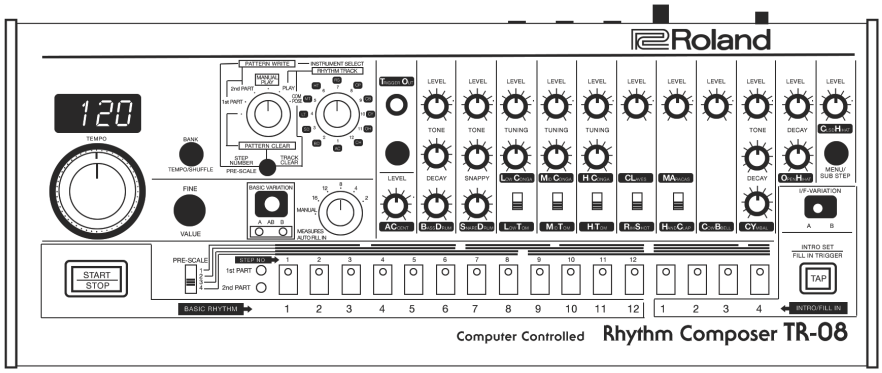
Roland TR-08

A User's Guide To The Roland TR-08 Rhythm Composer



Acknowledgements 1

This manual was assembled, illustrated, and written by Sunshine Jones. All of the contents is taken from either his personal experience, existing documentation, and techniques submitted and found in the public domain. The document is intended as a companion guide for the Roland Boutique TR-08 Rhythm Composer drum machine. It is in no way offered as a criticism, or intended to be an authoritative guide to replace the official documentation which accompanies the commercial purchase of Roland Boutique, or Roland AIRA musical instruments.

Rather, this manual is intended to support the musician, the user of these and other synthesizer modules and inspire them to create music, share sounds, and fully realize the drum machines in front of them.

In the tradition of owner's manuals, rarely are they opened until problems arise. We tell you over and over again to RTFM, but do you listen? No, no you don't. Manuals should be both tools for reference and instruction, as well as inspirational guides to possibility. An owner's manual should be equally a pre purchase discovery, meant to inspire the curious with capability and possibility, and a post purchase celebration of depth, technique, guidance, and surprises. But this is by no means the last word. So many people have read and re read a manual only to still have no idea what the manual was attempting to suggest. This owner's manual is offered free of charge to anyone curious, or frustrated by the tiny little leaflet which covers the operations of the TR-08 in several languages, as a legible alternative to the official documentation.

This manual is not associated in any way, personally or professionally with anyone connected to the Roland Corporation. The task was initially undertaken in a moment of fury, and assembled, proof read, and then hastily produced exclusively for love, and pleasure. It has continued mainly because of the pleasure it brings to create technical drawings, and re write these leaflets in a time when I am very, very busy.

It is our hope that as the result you will begin to explore and discover layers of rhythm and joy which were previously overlooked. We hope and trust that you will use the pattern worksheets to document your discoveries, and our extensive encouragement to share, and import patches and patterns of your own into a thriving community of exploration and delight.

If you wish to correspond with the author of this manual you may do so by navigating your web browser to the following destination:
http://sunshine-jones.com
The original article and a bank of patterns may be found within the non-fiction section of the site.

While no rights are reserved for the copyrighted materials, nor the registered trademarks discussed or absorbed into this manual, the assemblage itself and subsequent sound examples, illustrations, and concept are offered exclusively under the Creative Commons license of share and share alike. This is and shall always be free of charge to the reader, and user of the Roland TR-08 Rhythm Composer, and must never be offered for sale or barter. This is freeware, and free information for all.

With **Love**

Sunshine Jones
August 2018
San Francisco, California

Version 0.01B

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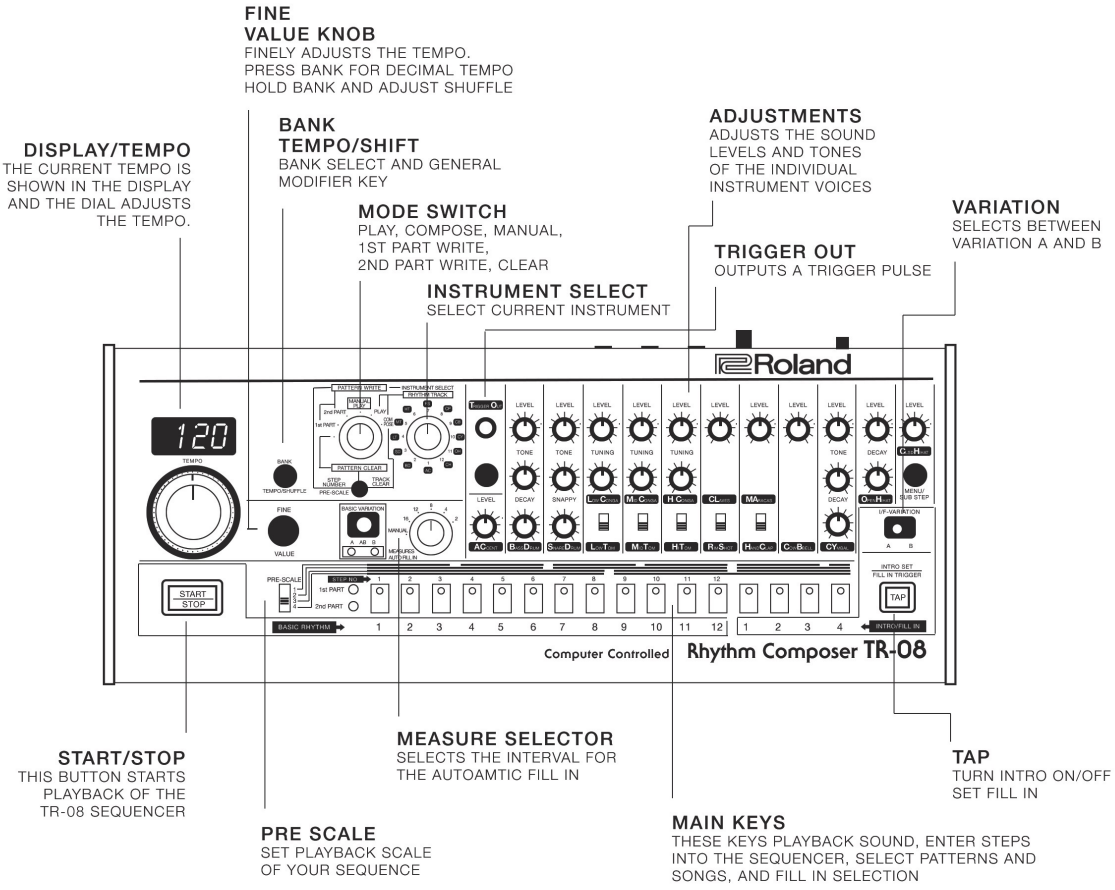
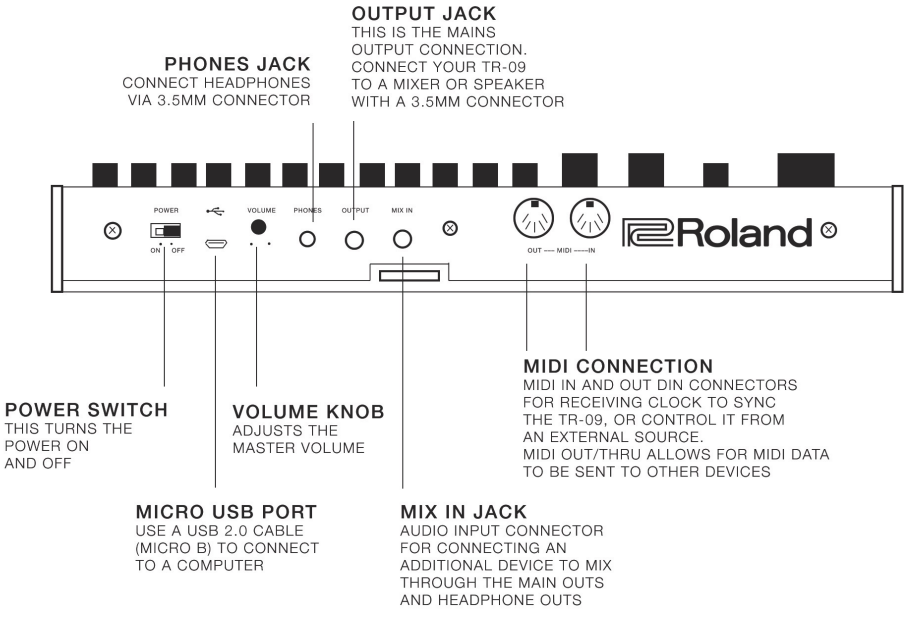
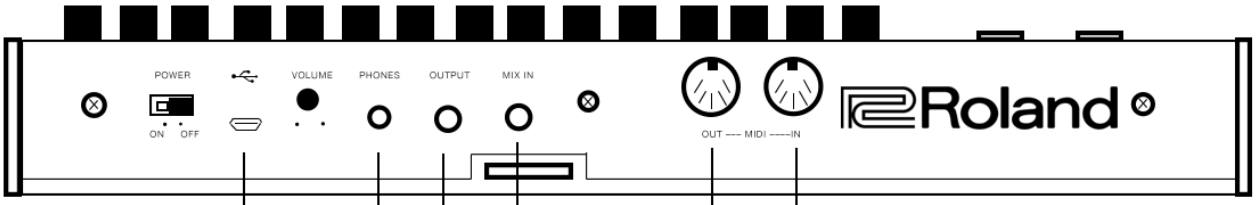
Front and Back Panel Layout





