 0 in most cases.

When selecting a different channel, set the Transmitter and set the receiver to match. Power-cycle both the transmitter and receiver to re-initialize the channel settings in both units.

In the case of the transmitter embedded in the Ztar, you will need to remove the backplate to access the channel-selection rotary-switch.

### **9.6V Main Battery Supply (MIDI Battery)**

In order to be completely free of cables, when the Ztar is using the AirPower wireless data connection, you can supply main power to the Ztar system by means of the special Starr Labs MIDI Battery. Simply plug the battery into the Ztar's MIDI Output port and it will supply phantom power through its MIDI cable connection.

### **To charge the MIDI battery:**

Connect the Smart charger to the PB1 DC input jack.

Connect the MIDI battery to the PB1 Controller jack.

The indicator lamp on the smart charger will light up when the battery is charging. The light will turn off when the battery is charged.