

Quick Start



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Before using this unit, carefully read “USING THE UNIT SAFELY” and “IMPORTANT NOTES” (the leaflet “Read Me First” and Quick Start (p. 9)). After reading, keep the document(s) where it will be available for immediate reference.

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Quick Start (this document)

Read this first. It explains the basic things you need to know in order to use the VG-800.

PDF Manual (download from the Web)

- **Reference Manual**
This provides even more details on the functions and operations of this unit.
- **Parameter Guide**
This explains all parameters of the VG-800.
- **MIDI Implementation**
This is detailed information about MIDI messages.

To obtain the PDF manual

1. Enter the following URL in your computer.
https://roland.cm/boss_om



2. Choose “VG-800” as the product name.

Panel descriptions

Front panel



- 1 Display**
Shows various information for the VG-800.
- 2 [OUTPUT LEVEL] knob**
Adjusts the overall volume.
- 3 [INST] button**
Sets the INST (modeling) tone that's used.
- 4 [EFFECTS] button**
Configures the effect settings and signal chain (the order in which the effects are connected).
- 5 [MENU] button**
Switches to the MENU screen.
- 6 [◀] [▶] (PAGE) buttons**
Switches between pages.
- 7 [EXIT] button**
Press this to return to the previous screen or to undo an operation.
 - * Press the [EXIT] and [◀] buttons at the same time to switch the KNOB LOCK function on/off.
When this is on, knob operations are disabled on the play screen (p. 8).
 - * Press the [EXIT] and [▶] buttons at the same time to save or copy the memory.
- 8 [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [SELECT] knob**
Use these knobs to select and edit the parameter values that are shown in the display.
- 9 [▼] [▲] switches**
Use these to switch between memories.
 - * Press the [▼] and [▲] switches at the same time to show the tuner screen.
- 10 [CTL 1] switch**
Controls the functions that are set for each memory.

Rear panel/Side panel (connecting your equipment)

- 11 GK IN jack**
Connect a guitar or bass guitar that has a BOSS divided pickup such as a GK-5 or GK-5B.
 - * Never use a cable other than the dedicated serial GK cable for this unit.
- 12 GK OUT jack**
Use this jack to connect multiple VG-800s, or to connect to a compatible device with a GK IN jack.
- 13 GUITAR INPUT jack**
Connect your guitar here.
- 14 SEND/RETURN jacks**
Connect an external effect unit or similar device here.
The SEND/RETURN jacks on this unit are stereo (TRS) jacks.
 - For details on connecting, refer to the "Reference Manual" (BOSS website).
- 15 OUTPUT jacks**
Connect these to your guitar amp, PA system (line-level) or headphones (sold separately).
 - * Connect your headphones to the L/PHONES jack.
 - * If using a mono connection, use only the R/MONO jack.
 - * If you're using headphones, don't connect anything to R/MONO jack.
- 16 CTL 2, 3/EXP 1 jack and CTL 4, 5/EXP 2 jack**
You can control various functions by connecting an expression pedal (EV-30, FV-500L, FV-500H or EV-5: sold separately) or a footswitch (FS-5U, FS-6, FS-7: sold separately).
 - For details on how to make these settings, refer to the "Reference Manual" (BOSS website).
- 17 DC IN jack**
Connect the included AC adaptor to this jack.
 - * The DC IN jack also serves as the power switch. The power turns on when you insert a plug into the DC IN jack, and the power turns off when you unplug the cable.

18 Ground terminal

Connect this to an external earth or ground if necessary.

19 (USB COMPUTER) port

Use a commercially available USB Type-C® cable to connect this port to your computer.

This port lets you use the dedicated editor software or transfer USB MIDI and USB audio data.

You must install the USB driver before connecting this unit to a computer.

Download the USB driver from the BOSS website.

For details, refer to the "Readme.htm" file included with the download.

* Do not use a USB cable that is designed only for charging a device. Charge-only cables cannot transmit data.

