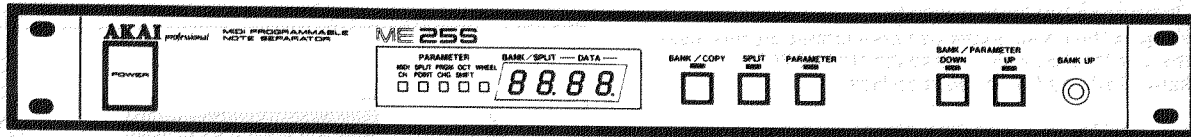


AKAI

professional

ME 255

MIDI PROGRAMMABLE NOTE SEPARATOR



WARNING

to prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose this appliance to rain or moisture.

Operator's Manual

Warning

Power requirements

Power requirements for electrical equipment differ from area to area. Please ensure that your machine meets the power requirements in your area.

If in doubt, consult a qualified electrician.

120 V, 60 Hz for USA and Canada
220 V, 50 Hz for Europe except UK
240 V, 50 Hz for UK and Australia

What you should know to protect yourself and the Akai ME25S.

Watch out! You might get an electric shock.

- Never touch the plug with wet hands.
- Always pull out by the plug and never the cord.
- Only let a qualified professional repair or reassemble the Akai ME25S. An unauthorized person might touch the internal parts and receive a serious electric shock.
- Never allow a child to put anything, especially metal, into the Akai ME25S.

Let's protect the Akai ME25S too.

- Use only a household AC power source. Never use a DC power source.
- If water is spilled on the Akai ME25S, disconnect it and call your dealer.
- Make sure that the Akai ME25S is well ventilated and away from direct sunlight.
- To avoid damage to the internal circuits and the external surface, keep away from heat (stoves, etc.).
- Avoid using spray type insecticide near the Akai ME25S. It can damage the finish and might ignite suddenly.
- To avoid damaging the finish, never use denaturated alcohol, paint thinner or other similar chemicals to clean the Akai ME25S.
- Place the Akai ME25S on a flat and solid surface.

To enjoy the Akai ME25S for a long time, please read this operator's manual thoroughly.

Should a problem persist, write down the model and serial numbers and all pertinent data regarding warranty coverage as well as a clear description of the existing trouble. Then, contact your nearest authorized Akai Service Station, or the Service Department of Akai Electric Company, Tokyo, Japan.

Precautions

FOR CUSTOMERS IN THE UK

IMPORTANT FOR YOUR SAFETY

The flex supplied with your machine will have either two wires or three, as shown in the illustrations.

TWO CORE FLEX IMPORTANT

The wires in this mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code:

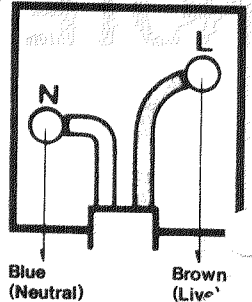
Blue: Neutral


Brown: Live

As the colours of the wires in the mains lead of this apparatus may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in your plug, proceed as follows: The wire which is coloured blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured black.


The wire which is coloured brown must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter L or coloured red.

- * Do not connect any wire to the larger pin marked E or \perp wiring a plug. Ensure that all terminals are securely tightened and that no loose strands of wire exist.





CAUTION
RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK
DO NOT OPEN



CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK). NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.



- The lightning flash with the arrowhead symbol superimposed across a graphical representation of a person, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure; that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock.



- The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

Features

The ME25S is a processor for use exclusively with MIDI electronic instruments.

1. This processor makes it possible to split the note data of the MIDI signals into four groups, assign a MIDI channel to each, and transmit the data on each channel.
2. When connected to a MIDI keyboard not equipped with the split function, the keyboard can be split, making it possible to play a number of sound modules or samplers with a single keyboard.
3. The ME25S can be used to assign MIDI channels and transmit data even on a keyboard having only one MIDI transmission channel.
A foot switch can be used to switch sound modules or samplers, making for very efficient playing.
4. 64 split or other set up patterns can be stored in the memory, and the memory bank can be switched immediately using the foot switch and the MIDI program change data of an instrument connected to the ME25S input.
- NOTE OFF data is emitted when the bank is switched, thus preventing malfunction of sound modules or samplers connected to the ME25S.