Basic Connections 4



MICRO USB
CONNECT THE TR-08 TO A COMPUTER VIA A MICRO USB CABLE FOR FULL AUDIO/MIDI INTEGRATION WITH YOUR FAVORITE DAW. NO ADDITIONAL POWER OR CABLES ARE REQUIRED. PLUS BONUS OUPUTS

USB POWER SUPPLY
FOR STAND ALONE OPERATION FREE OF THE CONFINES OF YOUR CUBICLE, ANY BASIC USB TO WALL ADAPTER WILL POWER THE TR-08 FOR OPERATIONS WHERE THE INTERNAL BATTERIES MAY NOT BE THE BEST CHOICE.

STEREO HEADPHONE
THE HEADPHONE OUT ALLOWS FOR THE CONNECTION OF A PERSONAL MONITORING HEADSET TO BE CONNECTED

NOTE:
THE SPEAKER OUTPUT WILL BE INTERRUPTED WHEN HEADPHONES ARE CONNECTED

MIDI IN - MIDI OUT
MIDI CONNECTION ALLOWS FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AN EXTERNAL CLOCK OR MIDI SEQUENCER.
IT ALSO ALLOWS FOR EXTERNAL CONTROL OF THE TR-08
CONVERSELY, THE TR-08 CAN SEND MIDI CLOCK AND CONTROL OTHER MIDI DEVICES FROM THE MIDI OUTPUT

MAIN OUTPUT
CONNECT THE TR-08 FROM HERE TO YOUR MIXER OR SPEAKERS WITH A 3.5MM (1/8 INCH) MONO OR STEREO CABLE.

THIS OUTPUT CAN BE EITHER A MONO 3.5MM CABLE OR A STEREO SINGLE TO DUAL CABLE MAY BE USED TO ENJOY STEREO PANS, OR PAN SOMETHING HARD LEFT FOR A SINGLE OUTOUT AND THE REST HARD RIGHT FOR SOME BASIC CHANNEL SEPARATION

EXTERNAL INPUT
AUDIO INPUT FOR MIXING AN EXTERNAL SOURCE THROUGH A GREAT TOOL FOR SUB MIXING AND CONSOLIDATING OUTPUTS FOR A LEAN AND MEAN SETUP

The TR-08 is an obsessively detailed and faithful replica of the legendary TR-808—easily the most famous and influential drum machine ever made. After creating a monumental shift in the sound of music, the “808” has continued to shape and define entire genres. Beloved by musicians and producers the world over, it’s one of the most revered and sought-after electronic musical instruments of all time. The TR-08 brings the look, sound, and feel of the original 808—with stunning accuracy—to the Roland Boutique format. It blends attention to detail and respect for legacy with modern convenience and reliability.

- Ultra-compact recreation of the legendary TR-808 drum machine
- Retains the sound, character, and user interface of the original TR-808
- Hands-on control including tone, level, tuning, and decay
- Added Compressor, Gain, Tune, and Pan for selected instruments
- Programmable via classic Step and Tap write modes
- Sequencer has 16 steps with 16 sub-steps for detailed patterns and rolls
- Continue playing beats even while switching between write modes
- LED display for easier navigation and fine control of tempo and shuffle
- Ten separate outputs via USB audio
- Dedicated, track-selectable trigger output for controlling external instruments
- High-quality construction with metal front panel
- Highly portable for mobile music making
- Includes DK-01 Boutique Dock for multiple-angle viewing
- Battery-operated (4 x AA) or USB powered
- Built-in powered mini-speaker for instant enjoyment
- Compatible with optional Roland Boutique accessories

