
Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/18 13:40

Hey guys, I've got a sort of strange question, but here it goes:

I just got an SFX-6 in a trade and it has no plus drive, and I also have MK-1 MM that I sent out and had a plus drive and new pots put in about a year ago. I was wondering if, and hoping that I can open up my 2 Monomachines and just switch out the guts and it will just be a few ribbon cables un-hook and be able to move my plus drive and new pots over from my SFX-60 into my SFX-6. Since both machines are MK-1 and I heard that the plus drives just plug into one of the main boards... it seems to make sense, but I don't want to fool around inside my machines if I don't need to. And if soldering is involved, I will not venture into that at all.

If anyone has any info on this it would be much appreciated. I wanted to sell my MK-1 to be able to buy a new MK-2, so if I can save myself \$400, it would be much appreciated and that way I would be able to get a MK2 that much faster.

Thanks guys!

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/18 13:55

Theoratically it should be possible... but... there may be slight difference between the pcb boards of the SFX-6 and SFX-60 ?

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/18 14:02

Yeah, thats what I was thinking, but I didnt know if the hookup for the keyboard was already made onto the MK-1 boards or not...? I'll keep you posted, because I just emailed Elektron but I'm not sure if they will answer this type of question.

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/18 22:20

YES! Here is Elektrons official answer! And its from Jon and I know he knows whats up, he's the man!

Hi there,

There's no soldering involved, so you could open up the Mono and transferthe upgrade PCB to the SFX-6.

Jon
Elektron

So I guess I'll be backing up my machines tonight! Thanks guys!

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/18 22:39

Photos. Take photos. Lots of them. Seriously.

Could be very interesting for people with an SFX-6 who would want to mod theirs into an SFX-6 MkII +Drive

PS: Take photos.

PPS: Did I mention to take photos?

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/18 22:51

Cool man, will do. Might be a day or 2 before I have the time to sit down and get on it. But I'll be sure to shoot some photos, because I'm sure I won't be the last person to run into this. And since you seem as psyched as me about this :)

I Can't wait!

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/18 22:53

Well, you be the guinea pig, and if it all works, maybe I'll do the same to mine...

Did you ask them about MkII boards?

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/18 23:53

I talked to Daniel about it when I had a plus drive put in my MK-1 and I asked him if a MK-2 upgrade was possible on my MK-1 and he said that its a different board all together and that it was not possible. I also asked if they planed on a a SFX-6 MK2 and he said that it was not going to happen. He said that SFX-6 horribly expensive to build and they were just a huge pain... so no MK-2 SFX-6 sorry. I'm sure the way our conversation was going that if some MK-2 guts could have been dropped into an SFX-6 he would have let me know. But from what I understand, the MK-1 and MK-2 boards fit into the cases different and cant be switched around. Maybe something with the depth?

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/19 00:09

Just found this! I'm sure it will be almost the same inside the SFX-60

http://redmine.ruinwesen.com/projects/midi-ctrl/wiki/Opening_a_MachineDrum

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/19 21:07

introvert wrote:

I talked to Daniel about it when I had a plus drive put in my MK-1 and I asked him if a MK-2 upgrade was possible on my MK-1 and he said that its a different board all together and that it was not possible. I also asked if they planed on a a SFX-6 MK2 and he said that it was not going to happen. He said that SFX-6 horribly expensive to build and they were just a huge pain... so no MK-2 SFX-6 sorry. I'm sure the way our conversation was going that if some MK-2 guts could have been dropped into an SFX-6 he would have let me know. But from what I understand, the MK-1 and MK-2 boards fit into the cases different and cant be switched around. Maybe something with the depth?

I wouldn't have thought they would be that different? (Physically) If anything the physical box is lower, so maybe need raisers inside?

But then again, maybe there is no keyboard socket on the MkII board... I wonder if it could be done some way or another... was it a definite "impossible"?

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Veets - 2012/06/19 21:45

I read somewhere that they didn't make anything on the SFX-6s. They were a labor of love. There are 500 of them and that's it probably.

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/19 21:48

I think they missed a massive trick with the way they configured the hardware, but thats just me.

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/20 09:01

Was thinking about this a bit more, where as swapping a MkI to a MkI +Drive would be really cool... being able to put a MkII in there and getting the ability to load single cycle waveforms would make it amazing.

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/20 13:43

Well guys the mission was a complete ant total success! I took photos and did a step by step sort of deal and made an album here, let me know if you guys can or cant look at it. But I figured you would be able to get higher quality photos this way :)

http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.4059930627186.2163662.1549796274&type=1¬if_t=like

And I must thank Jon for the confirmation that this would work!

