

Modifying an Xbox Rock Band 1 Drum Controller for use with the MIDI Rocker LX

Overview

By connecting the external outputs of the MIDI Rocker LX to the drum input pins on an Xbox 360™ Rock Band™ 1 drum controller, it is possible to use the MIDI Rocker LX to activate the drum signals on the Xbox. The MIDI Rocker LX must be ordered with the Xbox/RB1 interface option, which includes a interface cable with wires which need to be soldered to some pins inside the Xbox controller.

Note: If you want to connect the MIDI Rocker LX to a Xbox Rock Band 2 controller, you will need a different interface module and cable. Contact support@bytearts.com for more information.

One end of the interface cable has to be soldered to pads on the Rock Band drum controller board. The other end of the cable is plugged into the 15-pin connector on the side of the MIDI Rocker LX. You can leave the original drums intact and just plug the interface cable into the MIDI Rocker when you want to use the the MIDI Rocker LX (see below, right), or you can cut the drum controller module from the rest of the drums (see below, left).



Option A: Rock Band Drums with MIDI Rocker Interface Cable

Option B: Rock Band Drum controller after "surgery" to remove it from the rest of the drum set, with MIDI Rocker interface cable added.

SPECIAL OFFER: For MIDI Rocker customers, we will do either of the modifications shown above for no charge, other than the cost of shipping. You can either ship your Rock Band drum controller to us, or have us buy one for you. For option B, there is no additional shipping charge since the controller can be shipped in the same box as the MIDI Rocker. Contact me at support@bytearts.com if you'd like to arrange this.

Modifying the Xbox Drum Controller

Step 1. Open the drum controller

The MIDI RockerLX /Xbox interface cable is a short cable with a 15-pin connector on one end, and "flying leads" (loose wires) on the other. The ends of the flying leads need to be soldered to

connection points on the Xbox drum controller board.

You first need to remove the back off the drum controller. To do this, flip the drums over and remove the three cover screws as shown in here:



After removing the screws you can lift the back cover off, exposing the circuit board underneath.

Step 2. Solder Wires to the Controller Board

There are two versions of circuit boards in the Xbox drum controllers – a BLUE board and a GREEN board. Follow the directions below for the type of board you have.

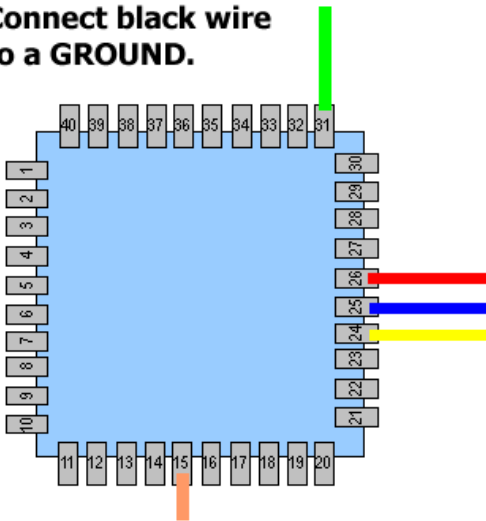
There is a black cable (this is the USB cable) which plugs into a white connector on the board, you may need to unplug this cable to move it out of the way while soldering.



Connection Diagram (Blue Board)

Connect the wires as shown in the diagram and photo below:

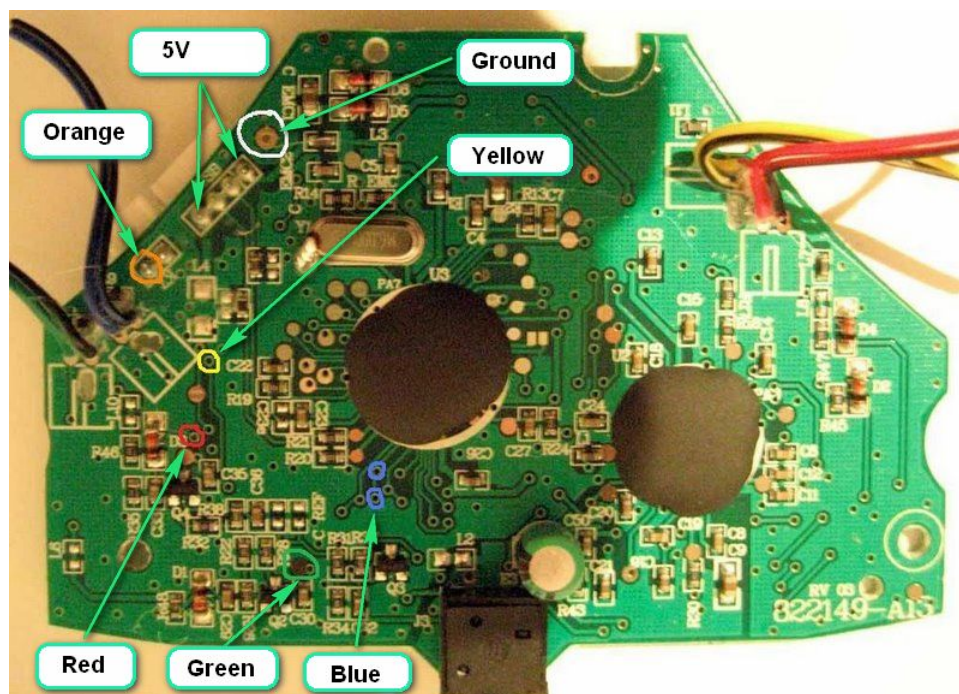
Connect black wire to a GROUND.



The black wire needs to be connected to a GROUND point. There are several places you can connect it. There are some pads labeled "L4" near the USB connector (the black wire in the photo is connected there), or there are some exposed metal areas near the edge of the board (labeled in the photo) which can be used.

Connection Diagram (Green Board)

If you have a green circuit board, then connect the wires to the vias on the circuit board as shown here:



You can now re-attach the USB cable, and reassemble the drum controller.

Step 4. Hook Everything Up

You are now ready to connect everything up and start using the MIDI Rocker LX with Rock Band on the Xbox 360.

- Connect the interface cable to the 15 pin connector on the side of the MIDI Rocker LX.
- Connect the MIDI OUT from your drums to the MIDI IN on the MIDI Rocker LX.
- Plug the Xbox drum controller into the USB port on the Xbox.
- Plug the MIDI Rocker LX into another USB port on the Xbox (use a USB hub if you need more ports). The MIDI Rocker LX uses the USB port on the Xbox for power only, and doesn't communicate with the Xbox. You can also plug the MIDI Rocker LX into a USB mobile phone charger or other adapter which supplies 5 Volts to the USB connector.
- Start up the Xbox and load Rock Band.

Rock Band is a trademark of Harmonix. PlayStation, PS3 are trademarks of Sony Inc. All trademarks are property of their respective owners.