

# GR-20 GUITAR SYNTHESIZER

# Q&A



## A collection of popular articles from the GR-20 knowledge base

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## GR-20

### How Do I CONNECT THE GR-20 TO MY RIG?

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- 1 Confirm that the GR-20's power is turned off.
- 2 Connect one end of the supplied 13-pin cable to the GK-3 pickup's 13-pin jack. (If you're using an RMC-type pickup, connect the cable to its 13-pin jack).
- 3 Connect the other end of the 13-pin cable to the GK jack on the GR-20's rear panel.
- 4 Connect the GR-20 to amp, mixer or PA input(s). To
  - *connect the GR-20 in mono to an amp, mixer, or PA*—connect the GR-20's R (MONO) OUTPUT to the desired input.
  - *connect the GR-20 in stereo to an amp, mixer, or PA*—connect the GR-20's L (PHONES) and R (MONO) OUTPUT jacks to the desired pair of inputs.

**Note:** If you prefer to listen on headphones, you can connect a pair to the GR-20's L (PHONES) OUTPUT.

**Note:** To hear your guitar's dry signal without the GR-20 synth sound, connect the GR-20's GUITAR OUT jack to a different amp or effects processor. No synth sound comes out of this jack.

- 5 Turn on the GR-20.

## GR-20

### How Do I Optimize the GR-20's Sensitivity for My Pickup?

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Adjusting the GR-20's sensitivity is crucial for optimal tracking results. Use the following steps to set its sensitivity to the way you play your guitar's strings.

**Note:** We're assuming here that you've already set the GR-20 to Guitar or Bass mode, depending on the instrument you're using. To learn how to switch between these modes, see Page 32 in the *GR-20 Owner's Manual*.

- 1 Press the SENS button so it lights.
- 2 Play your first string—the high E—repeatedly with the maximum amount of force you intend to use during your actual performance.

The left-hand character in LED shows the string's number. The right-hand character shows the string's current sensitivity setting. The vertical set of LEDs on the GR-20 front panel just to the left of the BANK dial act as a level meter to show the strength of the signal the GR-20 receives from the GK pickup.

- 3 Turn the NUMBER/VALUE knob to adjust the sensitivity so that all the indicators light up briefly each time the string is played. (Sensitivity values from 1 to 9 are available).
- 4 Repeat the process for each of the remaining strings.

**Tip:** You can also select each string for setup by pressing the HOLD and/or GLIDE pedal.

- 5 When you're finished, press the SENS button so it's not lit, or press EXIT.

## GR-20

### How Do I SELECT PATCHES?

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The GR-20's factory patches are organized into ten banks according to type, with individual patches numbered within each bank. Use the following steps to select and try out some of the patches in the GR-20:

- 1 Turn the LEVEL knob on the GR-20's rear panel to its MAX position. (Adjust the volume of your amp, mixer, or PA if necessary.)
- 2 Turn the GK-3's pickup volume all the way clockwise.
- 3 Turn the BANK dial to the PIANO position.
- 4 Turn the NUMBER/VALUE dial to select 06.
- 5 Confirm that the GR-20's Expression pedal is fully in its toe-forward position.
- 6 Play the GR-20's piano sound on your guitar, experimenting with your playing technique. Try plucking the strings instead of strumming, for example.
- 7 Turn the BANK dial to the ORGAN/Kb position and turn the NUMBER/VALUE dial to select 01.
- 8 Play your guitar. While you're playing this patch, use the Expression pedal to control the patch's rotary-speaker effect.
- 9 Turn the BANK dial to RHYTHM/PERC and use the NUMBER/VALUE dial to select 31.
- 10 Play the low E string, and then press and hold the HOLD pedal. While the loop is playing back, play other strings.
- 11 Continue to select and audition other GR-20 patches using the BANK knob and NUMBER/VALUE dial.

**Tip:** You can also use the GK-3's S1 and S2 buttons to scroll through the GR-20's patches.

## GR-20

### WHY DON'T I HEAR THE GR-20 SYNTH SOUND?

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If you can't hear any synthesizer sound from the GR-20, go through the following troubleshooting checklist:

- 1 Make sure you're connected to your amp, mixer, or PA using the GR-20's
  - *R (MONO) OUTPUT jack*—for mono.
  - *R (MONO) OUTPUT and L (PHONES) OUTPUT jacks*—for stereo.

**Note:** You can't use the GR-20's GUITAR OUTPUT for its synth sound. The GUITAR OUTPUT produces only your guitar's dry, unprocessed sound.

- 2 Make sure that your sensitivity settings have been adjusted properly. Refer to “How Do I Optimize the GR-20's Sensitivity for My Pickup?” on [Page 3](#) of this booklet, or “Adjusting the Input Sensitivity (GK SENS)” on Page 12 of the *GR-20 Owner's Manual*.
- 3 Is your GK pickup switch set to “SYNTH?”
- 4 Check your GK cable—is it properly connected at both ends?
- 5 Is the volume of your amp, mixer, or PA turned up? Try connecting headphones to the GR-20's L/PHONES OUTPUT jack.
- 6 Is the GR-20's Expression pedal in its proper toe-forward position?
- 7 Make sure the GR-20's rear-panel LEVEL knob is set to its MAX position, and that the GK-3's volume knob is turned up.

## GR-20

### How Do I Save My Patches?

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There are 99 User locations in which you can store your own patches. Use the following procedure to save a patch:

- 1 Select a patch.
- 2 Edit the patch as desired to create a new patch of your own.
- 3 Press the WRITE button.
- 4 Turn the NUMBER/VALUE dial to select the memory location from 1-99 in which you want to store the patch.
- 5 Press the WRITE button—as the GR-20 stores the patch, a blinking dot appears in the corner of the display.

**Important!!** Do not turn the power off while the GR-20 is storing you patch. Wait until the dot stops blinking before powering down the GR-20.

## GR-20

### How Do I Find GR-20 ARTICLES IN THE ROLANDUS.COM KNOWLEDGE BASE?

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- 1 Point your browser to the GR-20 [Support area](#) on RolandUS.com.
- 2 Click “Knowledge Base.”  
If you’re not already logged into Roland Backstage, the Roland Backstage login appears.
- 3 If you’re:
  - *a Roland Backstage member*—enter your email address and password, and then click the Login button.
  - *not yet a Roland Backstage member*—click “Create New Profile” to create a free new user account. As a Roland Backstage member, you become part of the online Roland US.com community and gain access to helpful tools and services.
- 4 Once you’re logged in, click the large Knowledge Base button.
- 5 On the Knowledge Base screen, enter “GR-20” in the Product field.
- 6 Click the Find button in the middle of the screen to browse the available GR-20 Knowledge Base articles.