Specifications

• CONNECTION TERMINALS

INPUT	MIDI/IN (DIN/5P) × 1
OUTPUT	MIDI/OUT (DIN/5P) × 2
	MIDI/THRU (DIN/5P) × 1

BANK UP (For foot switch/standard phone jack) × 1

• MIDI RECEPTION CHANNEL/IN CH. 1

• MIDI TRANSMISSION CHANNEL/OUT CH. 1~16

• FUNCTIONS

POWER Power Switch: ON/OFF

DISPLAY 7 segment red LEDs w/dots × 4

BANK/COPY Bank/Copy mode selector

SPLIT Split channel assign switch

PARAMETER Parameter selector

MIDI CH/1~16

SPLIT POINT/0~127 × 4

PROGRAM CHANGE/1~128

OCTAVE SHIFT/±3

WHEEL/ON, OFF

BANK/PARAMETER DOWN, UP: Numerical setting switch
(For wheel setting, off/down, on/up)

• MEMORY BANK × 64

• POWER

REQUIREMENTS 120 V, 60 Hz for USA and Canada

220 V, 50 Hz for Europe except UK

240 V, 50 Hz for UK and Australia

• POWER CONSUMPTION 5 W

• FRONT PANEL EIA-1U rack mount type

• MAXIMUM EXTERNAL

DIMENSIONS 482.6 (W) × 45.7 (H) × 120 (D) mm

• WEIGHT 1.8 kg

* For improvement purposes, specifications and design are subject to change without notice.

Table of Contents

Warning, Precautions	1
Features, Specifications	2
Controls	3
Connections	4
Operation	5
Examples of Applications	8
Notes on Operation	10

3 Controls

EIA-1U Rack Mount Type Front Panel

When using the ME25S on a rack, be sure to use an EIA rack and secure the ME25S securely with screws.

POWER Switch

Use this switch to turn the ME25S power on and off. When the power is turned on, the LED (b-1) will light.

BANK/SPLIT Mode Display

"b" is displayed in the BANK/COPY mode. In the COPY mode, the "b" flashes. Also, 1-4 are displayed when in the split mode.

Bank Number/Parameter Data Display

When in the BANK mode, 1-64 are displayed. When in the SPLIT mode, the MIDI CH, SPLIT POINT, PRGM CHG (program change), OCT SHIFT, or WHEEL ON, OFF parameter data is displayed. The dot (.) located underneath and to the right of the 100s place indicates the split point's lower voice note number setting mode. The dot (.) which is located underneath and to the right of the 1s place indicates the upper voice note number setting mode.

BANK/PARAMETER DOWN Switch and Indicator

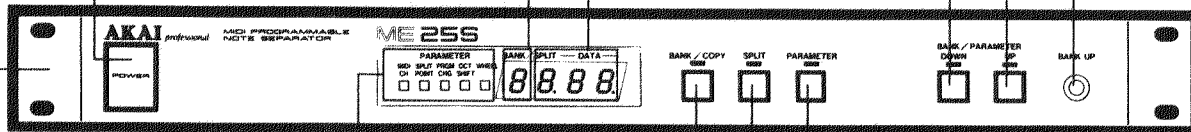
This switch is used to decrease the bank number or parameter value. The value decreases one step each time the switch is pressed. If held depressed, the values decrease automatically.

BANK/PARAMETER UP Switch and Indicator

This switch is used to increase the bank number or parameter value. The value increases one step each time the switch is pressed. If held depressed, the values increase automatically.

BANK UP Jack

Use this jack to connect the foot switch. The foot switch can be used to change the bank number.



PARAMETER Indicator

Displays the mode according to the position of the parameter selection switch.

BANK/COPY Switch and Indicator

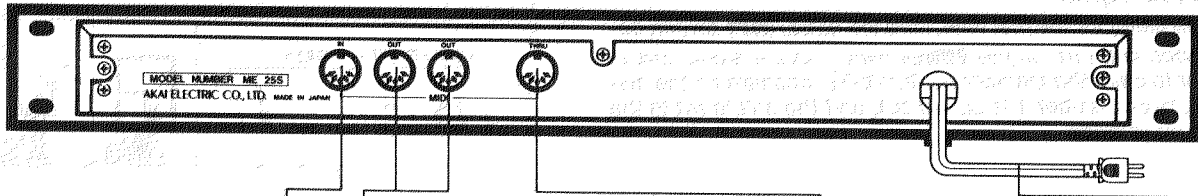
This switch is used to call out a bank number or to copy the data for one bank number onto another bank number.

PARAMETER Switch and Indicator

This switch is used to select among five types of parameters; MIDI channel, split point, program change, octave shift, or wheel.

SPLIT Channel Assign Switch Indicator

This is the four group split channel assign switch. Each time the switch is pressed, the number on the BANK/SPLIT mode display increases from 1-4.