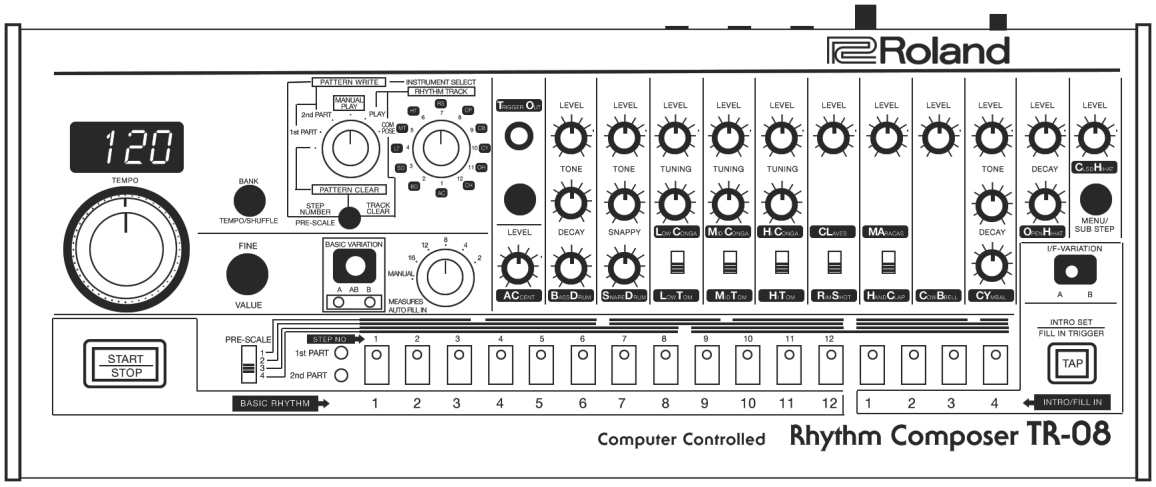
The TR-808 arrived in 1980 to an unsuspecting and somewhat bewildered public. To many at the time, its purely analog sound and range of tweakable parameters didn’t exactly deliver “traditional” drum sounds. It wasn’t until adventurous musicians and producers got their hands on the TR-808 and started tweaking those knobs that the world would fully realize the sonic impact it would leave on music forever. For the next three decades, the sizzling hi-hats and snappy snare, the robotic, clicky rim shot, the unmistakable cowbell, and yes, that booming bass drum, would be heard on many thousands of tracks. Worldwide hits, underground classic, and entire genres were spawned. Its influence is so deep that it’s been name-dropped in famous tracks, had albums dedicated to it and bands named after it, and even been the subject of a feature-length documentary film.

Time has not diminished the TR-808’s influence. New genres continue to make use of the 808, with some utilizing it as the main instrument and defining sound of the style. Sure, you can use samples of a TR-808, but there’s nothing quite like the real thing. The 808’s user interface with its buttons, knobs, and switches, and the odd quirks of how the sounds interact with each other—they’re all vitally important to conjuring up that real 808 mojo. And you know it when you hear it.

The new TR-08 adds some thoughtful and modern touches to the classic formula. The sequencer has 16 sub-steps per step, so you can create detailed snare fills and intricate, rolling hi-hats. It also has a track-selectable trigger out for working with other instruments like the TB-03, SH-01A, or modular gear. An unobtrusive LED display provides finer control of tempo and shuffle. You can step-program or tap in your parts in real-time without stopping to change modes. Everything sends and receives MIDI control messages and it even supports audio and MIDI over USB.

Original TR-808s are big and heavy, and their rarity makes them extremely expensive and sought-after on the used market. Because of this, many have resorted to 808 sample packs or hardware knockoffs. But there’s something about the colors and controls and, of course, the sound of a genuine TR-808 that brings home the sound of so many classic tracks. The TR-08 accurately recreates the ingredients that make an 808 so special. The interface, while miniaturized, is 100% authentic. The sound is vibrant and alive thanks to our proprietary Analog Circuit Behavior (ACB) technology. We use ACB to carefully recreate all the details and quirks of the original hardware by modeling each analog circuit, right down to the component level.

Not only does the TR-08 look and sound the part, but it also has some modern features and conveniences. With all this beat-making power, it would be a shame to keep it shackled to the studio. After all, inspiration can strike anywhere, and drum machines are fun to play live. The TR-08 is literally small enough to take just about anywhere. It’s ruggedly built with sturdy knobs, buttons, and switches. It has several tilt options for easy viewing in various live and studio scenarios. It can be a low-latency, portable audio interface. It has a built-in speaker, and even runs on batteries for when the beat absolutely must go on. With all this power and flexibility, you may be most surprised by the TR-08’s affordable price, which puts the legendary 808 vibe within reach of just about anyone who’s ever dreamed of owning the iconic original.



Common Section

The common section of the TR-08 Rhythm Composer includes everything you need to program and play rhythm patterns, pattern chains, tracks, and also access to the system and internal sound sections for extended editing, and sound creation operations not immediately available on the front panel. In this section there is also the master tempo knob/data wheel, real time access to the pattern length, shuffle and flam amounts, instrument selection, compression amounts, gain adjustment, tune, decay, pan, midii channel selection, sync source options, automatic shut off timing, access to the LED demo settings, a choice of programming modes, USB audio/midi output assignments, output assignment for the physical 3.5mm output connection, and a scale button lock so the scale doesn't change in a performance or during composition by mistake. The common section also features the main start and stop/ continue transport buttons, and a shift button for accessing alternate modes for writing, and editing, and there's a clear button for swift and simple erasure of entire tracks and patterns.

Display/TEMPO section

The current tempo is shown in the display.

TEMPO dial

Adjusts the tempo.

BANK (TEMPO/ SHUFFLE) button

Hold down the [BANK] button and press a [1]–[16] button to select a bank.
Continue holding down the [BANK] button and press a [1]–[16] button once again to select a number.
* If you release the [BANK] button without specifying a number, the previous pattern remains.

FINE (VALUE) knob

Finely adjusts the tempo.
You can also press the [BANK] button

		to switch to the decimal point display. Turning this knob while holding down the [BANK] button adjusts the amount of shuffle (rhythmic bounce).
Mode switch/ Select switch/ CLEAR button	**PATTERN CLEAR**	This mode lets you clear a rhythm pattern.
	PATTERN WRITE 1st PART	This mode lets you write to the 1st part.
	PATTERN WRITE 2nd PART	This mode lets you write to the 2nd part.
	MANUAL PLAY	This mode lets you play manually.
	PLAY	This mode lets you play a rhythm track that you composed.
	COMPOSE	This mode lets you compose a rhythm track.
	SELECT SWITCH	Selects an instrument. AC (ACCENT), BD (BASS DRUM), SD (SNARE DRUM), LT (LOW TOM), MT (MID TOM), HT (HI TOM), RS (RIM SHOT), CP (HAND CLAP), CB (COWBELL), CY (CYMBAL), OH (OPEN HIHAT), CH (CLS'D HIHAT)
	CLEAR BUTTON	Clears the recorded content from an individual instrument, or clears a rhythm pattern.
TRIGGER OUT section	**TRIGGER OUT jack**	The TRIGGER OUT jack outputs a trigger pulse. This can control an external device connected via a mini-plug (mono). * Do not use a stereo mini-plug cable. It will not work correctly.
	TRIGGER OUT button	Use this to input a trigger out signal during step-write, or for tap write input.
ACCENT knob		Adjusts the strength of the accent.