I LOVE ELEKTRON! Now I can finally get a MK2 :)

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Indigo333 - 2012/06/20 16:28

Damn man, I saw this on FB and nows I am looking for some parts to start, Big Ups to the Pioneers and tinkers;)

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/20 16:38

Want to post photos here or somewhere else for those of us who don't do Facebook?

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by tjebbe - 2012/06/20 20:06

superb! sfx -6 is on my wishlist

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/20 21:59

For the non-Facebook guys and gals. Sorry :)

I'm having trouble sizing photos so small, I'll try to post later tonight

Thanks

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/27 08:04

introvert wrote:

For the non-Facebook guys and gals. Sorry :)

I'm having trouble sizing photos so small, I'll try to post later tonight

Dimmies photos. Or anyone else who does do Facebook can post them here / sandbox?

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by mamonu - 2012/06/27 17:27

for all non facebook using cats ;)

<http://www.mediafire.com/?p470mcitsw41k2m>

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by twistedspace - 2012/06/27 18:14

There's not much to it, nand memory, a logic chip and a few supporting passive components, well under â,~10 in parts.

Makes me wonder why Elektron charge â,~360 (yeah, I know. Shipping and labour)

Perhaps they should consider selling them for diy installation, looks easy enough to fit.

I'd certainly buy 2 if they where under â,~100 each but there's no way I'd consider it at the current price, even more so after seeing what you get for your money.

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by dataline - 2012/06/27 20:37

Yea there is shipping and labour...

There is also months of research, development and design going into these machines.

A certain price needs to be charged if Elektron wants to continue to develop such units :)

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by introvert - 2012/06/27 22:00

Thanks "mamonu" for posting those photos for me, I don't have anything like that set up and I don't really know how to either... I really appreciate it!

And I agree with what Dataline said, it does take a ton of development and customer support and shipping and warranties (to cover their asses) and production fees and about 1 hour of bench time (because thats about how long it takes) to be figured into that price tag. so I personally think what they are asking in price is 100% fair. The guys at Elektron know whats up and they really honestly do want whats best for their customers/users.

Honestly if I wasn't looking at getting a MM MKII I would have just sent the SFX6 out and had them do the upgrade and check over my machine too. Getting your stuff looked at by a trained tech is actually a really good idea, sort of like getting your car looked over by a good mechanic even if its running OK (Because you never know what could be failing). When I had my SFX-60 Plus Drive done I had my machine checked over and I had all of the pots replaced because they were jumpy and wearing out because I used it sooo much. These wonderful machines need maintenance and love too, just like any other machine. Trained techs are great! And they will keep your life on track. Just my thoughts :laugh:

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by twistedspace - 2012/06/28 18:24

If the interface for the +drive is there on the SFX-6, then the R&D was done a long time ago. There isn't anything on that board other than some memory, a logic chip and a handful of resistors and capacators. There's no processing going on and nothing that would take months of R&D.

I understand that Elektron need to make money, don't we all. My comment was more prompted by the thought that getting +drives fitted to my MDUW & MNM woud cost â,~720. That's an awful lot of money when you see what's involved.

Even allowing â,~100 for shipping and the same for labour per machine, that's still â,~160 for a board that can't cost much more than â,~10 to produce.

Whatever, I won't be buying them at that price and it isn't like either machine needs the +drive to function as an amazing instrument, so it doesn't really matter.

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Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/28 18:42

mamonu wrote:
for all non facebook using cats ;)

Thanks!

introvert wrote:
The guys at Elektron know whats up and they really honestly do want whats best for their customers/users.

:laugh:

Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Tarekith - 2012/06/28 23:30

Wow, that's really simple.

Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by Rusty - 2012/06/29 07:13

@Introvert Thank you so much for taking the time to take photos, most appreciated. :)

I just looked at the photos... that looks quite ridiculously easy actually.

That +Drive upgrade sure doesn't justify the \$500 cost and shipping time etc, guess that's why I've never even thought about doing mine.

I'd buy a board if it was available at a reasonable price.

I'd still like to see the Mkl and MkII boards side by side... just to check out what/how they are different, and if there is a keyboard slot on the MkII boards.

Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by flowdesigner - 2012/12/31 21:25

Rusty wrote:

Could be very interesting for people with an SFX-6 who would want to mod theirs into an SFX-6 MkII +Drive

:woohoo:

Re:Plus drive SFX-6 SFX-60 swap?

Posted by flowdesigner - 2013/01/02 02:22

I have to send it to sweden?!

Why cant we just buy the drive and do it ourselves?!