MIDI IN Jack
This input jack is exclusively for MIDI signals. Connect it to the MIDI OUT jack on a sequencer, keyboard, etc.

MIDI OUT Jacks
These output jacks are exclusively for MIDI signals. Connect them to the MIDI IN jacks on a sound module, sampler, or keyboard. The same MIDI signals are transmitted from both jacks.

MIDI THRU Jack
When this jack is used, the MIDI signals input to the MIDI IN jack are output directly without being processed.

Power Cord and Plug
Connect the power cord to a household AC outlet.

Connections

Before Connecting

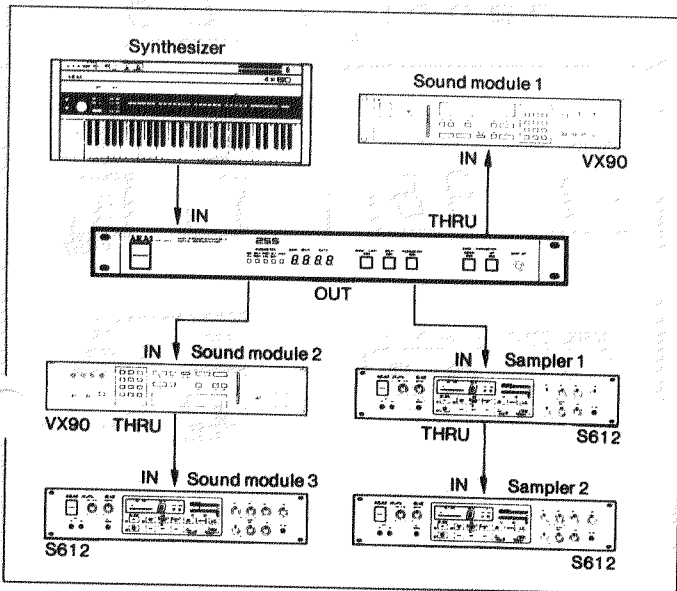
- Make sure the power of the equipment to be connected has been turned off.
- Insert the plugs securely into the jacks.

Connections

- Use MIDI cables (DIN/5P plugs) for connections to the **MIDI IN**, **MIDI OUT**, and **MIDI THRU** jacks.
- CH1 is used as the MIDI reception channel. Set the transmission channel of the unit connected to the ME25S **MIDI IN** jack to CH1.

Example of Connections

- In this example, several external sources (sound modules, samplers) can be played on the keyboard with split voices.

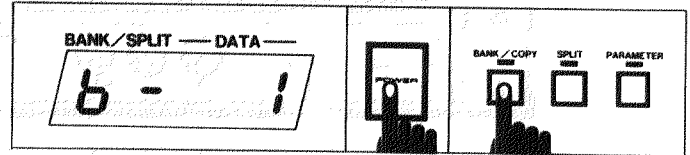


1. Sound module (1): Sound is produced on MIDI CH1 over the total range of the keyboard.
2. Sound module (2): Sound is produced on the MIDI channel assigned to split 1 over the assigned range.
3. Sound module (3): Sound is produced on the MIDI channel assigned to split 2 over the assigned range.
4. Sampler (1): Sound is produced on the MIDI channel assigned to split 3 over the assigned range.
5. Sampler (2): Sound is produced on the MIDI channel assigned to split 4 for the assigned range.

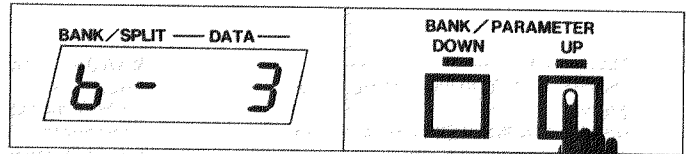
5 Operation

1. Basic Input

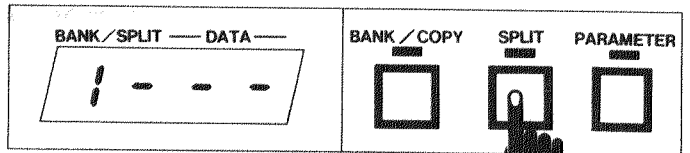
1. When using for the first time, hold the **BANK/COPY** switch depressed and turn on the **POWER** switch at the same time in order to clear the memory bank. "b-1" appears on the display, bank number 1 is called out, and the unit is set to the data input mode.