INST edit section

Here you can adjust the character of each instrument.
You can use 11 different instruments (BD–CH) in a pattern.

LEVEL knob

Adjusts the volume of the instrument.

TONE knob

In the case of the bass drum and snare drum, this adjusts the tension of the head. In the case of the cymbal, this adjusts the character of the sound.

TUNING knob

Adjusts the pitch of a tom or conga.

DECAY knob

Adjusts the decay.
Turn the knob toward the left for a crisp sound, or toward the right for a more extended sound.

SNAPPY knob

Controls the sound of a snare drum's wire snare.
Turn the knob toward the left for a sound without the wire snare.

Instrument select switch

Selects an instrument. It is not possible to play or write both of these instruments
simultaneously.

LOW CONGA - LOW TOM
MID CONGA - MID TOM
HI CONGA - HI TOM
CLAVES - RIM SHOT
MARACAS - HAND CLAP

Sequencer section

BASIC VARIATION switch

This switch selects a variation of the basic rhythm.
The A (or B) position repeats the A (or B) rhythm pattern. The AB position alternately repeats rhythm patterns A and B.

Measures selector

Selects the interval at which a fill-in is automatically inserted (auto fill-in).
MANUAL (a fill-in is not inserted automatically) 16, 12, 8, 4, 2 (units of measures)

I/F-VARIATION switch

Selects the variation of intro and fill-in.

START/STOP button

Plays/stops the rhythm pattern.

PRE-SCALE switch

Selects the note length of a step.
1: 8th note triplet
2: 16th note triplet
3: 16th note
4: 32nd note

	1st PART/2nd PART indicator	Indicates which part is currently playing.
	[1]–[12] button	STEP NO [1]–[12] / BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] For each step, these buttons turn on/off the instrument that is selected by the select switch. These buttons select a rhythm pattern that is written into BASIC RHYTHM.
	[13]–[16] button	STEP NO [13]–[16] / INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] For each step, these buttons turn on/off the instrument that is selected by the select switch. These buttons select a rhythm pattern that is written into INTRO/FILL IN.
	TAP button	When using the intro, this button turns the intro on/off. To use a fill-in, press this button at the location where you want to insert a fill-in.
MENU/SUB STEP button		This button accesses menu mode. While writing a pattern, you can enter a sub-step by holding down the [MENU/SUB STEP] button and pressing a [1]–[16] button.
Playing/ Recording a Rhythm Pattern		The recorded performance data is called a “rhythm pattern.” The TR-08 has 256 rhythm patterns, and two variations (A and B) for each rhythm pattern.
Playing a Rhythm Pattern	**Selecting PATTERN PLAY mode**	1. Set the mode switch to MANUAL PLAY. One of the INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] indicators is lit, and one of the BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] indicators is blinking.
	Selecting a rhythm pattern	2. Press a BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] button to select the basic rhythm. The indicator of the selected rhythm pattern is blinking. 3. Set the [BASIC-VARIATION] switch. If you select AB, A (first measure) and B (second measure) play alternately.

Playing a rhythm pattern

4. Press the [START/STOP] button.
The STEP NO indicators light successively from left to right.

5. Use the [LEVEL] knob of each instrument to adjust the volume balance, and use the rear panel [VOLUME] knob to adjust the overall volume.

Playing patterns consecutively

When selecting a pattern, you can select multiple patterns by pressing two buttons at the same time. The patterns you've selected will play consecutively. The currently-playing pattern blinks.

Adjusting the Tempo

6. Use the [TEMPO] dial or the [FINE] knob to adjust the playback speed (40.00–300.00 BPM).

7. To stop, press the [START/STOP] button once again.

Intro / Fill-In Operations

You can add an intro before the basic rhythm plays, or insert a fill-in while the basic rhythm plays.

Adding an intro

1. Press an INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] button to select an intro rhythm.

2. Set the [I/F-VARIATION] switch.

3. Press the [TAP] button.
The indicator of the selected intro blinks.
To cancel the intro, press the [TAP] button once again.

4. Press the [START/STOP] button.
The intro plays for one measure, and then the basic rhythm plays.

Inserting a fill-In

Manually
1. Set the measure selector to "MANUAL."

2. Press the [START/STOP] button.

3. Press an INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] button to select a fill-in rhythm.

4. Set the [I/F-VARIATION] switch.

5. Press the [TAP] button when you want to insert a fill-in.

If the first beat is playing, the fill-in is inserted starting at the second beat; if the second or subsequent beat is playing, the fill-in is inserted starting at the next measure.

Using auto fill-in

1. Press a BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] button to select a basic rhythm.

2. Set the [BASIC-VARIATION] switch to the desired position.

3. Use the measure selector to specify the interval at which a fill-in is inserted.
2 (every two measures), 4 (every four measures), 8 (every eight measures), 12 (every 12 measures), 16 (every 16 measures)

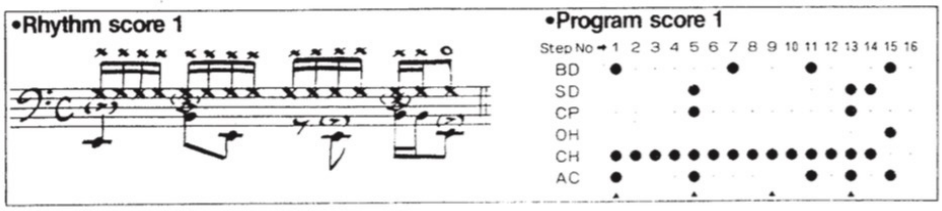
4. Press an INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] button to select a fill-in rhythm.

5. Press the [START/STOP] button.
A fill-in is automatically inserted at the specified interval of measures.
To cancel auto fill-in, set the measure selector to MANUAL.

* You can rhythm-pattern-write an intro/fill-in during playback by holding down the [TAP] button and pressing the [1]–[16] buttons.

* Even while auto fill-in is specified, you can use the [TAP] button to insert a fill-in.

On the TR-08, the process of recording or editing a one-measure pattern is called “rhythm pattern write.” You can write a rhythm pattern using either of the following two methods.



Step Write (Step Recording)

Create a pattern by specifying the steps at which each instrument will sound.

Selecting a position and clearing it

“Position” refers to A or B of each rhythm pattern.

1. Set the mode switch to “PATTERN CLEAR.”

2. Press a BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] button (or a INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] button) to select a basic rhythm (intro/fill-in).