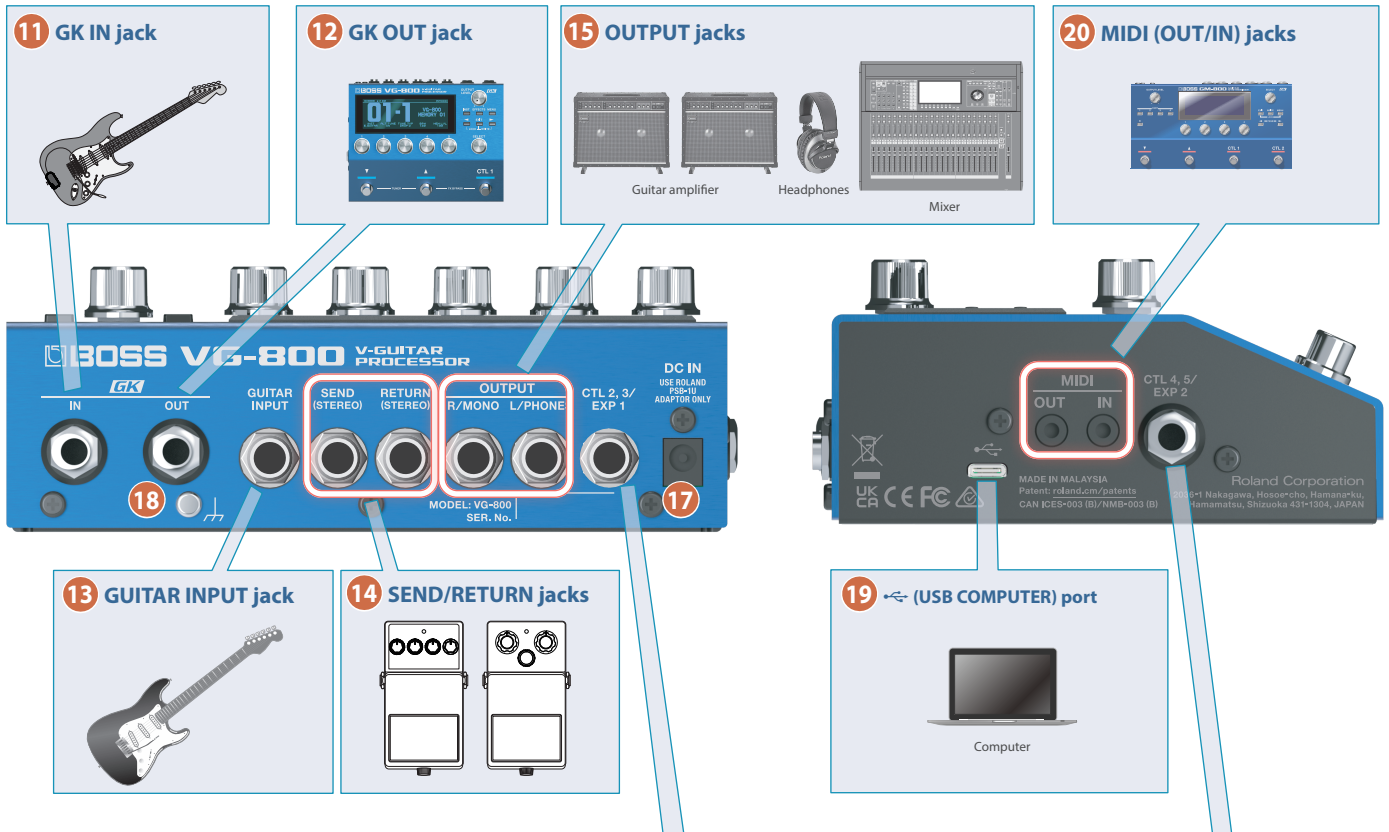
20 MIDI (OUT/IN) jacks

These connectors transmit and receive MIDI messages to/from connected external MIDI devices.

* Use a TRS/MIDI connecting cable (sold separately: BMIDI-5-35) to connect an external MIDI device.

* Do not use these connectors for connecting to audio devices. Doing so may cause a malfunction.

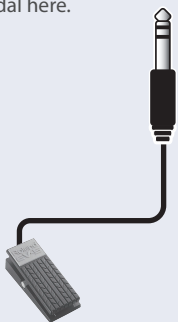
* To prevent malfunction and equipment failure, always turn down the volume, and turn off all the units before making any connections.