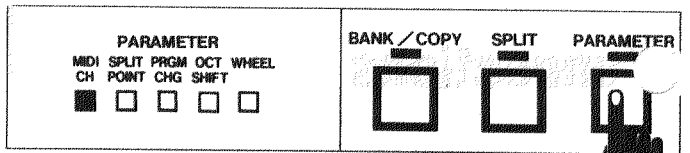
2. Use the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** and **DOWN** switches to set the bank number (1-64). The value increases one step each time the **UP** switch is pressed. If held depressed, the values increase rapidly. The value decreases one step each time the **DOWN** switch is pressed. If held depressed, the values decrease rapidly.



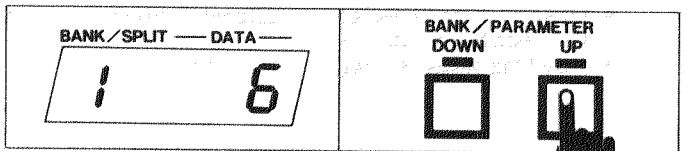
3. Press the **SPLIT** switch and assign the split channel (1-4). Usually begin input from split 1.



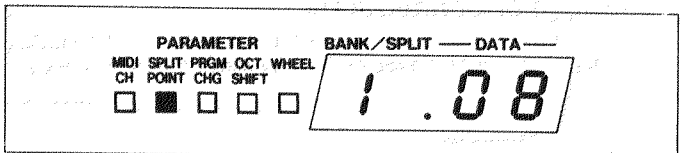
4. Assign a MIDI channel to the assigned split channel. Check that the parameter display's **MIDI CH** indicator is lit. If a different indicator is lit, use the **PARAMETER** switch to light the **MIDI CH** indicator.



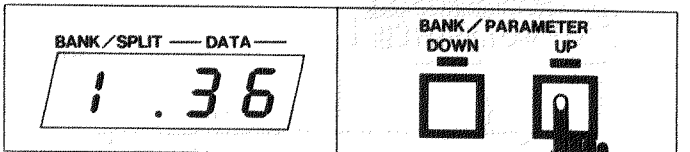
The MIDI channel (1-16) is also set using the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** and **DOWN** switches. Once the MIDI channel is assigned, press the **PARAMETER** switch.



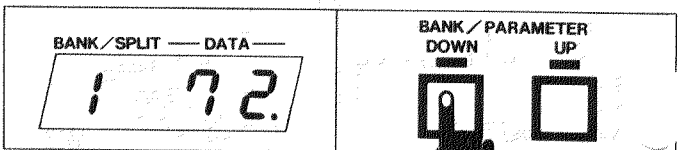
5. When the parameter display's **SPLIT POINT** indicator lights and dot (.) on the data display lights, the split point/lower voice note number (1-127) should be assigned. To do this, use the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** and **DOWN** switches.



6. Press the **PARAMETER** switch again. When the dot (•) beneath and to the right of the data display lights, the split point/upper voice note number (1-127) should be assigned. Use the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** and **DOWN** switches to do this.



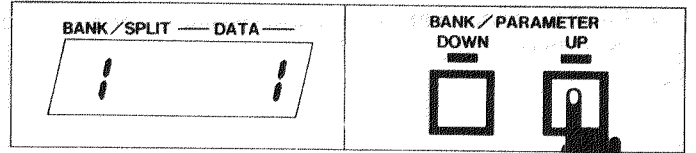
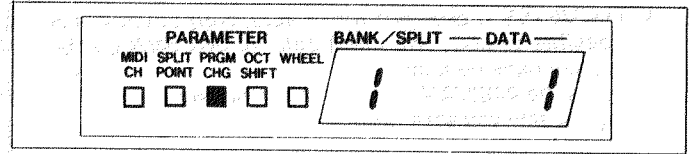
NOTE: The upper note number cannot drop lower than the lower note number.



7. Press the **PARAMETER** switch. When the **PRGM CHG** indicator on the parameter display lights, the program change number should be set.

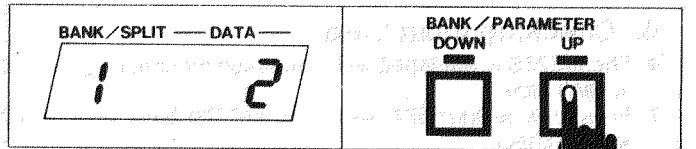
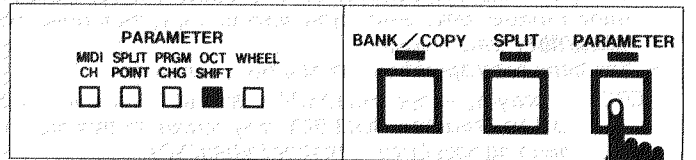
Use the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** and **DOWN** switches to set the program change number (1-128).

