Polyend Perc

Polyend Perc
Drumming Machine
User Manual

The first one

You've finally got your hands on Perc, thank you for purchasing it! You probably knew everything about the Perc before you've made an effort to spent your pocket money to get it. We appreciate it. But even if we think that there are not too many things to explain about Perc, we've prepared this small introduction for you.

The Perc is Polyend's first product and even while we're proud of all our instruments it will always remain special to our crew. Its development has determined Polyend's later approach to the innovative use of technology in the creation of musical instruments. It has also shown us the patch between being inspired by music and making unique tools for musicians.
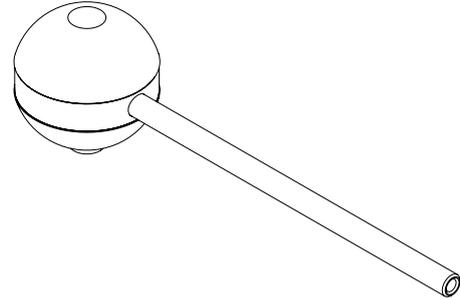
What it's all about

The Perc is a MIDI/CV controlled drumming machine which can play on pretty much everything that drums and resonates. It wasn't created with a classic drum set on mind or for replacing the drummers. Nothing will ever replace a real performer and one's groove and feeling in mashing the drums. It was made for experimentation, more into having a drum machine out of anything that's in the kitchen, garage etc. To have a tool that will be able to follow the most complicated rhythms always in time. For a creative person, it can be an endless source of inspiration. Bear this in mind and take your time, experiment as much as you can. Talking about creative ideas, you'll probably notice fast that Perc isn't offering any open/close hi-hat mechanisms, but if you'd go the creative way and install one beater on top of your hi-hat and another one on the bottom, you can achieve a similar effect.

Yet, Perc can also be a great companion for your drum kit training techniques and everyday routines. Use it as a metronome, even without an external additional sequencer by toggling on its simple tap tempo internal clock, or feed it with crazily complicated MIDI rhythm files and try to follow it. Perc is crazy fast and is fully velocity and tempo controllable too. It can also serve as your additional hand or hands as our bodies are physically limited.

Mentioning the body limits, Perc can also be useful to people with both congenital and acquired disabilities and allow them to chase or continue following their musical ideas. We've already seen this and we're especially proud of that fact.
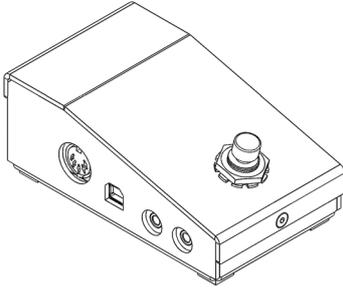
Quick start

Every Perc kit consists of the controller, beater and clamp which will allow you to mount the beater in a convenient way. All the necessary cabling and an AC adapter are also included.

First, connect the beater using the clickable DMX XLR captive socket located on the back of the controller. Please avoid connecting beater to the controller when it's already turned on. If you do so, it won't make it explode, but there's a slight chance that one day this might damage it. Connect the attached AC adapter to the unit, and of course, to the power outlet. Once this is done, just set up the beaters in place, and you're ready to start hitting things.

Now feed the Perc controller with a MIDI data or analog CV signals. Perc will work with any MIDI and CV transmitting device, your favorite DAW, hardware sequencer, modular system or smartphone apps. Just connect any source via USB, MIDI DIN or CV gate input, and you're ready for pairing.

There's only one switch on the controller surface. It works in two modes, by putting Perc into a learning mode and also serves as a simple "metronome" style onboard sequencer.

1. Press the button for two seconds - the LED on the back panel will start flashing. Now the controller is in its learn mode and is waiting for a signal from your controlling device. This way Perc controller will learn the MIDI note and channel for the corresponding beater.

2. Double-click the button to activate the Tap Tempo function. The controller will detect the tempo after for taps. Perc will rhythmically replay it in the 4x4 signature. Double-click the button again and the simple sequence will stop, click on it once – it will start again.

Other information you might find useful:

- You can daisy-chain as many Perc controllers as needed by using their MIDI output and input ports.

- The simple "metronome" style sequencer isn't spitting the notes out, so each controller can have its own sequence tapped in separately. Even while daisy-chained to another controller units.

- The beater's connector cable is 3 meters long, but you can extend it by using regular 5 pin DMX XLR cable.

- The striker comes out from the beater for about 5 millimetres, which makes this is the longest distance the beater should be mounted from the instrument. There's no smallest distance thought. It's up to you and the effect you want to achieve; the beater can touch the membrane of a kick drum for example.

- There are three different types of strikers available - oak, aluminum and silicone and each of them will have a different effect on a same instrument. You can't replace the striker by yourself, but remember that you can also attach different types of fabric on top of a striker to achieve what you need.

- The Perc Pro is fully velocity controllable - that means it can play gentle or hit strong. Another thing is it can be very fast, ridiculously fast.

Limited warranty

Polyend warrants this product, to the original owner, to be free of defects in materials or construction for one year from the date of purchase. Proof of purchase is necessary when a warranty claim is made. Malfunctions resulting from improper power supply voltages, backwards or faulty cable connection, abuse of the product or any other causes determined by Polyend to be the fault of the user are not covered by this warranty (normal services rates will be applied). All defective products will be replaced or repaired at the discretion of Polyend. Products must be returned directly to Polyend with the customer paying the shipping cost. Polyend implies and accepts no responsibility for harm to person or apparatus through operation of this product. Please contact hello@polyend.com for return to manufacturer authorization, or any other technical questions/concerns. Thank you, all best!