16 CTL 2, 3/EXP 1 jack and CTL 4, 5/EXP 2 jack

When used as the EXP 1/EXP 2 jacks

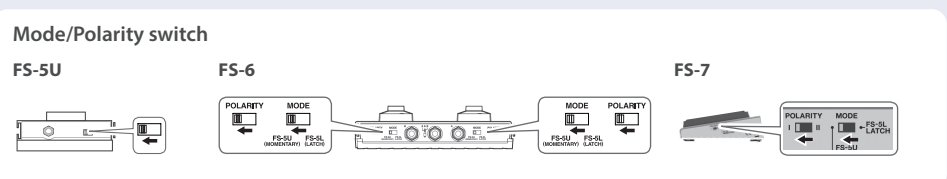
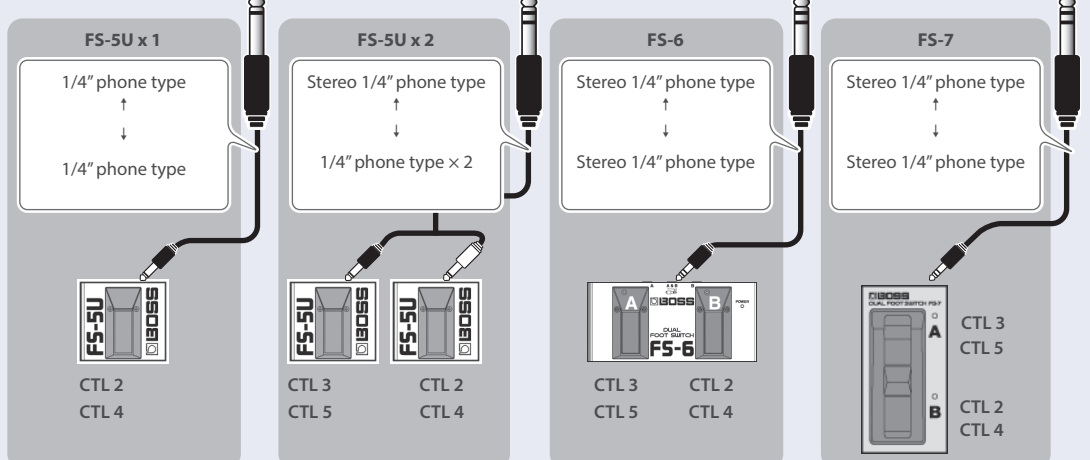
Connect an expression pedal here.



* Use only the specified expression pedal (EV-30, FV-500L, FV-500H, or EV-5: sold separately). By connecting any other expression pedals, you risk causing malfunction and/or damage to the unit.

When used as the CTL 2, 3 and CTL 4, 5 jacks

Connect a footswitch here.



Getting ready

Getting your guitar/bass ready

- To use the modeling or alternate tuning features of the VG-800, you must connect a guitar or bass guitar that uses a divided pickup (GK pickup) capable of outputting separate signals from each string, such as the BOSS GK-5 or GK-5B.
- See the GK pickup owner's manual for how to install the GK pickup.
- Be careful of issues like neck warp, worn frets that cause string buzzing and mistuned octaves, which may cause wrong notes to play.

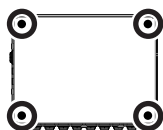
Connecting the equipment

➔ Refer to "Rear panel/Side panel (connecting your equipment)" (p. 2).

Attaching the rubber feet

You can attach the rubber feet (included) if necessary.

Attach them in the locations shown in the illustration.



- * Using the unit without rubber feet may damage the floor.
- * When turning the unit over, be careful so as to protect the buttons and knobs from damage. Also, handle the unit carefully; do not drop it.

Turning the power on

- * Before turning the unit on/off, always be sure to turn the volume down. Even with the volume turned down, you might hear some sound when switching the unit on/off. However, this is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.
- * To turn the power off, reverse the order.

1. Turn the volume all the way down on your guitar amp and other devices connected to this unit.
2. Connect your equipment to the OUTPUT jack(s).
3. Connect your guitar or other instrument.
4. Plug the included AC adaptor into the DC IN jack of this unit.
The unit turns on, and the play screen appears.
5. Turn on your guitar amp and other devices connected to this unit.

Auto Off Function

The power to this unit turns off automatically to save energy after a certain amount of time (20 minutes by default) has passed since it was last used or since its buttons or controls were operated.