NOTE: The program change signal is only sounded when a program is executed or when the bank is changed.

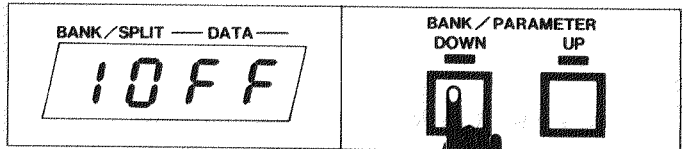


8. Press the **PARAMETER** switch. When the **OCT SHIFT** indicator on the parameter display lights, the split range interval should be set.

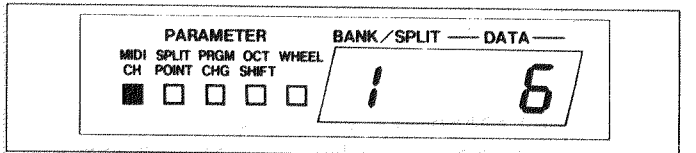
NOTE: Shifting higher than the range of the sound source is not possible.



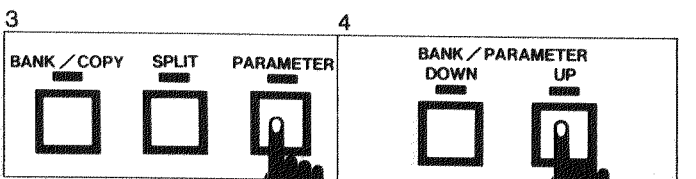
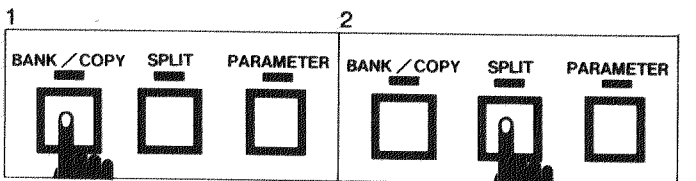
9. To shift the interval, use the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** and **DOWN** switches to set the shift value (-3~0~+3).



10. Press the **PARAMETER** switch. When the **WHEEL** indicator on the parameter display lights, the wheel/bender data should be set on or off. Press the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** switch to turn on, or the **DOWN** switch to turn off, then press the **PARAMETER** switch.



11. The split 1 input has now been completed. The next split channel can be set when the **MIDI CH** indicator on the parameter display lights.
 - Repeat steps 3 through 10 to input splits 2 to 4. The input for one bank number is finished when the input of split 4 has been completed.
 - Now repeat steps 2 through 10 to input other bank numbers.



2. Changing Input Data

1. Press the **BANK/COPY** switch and set the bank number you wish to change.
2. Press the **SPLIT** switch and set the split number you wish to change.
3. Press the **PARAMETER** switch and set to the parameter you wish to change. Use the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** and **DOWN** switches to change the data.
- When changing all input data, hold the **BANK/COPY** switch depressed, and turn on the **POWER** switch at the same time.

3. Copying Input Data

- The ME25S is provided with a bank copy function, making it possible to copy the input data for one bank number onto another bank number.

- Press the **BANK/COPY** switch to set the bank number containing the data you wish to copy.
- Press the **BANK/COPY** switch again and the "b-" on the display will begin to flash.

- Using the **BANK/PARAMETER UP** and **DOWN** switches, set the bank number onto which you wish to copy, then press the **BANK/COPY** switch again.

- The bank copy operation has now been completed.

NOTE: If copying is performed while **MIDI IN** is receiving note ON information, **MIDI OUT** may remain in this state of sending note ON information indefinitely.