3. Set the [BASIC-VARIATION] switch (or the [I/F-VARIATION] switch) to A or B.

Specifying the number of steps and selecting the pre-scale

4. Press the [CLEAR] button.

Here’s how to specify the number of steps for a part, and select the number of steps in a beat (PRE-SCALE). The Clear operation automatically sets this to 16 steps.
On the TR-08, one measure is divided into subdivisions that are assigned to the STEP NO [1]–[16] buttons, allowing you to write them. These divisions are called steps.
If one measure is divided into 16, one measure equals 16 steps.

5. Set the mode switch to “PATTERN WRITE 1st PART.”

6. Press the [START/STOP] button.

7. Set the [PRE-SCALE] switch to the desired position.

PRE SCALE
One beat = 3 steps
One beat = 6 steps
One beat = 4 steps
One beat = 8 steps

For each setting, the indication (scale) on the panel shows the number of steps in one beat.

Press the [CLEAR] button to apply the PRE-SCALE value.

8. Hold down the [CLEAR] button and press a STEP NO [1]–[16] button to specify the number of steps.

When you specify this, the same number of steps is automatically specified for A and B of the same basic
rhythm (or intro/fill-in), regardless of the position of the variation switch at this time.

If a 16-step rhythm pattern is written to A, and you then attempt to write a 12-step rhythm pattern to B, be aware that specifying this number of steps for B will also set A to 12 steps.

In this case, you can return to the previous state by once again specifying 16 steps.

Entering backbeats

By holding down the [MENU/SUB STEP] button and pressing a STEP NO [1]–[16], you can enter a note that is skewed 1/2 step later.

Writing instruments separately

Use the STEP NO [1]–[16] buttons to specify the steps at which you want an instrument to sound. * The positions of each instrument’s knobs and switch are not memorized.

9. Use the select switch to select an instrument.

10. Use the STEP NO [1]–[16] buttons to specify the steps at which you want the selected instrument to sound.

11. To write the steps for another instrument or for the accent, repeat steps 9–10 to write the rhythm pattern.

12. When you've finished writing the rhythm pattern, press the [START/STOP] button.

Watching the [1]–[16] buttons

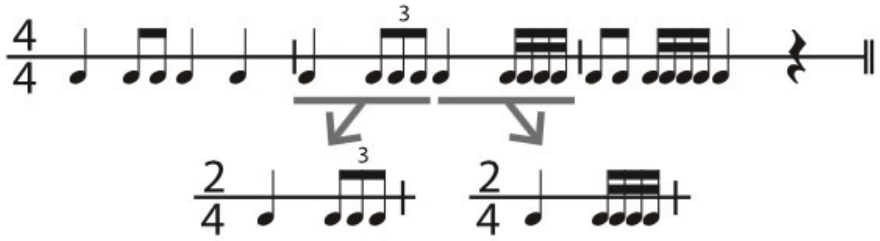
The [1]–[16] buttons are arranged in the order in which playback time flows (from left to right).

If a button is pressed, a note is sounded at that step.

When you're writing a pattern, these buttons operate as step number buttons, not as rhythm select buttons.

Writing a rhythm pattern that doesn't fit the scale

Even if the desired rhythm pattern does not fit in a single pre-scale, you can write it as follows.



When writing the pattern shown in this illustration, the first measure and the third measure can be written using pre-scale 3; however, since the second measure contains a triplet, it cannot be written using pre-scale 3 (16 steps).

In this case, divide the second measure and consider it as two measures, of which the first measure can be written using pre-scale 1 (one measure = 6 steps) and the second measure can be written using pre-scale 3 (one measure = 8 steps).

After writing, playing these two measures in succession results in the performance shown in the notation above.

Recording with the 1st part and 2nd part

1. Start by clearing the position.
& “Selecting a position and clearing it”

2. Set the mode switch to “PATTERN WRITE 1st PART.”

3. Press the [START/STOP] button.

4. Set the [PRE-SCALE] switch to the desired position, and press the [CLEAR] button.

5. Set the mode switch to “PATTERN WRITE 2nd PART.”

6. Hold down the [CLEAR] button and press a STEP NO [1]–[16] button to specify the number of steps (the steps that follow from the 1st part).
At this time, the flow of the steps indicated by the LEDs changes, flowing from step 1 of the 1st part to the specified number of steps of the 2nd part.

7. Set the mode switch to “PATTERN WRITE 1st PART.”

8. Use the select switch to select an instrument.

9. Use the STEP NO [1]–[16] buttons to specify the steps at which you want a note to play.

10. Set the mode switch to “PATTERN WRITE 2nd PART.”

11. Use the STEP NO [1]–[16] buttons to specify the subsequent steps.

12. To write the steps for another instrument or for the accent, repeat steps 7–11.

The steps flow repeatedly between the 1st part 2nd part. If the mode switch is set to 1st part, only the 1st part can be written. In the same way if the mode switch is set to 2nd part, only the 2nd part can be written.

13. When you've finished writing each instrument, press the [START/STOP] button.

Using the 2nd part

The Clear operation clears both the 1st part and the 2nd part (at this time, the 1st part is set to 16 steps and the 2nd part is set to 0 steps).

In order to use the 2nd part, you must specify the number of steps. The number of steps can be freely distributed to the 1st part and the 2nd part.

* The 1st part and 2nd part together make up one pattern. You can't use just the 2nd part by itself.

* For the 2nd part as well, variations A and B within the same basic rhythm (or intro/fill-in) have the same number of steps.

* By holding down the [CLEAR] button and pressing the [TAP] button, you can set the number of steps for the 2nd part to 0.

Random pattern generation function

1. While writing/playing a pattern, hold down the [MENU] button and press the [TAP] button.

The generated pattern is not written automatically.

Hold down the [MENU] button and long-press the [TAP] button to write the pattern. In pattern play mode, an intro/fill-in is generated.

Tap Write (Realtime Recording)

You can create a pattern by using the [TAP] button to record each instrument in real time.

1. Start by clearing the position.
& "Selecting a position and clearing it"

2. Set the mode switch to "PATTERN WRITE 1st PART."

3. Press the [START/STOP] button.

4. Set the [PRE-SCALE] switch to the desired position, and press the [CLEAR] button.

5. Use the select switch to choose the instrument that you want to use as a metronome (for example, RS: Rim Shot).

6. Press the STEP NO [1]–[16] button that will start the beat (Sounding the Metronome step).

7. Use the select switch to specify an instrument that you want to write by tapping.

8. Press the [TAP] button at the desired timing.
The LEDs light to indicate the step numbers that are closest to the timing of each tap.

9. To write the steps for other instruments or for the accent, repeat steps 7–8.

10. When you've finished writing, once again select the instrument that you selected in step 5, and clear the notes that you had been using as the metronome.

11. Press the [START/STOP] button.

Memory

Within the same basic rhythm (or intro/fill-in), A and B have the same number of steps and the same pre-scale

Muting or Soloing an Instrument

Muting an Instrument

1. Hold down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] button and press the [TRIGGER OUT] button.

2. Continue holding down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] and [TRIGGER OUT] buttons, and use [2]–[12] to select the instrument that you want to mute.