- If the power automatically turns off, any unsaved data is lost. Before the power turns off, save the data that you want to keep.
- If you don't want the unit to turn off automatically, turn this setting off. Note that when the setting is turned off, the unit may consume more power.
- You can simply turn the power back on after it has turned off automatically.
- * Power consumption when in off mode (when the power automatically turns off): 0.1 W
- * For details on the settings, refer to the "Reference Manual" (BOSS website).

Selecting the instrument (guitar/bass) to use (MODE SETTING)

When you connect a guitar or bass guitar to the VG-800, use either the GUITAR MODE or BASS MODE setting as appropriate.

1. Press the [MENU] button.
2. Press the [◀] [▶] buttons to display "MODE SETTING".



3. Press the [5] knob.

A confirmation message appears.



4. Press the [5] knob and select "OK" to change the mode.

If you don't want to change the mode, press the [4] knob and select "CANCEL".

When the unit finishes processing, the message "Completed" appears.

- * Never turn off the power while the "Executing..." message is shown.
5. Turn the power of the VG-800 off and then on again.

MEMO

- The VG-800 starts up using the selected mode until the next time you switch modes.
- The parameter display may change depending on the mode you select.
- There are different memories for guitar mode and bass mode respectively.

Selecting devices to connect to the output jacks (OUTPUT SELECT)

1. Press the [MENU] button.
2. Press the [◀] [▶] buttons to display "IN/OUT SETTING".



3. Press the [3] knob.

The IN/OUT SETTING screen appears.



4. Press the [1] knob.

The OUTPUT screen appears.



5. Press the [1] knob.

The OUTPUT SELECT screen appears.



6. Turn the [SELECT] knob to select the device you want to connect.

For details on the types of devices to connect, refer to the "Reference Manual" (BOSS website).

Configuring the pickup settings (GK SETTING)

Configure the divided pickup settings so that the VG-800 is always in the optimum state when you play. You can save up to 10 of these settings (GK SETTING) for the VG-800.

Here's an example of how to save the pickup settings in GK SET: [01].

MEMO

- GK SETTING is saved even after you turn off the power. For this reason, you don't need to reconfigure the settings each time you play.
- You need to make these settings in situations such as when you've newly installed a divided pickup on your guitar or bass guitar, or when you've changed the height of the divided pickup.

1. Press the [MENU] button.

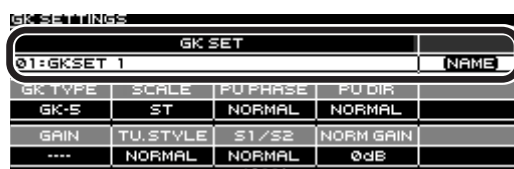
2. Press the [◀] [▶] buttons to display "GK SETTING".



3. Press the [2] knob.

The GK SETTING screen appears.

4. Turn the [SELECT] knob to move the cursor to the first line.



5. Turn the [1] knob to select GK SET: [01].

The pickup settings are saved to GK SET: [01].

MEMO

The pickup settings are automatically saved to the memory number you selected in step 5.

Selecting the pickup type

Here's how to select the pickup that you've installed on your guitar (or bass guitar).

6. Turn the [SELECT] knob to move the cursor to the second line.



7. Turn the [1] knob to select the pickup type.

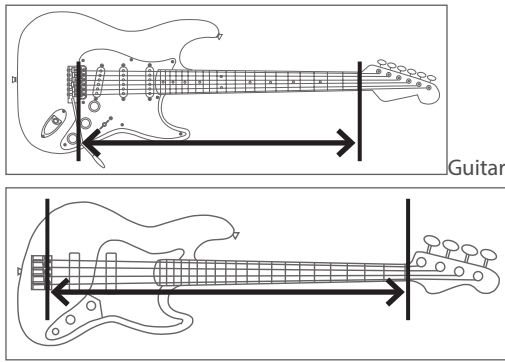
GK TYPE (guitar mode)	Explanation
GK-5	Select this when you're using the BOSS GK-5.
GK5KIT-6	Select this when you're using a guitar with a built-in BOSS GK5-KIT (six strings).
GK5KIT-7	Select this when you're using a guitar with a built-in BOSS GK5-KIT (seven strings).
GK-3	Select this when you're using the Roland GK-3. *1
GK-2A	Select this when you're using the Roland GK-2A, or a commercially available guitar with a built-in divided pickup (13-pin). *1
GC-1	Select this when you're using the Roland V-Guitar GC-1. *1
PIEZO	Select this when using a guitar with a piezo pickup (flat response). *1
PIEZO F	Select this when using a guitar with a piezo pickup (Fishman). *1
PIEZO G	Select this when using a guitar with a piezo pickup (Graph Tech). *1
PIEZO L	Select this when using a guitar with a piezo pickup (L.R. Baggs). *1
PIEZO R	Select this when using a guitar with a piezo pickup (RMC). *1