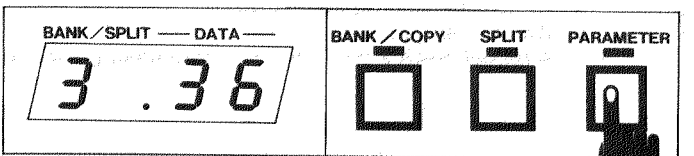
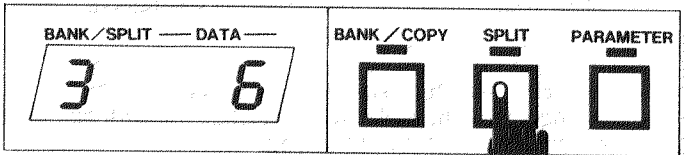
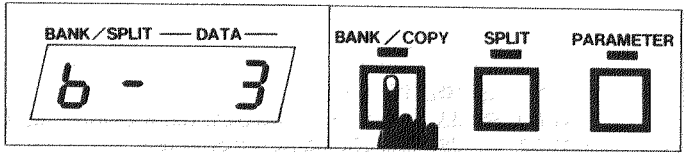
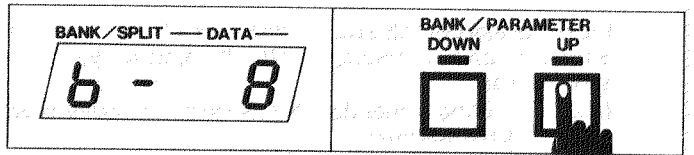
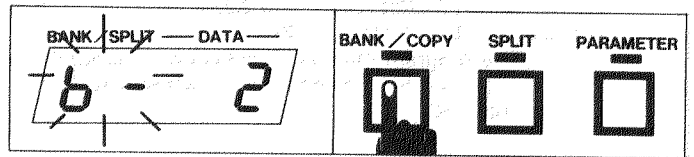
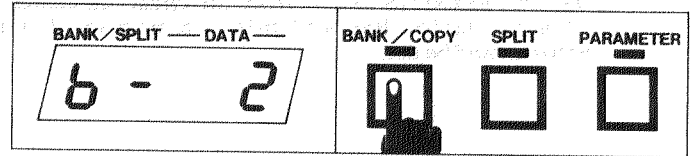
4. Checking Input Data

- The ME25S is equipped with a function for checking the data in each bank.

- Press the **BANK/COPY** switch to set the bank number you wish to check.

- Press the **SPLIT** switch and set the split channel.

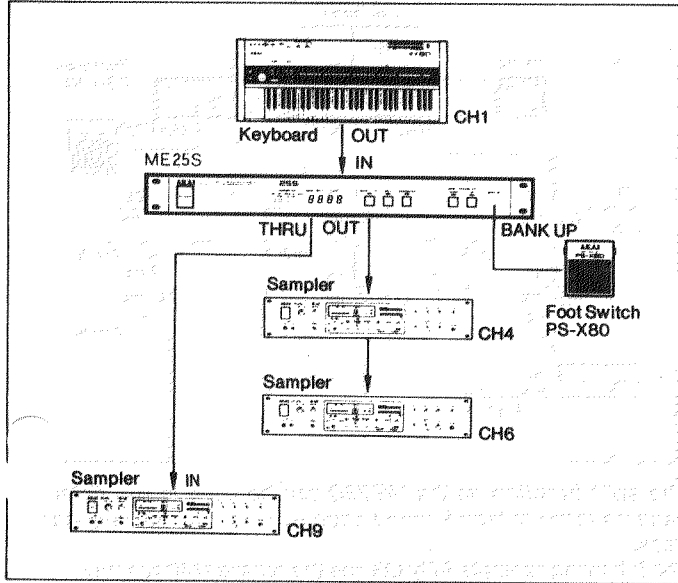
- Press the **PARAMETER** switch. Each time the switch is pressed, the parameter changes in the following order:
MIDI CH → **SPLIT POINT** → **PRGM CHG** → **OCT SHIFT** → **WHEEL**



Examples of Applications

The following examples are designed to help you use the ME25S to its fullest extent.

Using as a MIDI Channel Converter/MIDI Channelizer



When the ME25S is used, transmission is possible on any channel by using the foot switch, even with a keyboard whose MIDI transmission channel is fixed at CH1.

Input Example

BANK 1

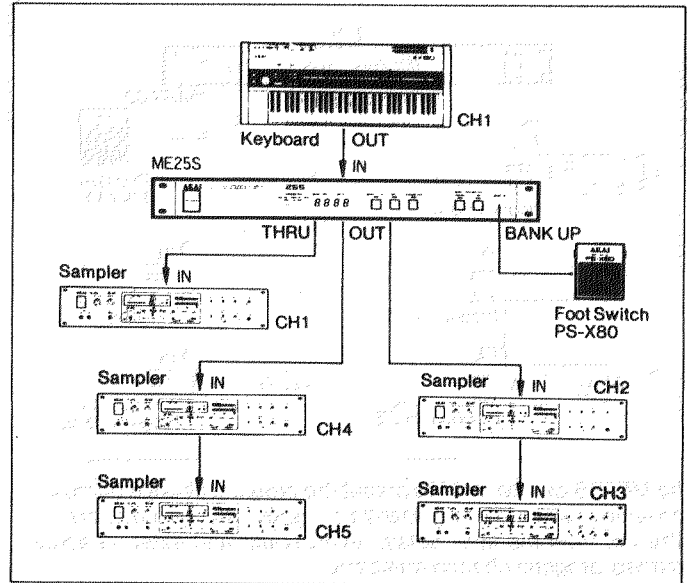
Set SPLIT 1—4 to the following parameters:

- MIDI CH: 4
- SPLIT POINT L: Lowest key on keyboard (C1=36)
- SPLIT POINT H: Highest key on keyboard (C6=96)
- PRGM CHG: Desired program change number
- OCT SHIFT: Set to 0 or anywhere within ± 3
- WHEEL: ON or OFF

For BANK 2, set the MIDI CH for SPLIT 1—4 to 6, and set the parameters to the same values as BANK 1.

For BANK 3, set the MIDI CH for SPLIT 1—4 to 9, and set the parameters to the same values as BANK 1 and 2.

Using as a Keyboard Splitter



A keyboard not equipped with the split function can be split four ways.

Input Example

BANK 1

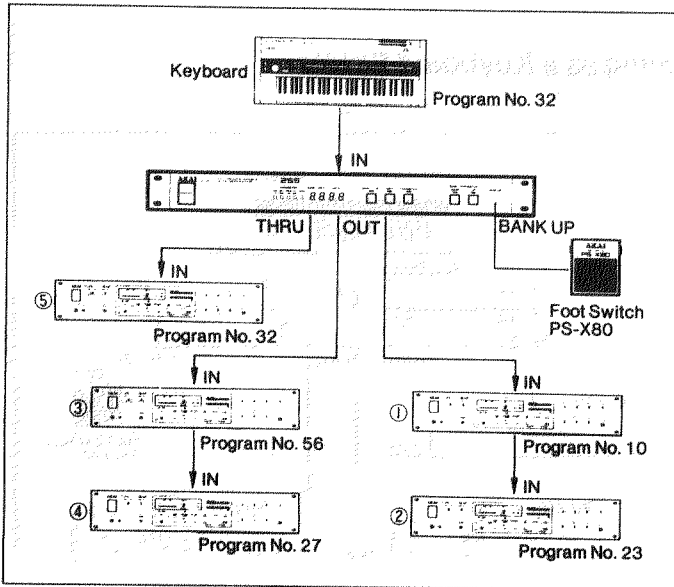
- SPLIT 1
- MIDI CH: 2, SPLIT POINT L: 36 (C1), H: 47 (B1), PRGM CHG: 16, OCT SHIFT: 1, WHEEL: OFF

- SPLIT 2
- MIDI CH: 3, SPLIT POINT L: 48 (C2), H: 71 (B3), PRGM CHG: 21, OCT SHIFT: 0, WHEEL: OFF

- SPLIT 3
- MIDI CH: 4, SPLIT POINT L: 72 (C3), H: 83 (B4), PRGM CHG: 28, OCT SHIFT: -1, WHEEL: ON

- SPLIT 4
- MIDI CH: 5, SPLIT POINT L: 84 (C5), H: 96 (C6), PRGM CHG: 64, OCT SHIFT: -2, WHEEL: OFF

Using as a Program Change Number Presetter



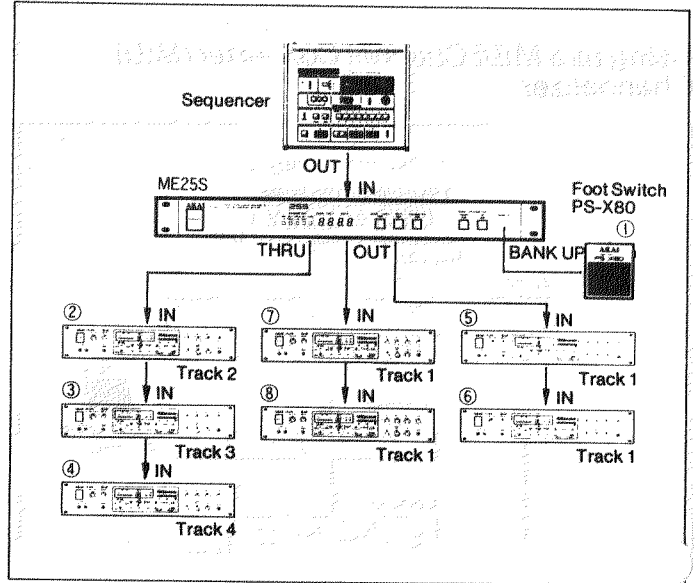
The ME25S can be used to preset the program change numbers, convenient when the keyboard's program change numbers are different from the MIDI delay, reverberator and external sound sources' program change numbers.