Soloing an Instrument

1. Hold down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] button and press the [TRIGGER OUT] button.

2. Continue holding down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] and [TRIGGER OUT] buttons, and use [TAP] to choose "SOLO."

3. Continue holding down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] and [TRIGGER

OUT] buttons, and use [2]–[12] to select the instrument that you want to solo.

Copying a Pattern

* *Continue holding down the [TAP] button during the copy operation. The operation is cancelled if you release the [TAP] button.*

1. Set the mode switch to either “1stPart” or “2ndPart.”

2. With the copy-destination pattern selected, hold down the [TAP] button.

3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press a [1]--[16] button to select the copy-source pattern.

4. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the copy.

Copying a Pattern Between A-B

1. Set the mode switch to either “1stPart” or “2ndPart.”

2. With the pattern that you want to copy selected, hold down the [TAP] button.

3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Use the [VALUE] knob to make the display indicate “A-b” or “b-A.”

4. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the copy.

Recording or Playing a Rhythm Track

8

About composing

You can compose (assemble) a rhythm track by successively switching between rhythm patterns during playback

About memory (storage)

A track does not store the actual rhythm patterns that are played. Instead, it contains the rhythm select switch numbers (basic rhythm, intro/fill-in) that are written in the rhythm patterns, the number of measures, and the order in which they are played; this data is stored for each measure.

During track play, you'll need to set the basic (or I/F) variation switch as it was when you composed the track.

Moving a measure

1. Hold down the [START/STOP] button and press a [1]–[10] button to select the move-destination. Press the [16] button to move the measure to the last measure.

2. Release the [START/STOP] button to confirm the operation.

You can also select the destination by turning the [FINE] (VALUE) knob.

Composing a Rhythm Track

Selecting/clearing a track

1. From the stopped condition, set the mode switch to the rhythm track "COMPOSE" position.

2. Set the select switch to the desired position. 3. Press the [CLEAR] button.

Composing (when the compose mode is "0r0")

4. Specify measure 1, and press the [START/STOP] button.
The rhythm starts.

5. While listening to the rhythm, switch between the BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] buttons (or the INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] buttons and [TAP] button).

6. When the last measure to be composed has played, press the

[START/STOP] button before that measure ends.

The rhythm stops. Even if the notes are interrupted, they have been stored to the end of the measure. The measure at which you pressed the [START/STOP] button will be the last measure.

Editing a portion (measure) of a rhythm pattern that you composed

1. Use the select switch to select a track, and press the [START/STOP] button.

2. The moment that the measure that you want to edit is playing, switch to the rhythm pattern.

* To edit a fill-in rhythm, use the intro/fill-in switch to make the switch instead of using the [TAP] button.

* It's not possible to change only the number of measures in a composed rhythm pattern. If you want to change the number of measures, you must re-compose from the beginning.

Copying measures (Copy)

* Keep holding down the [TAP] button during the copy operation. The operation is cancelled if you release the [TAP] button.

1. At the beginning of the copy-destination measure, hold down the [TAP] button.
The display indicates "COPY."

Example: If you select measure 5, the data is pasted between measure 4 and measure 5.

2. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button, and select the starting measure of the copy-source.

The screen indicates the measure number.

Use the [1]–[10] buttons or the [VALUE] knob to make the selection.

Press the [16] button to move the measure to the last measure.
(Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP]

button, and select the ending measure of the copy-source.
Use the [1]–[10] buttons or the [VALUE] knob to make the selection. Press the [16] button to select the last measure.

(Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the copy operation.

Inserting measures (Ins)

* Keep holding down the [TAP] button during the insert operation. The operation is cancelled if you release the [TAP] button.

1. At the location where you want to insert measures, hold down the [TAP] button and turn the [FINE] (VALUE) knob to select "InS."

Example: If you select measure 5, the data is inserted between measure 4 and measure 5.

2. (While continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) press the [START/STOP] button and select the insert-source measure.
The screen indicates the measure number.

Press one of the [1]–[10] buttons or turn the [FINE] (VALUE) knob to select the last measure that will be inserted. Press the [16] button to move the measure to the last measure.

3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the insert operation.

Deleting measures (Del)

* Keep holding down the [TAP] button during the delete operation. The operation is cancelled if you release the [TAP] button.

1. At the measure that you want to delete, hold down the [TAP] button and turn the [FINE] (VALUE) knob to select "dEL."

2. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to select the ending measure. The screen indicates the measure number.

Press one of the [1]–[10] buttons or turn the [FINE] (VALUE) knob to select the last measure that will be deleted. Press the [16] button to move the measure to the last measure.

3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the delete operation.

Composing (when the compose mode is "STEP")

1. Select the track that you want to compose, and clear it.
"Selecting a position and clearing it"

2. Press the [START/STOP] button. The rhythm starts.

3. Use the BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] buttons (or the INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] buttons) to select a rhythm pattern.

4. Press the [TAP] button to advance the measure.

5. Repeat steps 3–4.

6. When you've entered the last measure that you want to compose, press the [START/STOP] button.

Playing a Rhythm Track

1. Set the mode switch to rhythm track "PLAY."

2. Set the basic variation switch to the position of the first measure.

3. Press the [START/STOP] button.

4. When the last measure has ended, press the [START/STOP] button. Playback continues repeating until you stop it.

When you switch rhythm tracks

If you operate the select switch while a track is playing, the currently-playing rhythm pattern plays to its end, and then playback moves to the first measure of the newly selected track.

1. Press the [MENU] button.

2. Use the [VALUE] knob to select an item.

3. Press the [TAP] button.
Each time you press the [TAP] button, you'll switch between selecting an item and editing its value.

COMP **(COMP)**	**0 - 100**	Adjusts the level of compression applied to BD and SD.
GA IN **(GAIN)**	**0 - 200**	Adjusts the gain. Use the [2]–[12] buttons to select the instrument.
TUNE **(TUNE)**	**-128 - 127**	Adjusts the tuning (pitch) of each instrument. This can be set for BD, RS, CP, CB, OH, and CH.
DECY **(DECAY)**	**-128 - 127**	Adjusts the decay length. This can be set for SD, LT, MT, HT, RS, CP, CB, and CH.
PAN **(PAN)**	**L64 - R63**	Adjusts the pan (left/right position) of each instrument (L64– C0–R63).
bd **(BD TYPE)**	Nrd, L, dCY	Selects the type of BD (Normal, Long Decay).
H.LNK **(HiHAT LINK)**	OFF, ON	If this is On, the settings of OH and CH (Tune and Level settings) are linked. When they are linked, the settings for CH are ignored (OFF, ON).
CH **(MIDI CHANNEL)**	1- 16, OFF	Specifies the MIDI transmit/receive channel (1–16, OFF).
SYNC **(MIDI CLOCK SOURCE)**		
	AUTO	If MIDI clock is being input to the MIDI IN connector or the USB port, the TR-08's tempo will automatically synchronize to MIDI clock (Auto).
	Int	The TR-08 operates at the tempo specified on the unit itself. Choose the "INTERNAL" setting if you don't want to synchronize to an external device (Int).