GK TYPE (bass mode)	Explanation
GK-5B	Select this when you're using the BOSS GK-5B.
GK5KIT-B	Select this when you're using a bass guitar with a built-in BOSS GK5-KIT.
GK-3B	Select this when you're using the Roland GK-3B. *1
GK-2B	Select this when you're using the Roland GK-2B, or a commercially available bass guitar with a built-in divided pickup (13-pin). *1
PIEZO(B)	Select this when using a bass guitar with a piezo pickup (flat response). *1
PIEZO G(B)	Select this when using a bass guitar with a piezo pickup (Graph Tech). *1
PIEZO R(B)	Select this when using a bass guitar with a piezo pickup (RMC). *1

*1: Use this with the GKC-AD (sold separately).

Specifying the scale length

Here's how to set the scale length (the length from the bridge to the nut) for the guitar (or bass guitar) you're using.



8. Turn the [2] knob to set the scale length.

If you're in guitar mode, set this to "ST (648mm)" for a standard Stratocaster type, and set this to "LP (628mm)" for a Les Paul type. If you're in bass guitar mode, set this to "LONG (864mm)" if you're using a standard jazz bass precision bass type.

MEMO

This parameter is not shown if you've selected "GC-1" for GK TYPE.

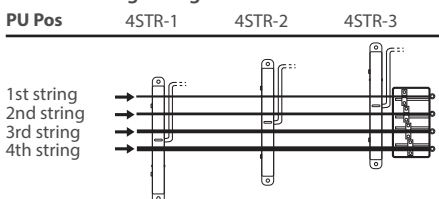
Specifying the pickup arrangement (bass guitar only)

Set the PU Pos according to where you've installed the divided pickup on your bass guitar.

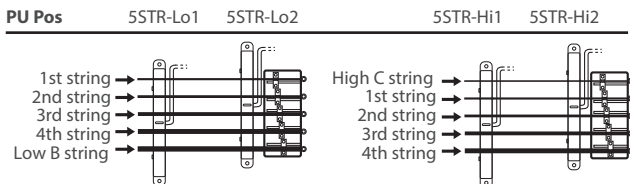
GK SET				
Q1:GKSET 1				NAME
GK TYPE	SCALE	PU PHASE	PU DIR	PU POS
GK-SE	LONG	NORMAL	NORMAL	6STR
GAIN	TU STYLE	S1/S2	NORM GAIN	
---	NORMAL	NORMAL	0dB	

9. Turn the [5] knob to set PU Pos.

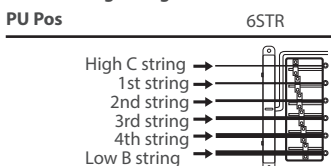
For four-string bass guitars



For five-string bass guitars

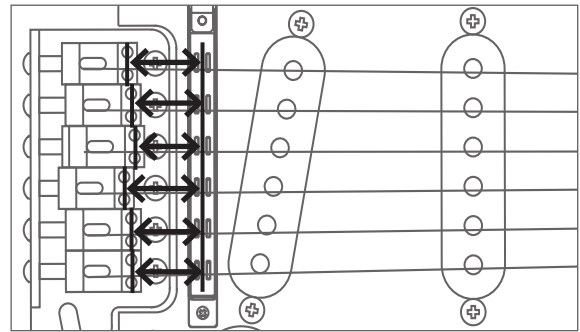


For six-string bass guitars

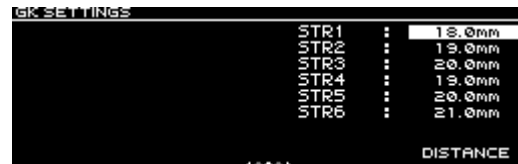


Specifying the distance from the bridge

Here's how to specify the distance from the bridge to the center of the pickup for each string.



