Philosophy of malletKAT

The malletKAT was created with the goal of being the most expressive MIDI controller ever created. Nuance is what makes an instrument musical. Making an expressive instrument is achieved by creating an instrument that recognizes gestures and interprets these movements to deliver a musical performance. Having the ability to control pitch, pitch bend, volume, gate, etc expands the vocabulary of the performer to express oneself more accurately.

Since 1984, the software inside the malletKAT has continued to develop ways to make the instrument more musical and practical for live professional performance. As a result, there is an enormous amount of programmability (detailed below) built into the instrument to cover any performance demands.

The malletKAT has 256 built in Kits that make playing easy. Just combine the paired sound module or soft synth with the proper SysEx dump and the malletKAT is ready to play. Of course the User can create their own 127 User Kits to make all things possible.

Philosophy of the vibeKAT

The goal of the vibeKAT was to create an instrument that had the exact same sensitivity and playability of the malletKAT, but with a greatly reduced programmable software. This means that the Kits designed for the vibeKAT are meant to be paired with the sound source (i.e.KETRON SD1000) and that only certain variable functions (octave shift for example) are available to the player. In other words, the 127 User Kits are designed to work perfectly with the paired sound source, but changes are extremely limited.

The reason for someone to choose a vibeKAT over a malletKAT are in situations like a classroom, where the instructor does not what any student to alter the kits or a musician that is content with the Kits provided.

It should be noted that a vibeKAT can be converted to a malletKAT with a user installable software chip for a nominal charge.

Below is a chart that describes the features of the malletKAT, and what functions are available on the vibeKAT.

Additional PDF Documentation:
https://www.alternatemode.com/altmode-info/documentation/
MalletKAT Online Manual:
https://www.alternatemode.com/online-docs/malletkat/

Main Global FEATUREs	malleKAT	vibeKAT	FUNCTION
Threshold Adjust	yes	yes	ability to adjust the low end sensitivity of every pad
Global Train	yes	yes	ability to Train the entire instument to your playing dynamics
Group Train	yes	yes	ability to Train each octave seperately to your playing dynamics
Individual Pad Train	yes	no	ability to train individual notes sepearately to your playing dynamics
Memory Dumps	yes	all mem only	ability to save User Kits, Chains, Reassignments and Training
Bank Selection	yes	yes	Switch between 127 GM Kits and 127 User Kits
Chains	yes	no	ability to create groups of user kits in any order called Chains (16 total)
Sound Groups	no	yes	jumps to sounds with simliar characteristics (i.e. chromatic percussion, basses, etc)
Reassignments	yes	no	ability to assign any note to any note on any MIDI channel (9 groups)
Tweakables	yes	no	ability to control global nuance features (routing, merging, dampen sensitivty, etc)
Main KIT FEATURES			
Layering	yes	no	unless preprogammed, just one layer possible
Split Mode	yes	no	unless preprogammed, just one layer possible
Hang	yes	yes	sustain 2 pedal active to call us controller 2 functions
Mono/ Poly	`yes	no	function preprogrammed at factory
Transpose	yes	no	allows layer to be transposed
MIDI Channel	yes	no	vibeKAT preprogramed to Channel 1. malletKAT (1-16)
Gate	yes	yes	ability to control the lenght of a sound
Velocity Gate	yes	yes	length of note determined by velocity
Roll Mode	yes	yes	controls the suspension of note off's when rolling automatically
Octave	yes	yes	ability to shift the octave of the keyboard
Minimum Velocity	yes	yes	set's the lowest note velocity being sent
Maximum Velocity	yes	no	set's the highest note velocity sent.. vibeKAT preset at 127
Velocity Curve	yes	no	changes the rate going from min to max vel. preset on vibeKAT
Volume Control	yes	yes	each kit sends out a discret volume number
Bank Changes	yes	no	MSB/LSB bank changes available on malletKAT only
Program Changes	yes	no	programmable on malletKAT. Preset on vibeKAT
Footswitch Programming	yes	no	controls sustain options on malletKAT. preset on vibeKAT
Foot Controllers	yes	no	controls CC functions of pedals. Preset on vibeKAT

MIDI Routing	yes	**no**	controls rear and right MIDI outs. Preset on vibeKAT
Warp Mode	yes	**no**	transposable arpeggiator
Kit Controller	yes	**no**	2 programmable CC# sent entering Kit. Preset on vibeKAT
Reassignments	yes	**no**	Replaces or Combines Third Layer of reassigned notes
Metronome	yes	**no**	MIDI Metronome Click with variable sounds and rhytmns
Kit Naming	yes	**no**	Preset on vibeKAT