A .OFF **(AUTO OFF)**	OFF	The power does not turn off automatically.
	30	The power turns off automatically after 30 minutes. * Auto Off does not occur while USB-connected.
dEMO **(LED DEMO)**	OFF, 1,2, 10	Specifies the time until the unit enters LED demo mode.
PrGM **(COMPOSE MODE)**	Or G	Lets you record using the same operations as on the TR-808. In this mode, the measures will proceed when you start; record by switching patterns as the measures proceed.
	StEP	Lets you record using the same operations as on the TR-909. After starting, select a pattern. When you press the [TAP] button, the selected pattern is written to the current measure, and you proceed to the next measure.
tPrM **(TRACK PARAM)**	AUtO, OFF	Automatically recalls the tempo/shuffle settings when a track is selected.
LVLC **(LEVEL CURVE)**	InrM, SPL	Specifies the curve of the level knob. The level curve setting is applied when you operate the [LEVEL] knob after making this setting.
USb.O **(USB MIX OUTOUT)**	ON, OFF	Specifies whether each instrument is output from USB MIX. Instruments for which the corresponding [2]–[12] button is blinked are output; instruments for which the button is lit are not output.
OUt **(Parallel Out)**	OFF, ON	The output of the OUTPUT jack (stereo mini) is split between left and right channels, and the specified sounds are output via parallel output. Sounds for which you press the main keys ([2]–[12]) to make them blink while making this setting are output from the right channel, and sounds whose key is lit are output in parallel from the left channel. * If you want to output in stereo, make all buttons light (default).

4. Use the [VALUE] knob to edit the value.

5. When you've finished making settings, press the [MENU] button to exit MENU.

Changing the Tempo

1. Turn the [TEMPO] knob.

* Pressing the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] button switches to the fine tempo setting. Pressing the knob again returns to the normal tempo setting.

Storing or Recalling the Tempo/Shuffle Settings

You can store the tempo and shuffle settings in the track.

Recalling Tempo/Shuffle

1. With the mode switch set to "PLAY" or "COMPOSE," hold down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] button and press the [TAP] button.

* If Track Param is set to Auto, the settings are automatically recalled when the track is selected.

Storing Tempo/Shuffle

1. With the mode switch set to "COMPOSE," hold down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] button and long-press [TAP].

1. While holding down the [9] button, turn on the power.

Fixed Battery Operation Mode

This mode prevents the unit from switching to bus power even if it is connected to a USB port. This allows the unit to be used even with a USB port that does not supply power.

Memory/Bank Architechture

The TR-08 Rhythm Composer holds 16 banks of 16 patterns.

A pattern can be up to 32 steps long when using both A and B sections.

While you may have a beat which is less than 32 steps - Set A between 1 and 16 in length, and then set B to 0 - You may not use the B section separately.

To Choose A Bank

Hold the BANK button and press one of the pattern buttons [1-16] to select the Bank you want to work in.

The screen will report the selected bank as b-01, b-02 etc.

Backup/Restore

Returning to the Factory Settings
(Factory Reset)

1. While holding down the [2] button, turn on the power. The [TAP] button blinks.

If you decide to cancel the factory reset, turn off the power.

2. Press the [TAP] button to execute the factory reset.

3. When all buttons blink, turn the TR-08's power off, then on again.

Data Backup/Restore

Backup
1. Connect your computer to the TR-08's USB port via USB cable.

2. While holding down the [START/STOP] button, turn on the power.
It takes about one minute to prepare the drive. The STEP NO [1]–[16] indicators show the progress.

3. Open the "TR-08" drive on your computer.
The backup files are located in the "BACKUP" folder of the "TR-08" drive.

4. Copy the backup files into your computer.

5. After copying is completed, eject the USB drive.

6. Turn the TR-08 power off.

Restore

1. As described in the procedure for “Backup” Step 1–3, open the “TR-08” drive on your computer.

2. Copy the TR-08 backup files into the “RESTORE” folder of the “TR-08” drive.

3. After copying is completed, eject the USB drive and then press the [TAP] button. 4. After the LEDs have completely stopped blinking, turn off the power.

MIDI Implementation Chart

RHYTHM COMPOSER
Model: TR-08

Date: Aug. 8, 2017
Version 1.00

Function...		Transmitted	Recognized	Remarks
Basic	Default	1	1	Memorized
Channel	Changed	1–16, OFF	1–16, OFF	
Mode	Default	Mode 3	Mode 3	*1
	Messages	x	x	*1
	Altered	**********	**********	
Note		*1	*2	
Number :	True Voice	**********		
Velocity	Note On	o	o	
	Note Off	o	o	
After	Key's	x	x	
Touch	Channel's	x	x	
Pitch Bend		x	x	
Control Change	20–29	o	o	For details, refer to "Control change list."
	46–63	o	o	
	71	o	o	
	80–88	o	o	
Program		x	x	
Change	: True Number	**********	**********	
System Exclusive		x	x	
System	: Song Position	o	o	
Common	: Song Select	x	x	
	: Tune Request	x	x	
System	: Clock	o	o	
Real Time	: Start	o	o	
	: Continue	o	o	
	: Stop	o	o	
Aux	: All Sound Off	o	o	Transmitted: MIDI OFFLINE
Messages	: Reset All Controllers	o	o	Transmitted: MIDI OFFLINE
	: Local On/Off	x	x	
	: All Notes Off	o	o	Transmitted: MIDI OFFLINE
	: Omni Mode Off	x	o	*2
	: Omni Mode On	x	o	*2
	: Mono Mode On	x	o	*2
	: Poly Mode On	x	o	*2
	: Active Sensing	o	o	
	: System Reset	x	x	
Notes		*2 The same processing will be carried out as when All Notes Off is received.		