10. Press the [◀] [▶] buttons to show the DISTANCE screen.



11. Turn the [SELECT] knob to move the cursor to the string for which you want to specify the distance.

12. Turn the [5] knob to adjust the DISTANCE value.

MEMO

This setting is unnecessary if GK TYPE is "GC-1" or if you've selected a piezo-type pickup.

Setting the pickup sensitivity

The volume for the strings may differ, depending on the distance between each string and the divided pickup. You can correct these volume differences by setting the pickup sensitivity.

13. Press the [◀] [▶] buttons to show the SENS screen.



14. Turn the [SELECT] knob to move the cursor to the string for which you want to set the SENS value.

15. Turn the [5] knob to adjust the SENS value.

Pluck each string at the hardest strength you would likely use, and adjust the sensitivity values so that the meters don't overload. The level is too loud if the meter overloads, so lower the SENS value.

* The level meters may overload with the input signal from certain guitars or bass guitars, even when the sensitivity is set to a low value.

If this happens, widen the distance a bit more than normal between the divided pickup and the strings.

16. Check the volume balance for all the strings.

Adjust the volume balance to minimize the difference in volume between strings, by playing all of the strings at the usual strength and lowering the SENS value for any string that is particularly loud.

* Use the mark positions as shown in the onscreen meter as a guide.



17. Press the [EXIT] button a number of times to return to the play screen (p. 8).

For details on the other parameters, refer to the "Reference Manual" (BOSS website).

Adjusting the volume

Use [OUTPUT LEVEL] knob to adjust the overall volume of this unit.

Using the tuner

1. Press the [MENU] button.
2. Press the [◀] [▶] buttons to display "TUNER".



3. Press the [5] knob.

The tuner screen appears.



MEMO

You can also press the [▼] and [▲] switches at the same time to show the tuner screen.

Tuner settings

Use the [2] and [3] knobs to make settings for the tuner.

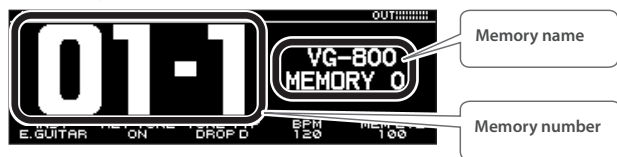
Parameter	Value	Explanation	
[2]	PITCH	435–445 Hz	Specifies the reference pitch.
[3]	OUTPUT	MUTE	Sound will not be output while tuning.
		BYPASS	While tuning, the sound of the guitar being input to the VG-800 will be output without change.
		THRU	Lets you tune your guitar while outputting the sound of the current memory.

Playing

Selecting a memory

A “memory” contains the INST (modeling) settings, the settings for each effect, and the control/assign settings.

1. Use the [▼] switch or the [▲] switch to select a memory.



MEMO

You can also change memories by turning knob [SELECT] below the display.

You can switch between memories by using the “banks” (which contain three memories each) and “numbers” (1–3) in BANK/NUM mode.

For details, refer to the “Reference Manual” (BOSS website).

About the play screen

The screen that appears after you turn on the power is called the “play screen”.

The following three types of play screen are provided; use the [◀] [▶] buttons to switch between the types of display.

Memory number displayed larger



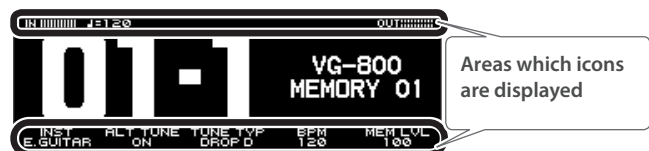
Memory name displayed larger



Show functions assigned to the switches and other controls



Icons shown in the play screen



Display	Explanation
IN []	Indicates the input level.
OUT []	Indicates the output level.
J=120	Indicates the BPM.
▶●●●●●●●◀	Shows the page to which you’ve navigated (such as the MENU screen) using the [◀] [▶] buttons.

MEMO

You can change the parameters that are assigned to the [1]–[5] knobs when the play screen is shown.