Input Example

BANK 32
 SPLIT 1
 MIDI CH: 2, SPLIT POINT L: 36 (C1), H: 96 (C6),
 SPLIT POINT L: 36 (C1), H: 96 (C6)
 PRGM CHG: 10, OCT SHIFT: 0, WHEEL: OFF
 For SPLIT 2-4, set the MIDI CH to (3) - (5) and the PRGM CHG to (23), (56), and (27). Set the other parameters as for SPLIT 1.
 When the split points are changed, external sound sources ① and ② can be used to split the keyboard.

When keyboard program change number (32) is selected, external sound source ⑤ and ME25S bank number (32) are called out, and the program change numbers of external sound sources ① through ⑤ are called out according to the data stored in ME25S bank number (32).

Using the Split Function to its Fullest



The split function on the ME25S can be used to run different parts on many external sound sources over a single sequencer track. The following example fully utilizes the octave shift function.

Input Example

BANK 1
 SPLIT 1
 MIDI CH: 5 (Bass part),
 SPLIT POINT L: 12 (-C1), H: 35 (B0),
 PRGM CHG: 14, OCT SHIFT: 1, WHEEL: OFF
 SPLIT 2
 MIDI CH: 6 (Melody part),
 SPLIT POINT L: 36 (C1), H: 107 (B6),
 PRGM CHG: 26, OCT SHIFT: 0, WHEEL: OFF
 SPLIT 3
 MIDI CH: 7 (Percussion part I),
 SPLIT POINT L: 108 (C7), H: 108 (C7),
 PRGM CHG: 64, OCT SHIFT: -3, WHEEL: OFF
 SPLIT 4
 MIDI CH: 8 (Percussion part II),
 SPLIT POINT L: 110 (D7), H: 110 (D7),
 PRGM CHG: 56, OCT SHIFT: -3, WHEEL: OFF

The play data for external sound sources ⑤ through ⑧ corresponding to the ME25S set up is input to sequencer track 1 by step writing. For tracks 2-4 and above, the data for the corresponding external sound sources is input by either real time playing or step writing. In this way, the ME25S can be used to play a greater number of external sound sources than the number of tracks on the sequencer.

Notes on Operation

The MIDI note numbers 0 through 127 should be fully understood before using the ME25S. The following shows the MIDI note numbers corresponding to the keyboard's scales.

The ME25S is equipped with a function for checking the data in each bank. For convenience, however, we suggest you copy the program sheet on the following page and fill it in.

126	127/G8: Maximum MIDI note number sound
	125
123	124
121	122
	120/C8
118	119
116	117
114	115
	113
111	112
109	110
	108/C7: Maximum 88-key A scale sound
106	107
104	105
102	103
	101
99	100
97	98
	96/C6: Maximum 61-key and 73-key C scale sound (8' range)
94	95
92	93
90	91
	89
87	88
85	86
	84/C5
82	83
80	81
78	79
	77
75	76
73	74
	72/C4
70	71
68	69/A3 — TUNE 438~443 Hz
66	67
	65
63	64
61	62
	60/C3: 88-key A scale (piano) middle C
58	59
56	57
54	55
	53
51	52
49	50
	48/C2
46	47
44	45
42	43
	41
39	40
37	38
	36/C1: Minimum 61-key C scale sound (8' range)
34	35
32	33
30	31
	29
27	28
25	26
	24/C0: Minimum 73-key C scale sound (8' range)
22	23
20	21/-A1: Minimum 88-key A scale sound
18	19
	17
15	16
13	14
	12/-C1
10	11
8	9
6	7
	5
3	4
1	2
	0/-C2: Minimum MIDI note number sound



ME25S Program Sheet

BANK	SPLIT	MIDI CH	SPLIT POINT INPUT LOW~HIGH	PRGM CHG	OCT SHIFT		WHEEL ON/OFF	SOUND MODULE
					± 3	OUTPUT LOW~HIGH		
	1		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	2		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	3		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	4		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	1		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	2		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	3		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	4		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	1		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	2		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	3		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	4		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	1		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	2		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	3		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	4		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	1		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	2		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	3		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	4		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	1		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	2		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	3		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	4		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	1		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	2		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	3		~		±	~	ON/OFF	
	4		~		±	~	ON/OFF	