Mode 1 : OMNI ON, POLY
Mode 2 : OMNI ON, MONO
Mode 3 : OMNI OFF, POLY
Mode 4 : OMNI OFF, MONO

O : Yes
X : No

*1

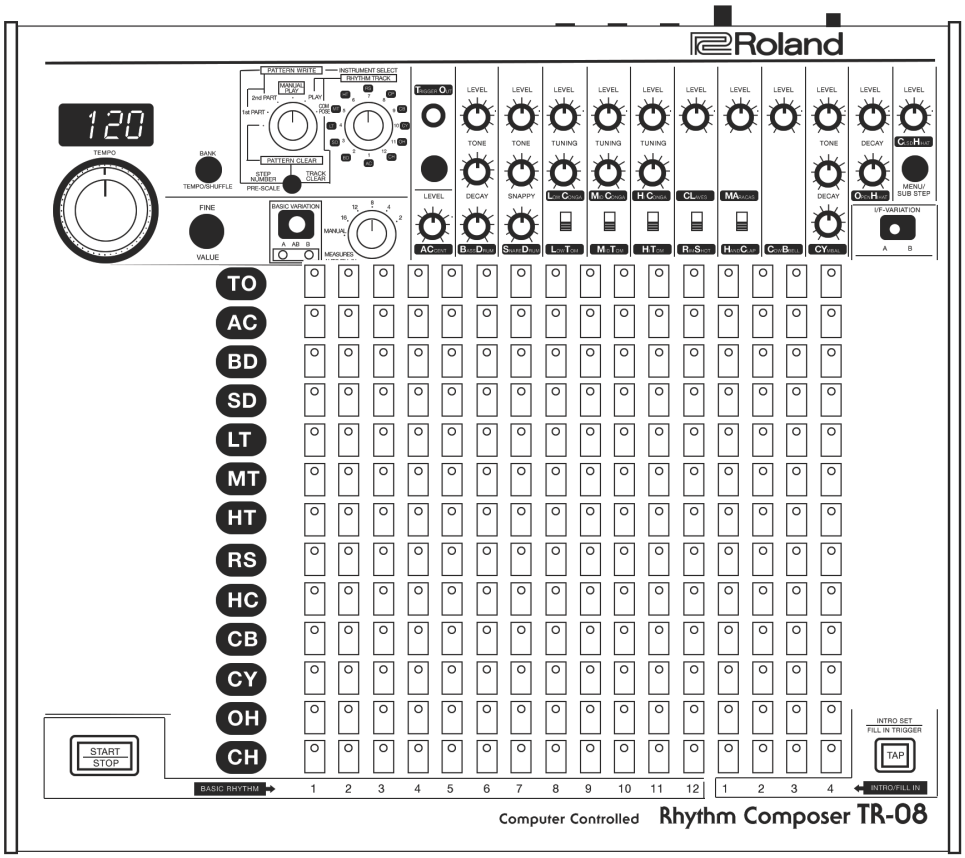
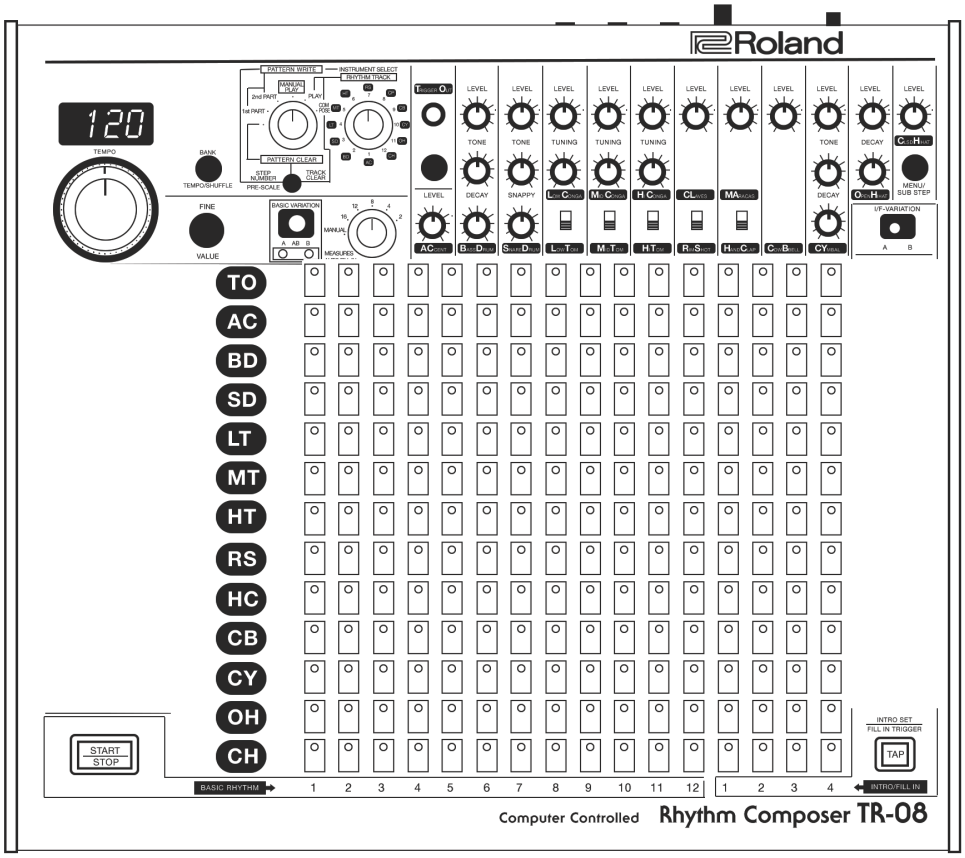
Inst.	Note Number
BASS DRUM	36
RIM SHOT	37
SNARE DRUM	38
HAND CLAP	39
CLOSED HI-HAT	42
LOW TOM	43
OPEN HI-HAT	46
MID TOM	47
CYMBAL	49
HIGH TOM	50
COW BELL	56
HIGH CONGA	62
MID CONGA	63
LOW CONGA	64
MARACAS	70
CLAVES	75

*2

Inst.	Note Number
BASS DRUM	35, 36
RIM SHOT	37
SNARE DRUM	38, 40
HAND CLAP	39
CLOSED HI-HAT	42, 44
LOW TOM	41, 43
OPEN HI-HAT	46
MID TOM	45, 47
CYMBAL	49
HIGH TOM	48, 50
COW BELL	51, 56
HIGH CONGA	62
MID CONGA	63
LOW CONGA	64
MARACAS	70
CLAVES	75

Control change list

Control Change	Explanation
20	BD TUNE
21	BD TONE
22	BD COMP
23	BD DECAY
24	BD LEVEL
25	SD TONE
26	SD SNAPPY
27	SD COMP
28	SD DECAY
29	SD LEVEL
46	LT TUNE
47	LT DECAY
48	LT LEVEL
49	MT TUNE
50	MT DECAY
51	MT LEVEL
52	HT TUNE
53	HT DECAY
54	HT LEVEL
55	RS TUNE
56	RS DECAY
57	RS LEVEL
58	CP TUNE
59	CP DECAY
60	CP LEVEL
61	CH TUNE
62	CH DECAY
63	CH LEVEL

Control Change	Explanation
71	ACCENT
80	OH TUNE
81	OH DECAY
82	OH LEVEL
83	CY TONE
84	CY DECAY
85	CY LEVEL
86	CB TUNE
87	CB DECAY
88	CB LEVEL

Pattern Memo