For details, refer to the “Reference Manual” (BOSS website).

Using only the INST (modeling) sound (FX BYPASS)

You can bypass all effects to check just the INST (modeling) sound or to make settings.

You can also use just the VG-800 modeling sound to create sounds in combination with an external amp and effects.

1. Press both the [▲] and the [CTL 1] switches at the same time to enable FX BYPASS.

“FX BYPASS” is shown onscreen.



To disable FX BYPASS, press the [▲] and [CTL 1] switches at the same time once more.

USING THE UNIT SAFELY

WARNING

Use only the supplied AC adaptor and the correct voltage

Be sure to use only the AC adaptor supplied with the unit. Also, make sure the line voltage at the installation matches the input voltage specified on the AC adaptor's body. Other AC adaptors may use a different polarity, or be designed for a different voltage, so their use could result in damage, malfunction, or electric shock.



Use only the supplied power cord

Use only the attached power cord. Also, the supplied power cord must not be used with any other device.



WARNING

Keep small items out of the reach of children

To prevent accidental ingestion of the parts listed below, always keep them out of the reach of small children.

- Included Parts
Rubber feet (p. 4)



Handle the ground terminal carefully

If you remove the screw from the ground terminal, be sure to replace it; don't leave it lying around where it could accidentally be swallowed by small children. When refastening the screw, make that it is firmly fastened, so it won't come loose.



IMPORTANT NOTES

Power Supply

- Place the AC adaptor so the side with the indicator faces upwards. The indicator will light when you plug the AC adaptor into an AC outlet.

Placement

- Using the unit near power amplifiers (or other equipment containing large power transformers) may induce hum. To alleviate the problem, change the orientation of this unit; or move it farther away from the source of interference.

Repairs and Data

- Before sending the unit away for repairs, be sure to make a backup of the data stored within it; or you may prefer to write down the needed information. Although we will do our utmost to preserve the data stored in your unit when we carry out repairs, in some cases, such as when the memory section is physically damaged, restoration of the stored content may be impossible. Roland assumes no liability concerning the restoration of any stored content that has been lost.

Additional Precautions

- Any data stored within the unit can be lost as the result of equipment failure, incorrect operation, etc. To protect yourself against the irretrievable loss of data, be sure to make a backup of the data stored within it; or you may prefer to write down the needed information.
- Roland assumes no liability concerning the restoration of any stored content that has been lost.
- Never strike or apply strong pressure to the display.
- Do not use connection cables that contain a built-in resistor.

Intellectual Property Right

- ASIO is a trademark and software of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH.
- This product contains eParts integrated software platform of eSOL Co.,Ltd. eParts is a trademark of eSOL Co.,Ltd. in Japan.
- This Product uses the Source Code of μ T-Kernel under T-License 2.0 granted by the T-Engine Forum (www.tron.org).
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- Company names and product names appearing in this document are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective owners.
- In this manual, company names and product names of the respective owners are used because it is the most practical way of describing the sounds that are emulated using DSP technology.

Main specifications

Dimensions	Without rubber foot:	Including rubber foot:
	173 (W) x 135 (D) x 63 (H) mm 6-13/16 (W) x 5-3/8 (D) x 2-12 (H) inches	173 (W) x 135 (D) x 65 (H) mm 6-13/16 (W) x 5-3/8 (D) x 2-9/16 (H) inches
Weight (excluding AC adaptor)	920 g 2 lbs 1 oz	
Accessories	AC adaptor (PSB-1U + AC Cord Set) Quick Start Leaflet "Read Me First" Rubber foot x 4	
Options (sold separately)	Divided pickup: GK-5 (for guitar), GK-5B (for bass guitar) Serial GK cable: BGK-3 (3 ft./1 m), BGK-15 (15 ft./4.5 m), BGK-30 (30 ft./9 m), GK converter: GKC-DA, GKC-AD Footswitch: FS-5U, FS-5L, FS-6, FS-7 Expression Pedal: EV-30, FV-500L, FV-500H, Roland EV-5 TRS/MIDI cable: BMIDI-5-35, BMIDI-1-35, BMIDI-2-35, BCC-1-3535, BCC-2-3535	

* This document explains the specifications of the product at the time that the document was issued. For the latest information, refer to the Roland website.