
It's a Fact...

The VA-7 is the flagship of Roland's Intelligent Arranger® series of keyboards, combining features from the popular G and EM-series with Roland's new VariPhrase™ technology. VA-7 features include:

- New sound engine with 3,649 sounds (48 MB worth of PCM samples)
- 116 drum sets, including Asian drum sets
- 48 factory and 16 user VariPhrases
- 128-note polyphonic/32-part multitimbral
- 61-note velocity-sensitive keyboard with aftertouch
- 128 preset music styles & 64 Disk Link styles
- 89 types of multi-effects, plus reverb and chorus
- Built in Zip™ and floppy drives
- Touch screen for easy access to parameters
- Assignable D-Beam™ controller as well as ribbon control

Playing the Demo Songs

Use the following procedure to play the VA-7's demo songs:

1. Press VIRTUAL BAND.
2. Press DEMO on the touch screen.
3. Press ALL DEMO on the touch screen.
4. Press PLAY on the screen to begin playback and set the VOLUME knob as desired.

Note: Press SKIP NEXT to skip to the next song. Press STOP on the touch screen to end playback. Press EXIT on the screen to return to the main display.

Selecting Tones

Use the following procedure to select a tone:

1. Press PIANO in the KEYBOARD MODE section so that it lights.
2. Press TONE to the right of the keyboard so that it's lit.
3. Press the GROUP button to choose Tone Group A or B for the selected part.
4. Press one of the BANK buttons on the right-hand side of the keyboard to select a bank of sounds.
5. Press the NUMBER button for the tone you want to select as listed on the touch screen.
6. Press VARIATION on the screen to access a variation tone.
7. Press EXIT on the touch screen to return to the main display.

Layering Tones

Here's how to layer two tones across the keyboard:

1. Select a tone for UPPER 1 as described earlier.
2. To select a tone for UPPER 2, press TONE on the touch screen.
3. Press PART on the touch screen.
4. Press UP2 on the touch screen.
5. Use the GROUP button to select a group.
6. Press the desired BANK button.
7. Press the desired NUMBER button.
8. Press OTHER so it's lit.
9. Press WHOLE on the touch screen.
10. Press UP1 on the touch screen.
11. Press UP2 on the touch screen.
12. Press EXIT to return to the main display.

Using VariPhrase

VariPhrase technology lets you control the pitch, time and character, or "formant," of a sampled phrase.

1. Press FUNCTION MENU.
2. Press VARIPHASE on the touch screen.
3. Press SELECT PHRASE on the touch screen.
4. Use the GROUP button in the VARIPHASE section of the keyboard to select Group A.
5. Press BACKGROUND so it's lit.
6. Press one of the NUMBER buttons (1-8) in the VARIPHASE section to select a phrase.
7. Press CONTROLLERS on the touch screen.
8. As you play the keyboard, press PITCH, TIME or FORMANT on the touch screen.
9. Turn the VALUE dial to change the pitch, time or formant.
10. Press BACK and EXIT when you're done.

Selecting Music Styles

The VA-7 features 128 internal music styles and Disk Links to 64 additional styles on a floppy or Zip disk.

Use the following procedure to select music styles:

1. Press STYLE so it's lit.
2. Use the GROUP button to select a group.
3. Press one of the BANK buttons to select a bank.
4. Press the NUMBER button for the desired style.
5. Press the SYNC button so it's lit.
6. Press ARRANGER in the KEYBOARD MODE section.
7. Play a chord on the keyboard below Middle C to start the arranger.
8. Press START/STOP to stop the arranger.

Mounting the Zip Disk

In addition to its 3.5 floppy drive, the VA-7 has a Zip drive that can be used for storing MIDI files, styles, user programs and MIDI set information. You can play Standard MIDI Files and also link to styles on a Zip disk. To mount the drive and try out some additional styles, use the following procedure.

1. Insert the Zip cartridge that came with your VA-7 into the Zip drive.
2. Press the front panel FUNCTION MENU button.
3. Press DISK on the touch screen.
4. Press ZIP on the touch screen.
5. Press STYLE at the left side of the touch screen.
6. Select a style on the Zip disk by touching its name on the screen.
7. Press EXECUTE on the touch screen.
8. Press the ARRANGER button so it's lit.
9. Press the SYNC button so it's lit.
10. Play a chord below Middle C to start the arranger.

Muting Parts in the Arranger

While the arranger's playing, you can mute parts and adjust their levels using the following procedures:

1. With the arranger still turned on from the section above, press EXIT and then press MIXER on the touch screen.
2. Press STYLE MIXER on the touch screen.
3. Touch VOLUME located on the left-hand side of the touch screen.
4. On the touch screen, touch the ON button below the virtual fader belonging to the part you wish to turn off. Press OFF to turn it back on.
5. Use the left and right arrows to scroll through all of the arranger parts.

Use the following procedure to adjust the volume for any of the arranger parts:

1. Touch the virtual fader for any part whose volume you wish to change.
2. Turn the VALUE dial to set the part's volume.
3. Press EXIT on the touch screen.

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Recording with the Song Composer

While using the arranger, you can record your own performance.

1. Select the style you want to use for your recording as described earlier.
2. Press SONG COMPOSER.
3. Press REC on the touch screen.
4. Play a chord or chord progression below Middle C to start the arranger and begin recording.
5. Press STOP on the touch screen to stop recording and return to the top of Measure 1.
6. Press PLAY on the screen to hear the results.

Record a second track using the following procedure:

1. Press REC on the touch screen—the second track will appear.
2. Press PLAY on the screen to begin the count-in.
3. Perform the second part.
4. Press STOP to finish recording.
5. Press EXIT to return to the main display.

Recording with the VA-7's 16-Track Sequencer

The VA-7 contains an extensive 16-track sequencer. Record tracks using the following procedure:

1. Press SONG COMPOSER.
2. Press 16 TRACKS SEQUENCER on the screen.
3. Turn the VALUE dial to select the desired track.
4. Press TONE on the touch screen.
5. Use the GROUP, BANK and NUMBER buttons to select the tone you want to use on the track.
6. Press REC on the touch screen.
7. Press PLAY on the touch screen to begin the count-in and recording.
8. Play the keyboard.
9. Press STOP on the touch screen to stop recording and return to the top of Measure 1.
10. Press PLAY on the screen to hear the results.
11. Repeat Steps 3-10 to record additional tracks.

Options

• PK-5 dynamic MIDI pedal • FC-7 foot controller
• MSA/MSD/MSE Series floppy disks • RH-25/50 headphones • DP-2 pedal switch • DP-6 pedal switch (piano type) • BOSS FS-5U footswitch • EV-5 Expression pedal • BOSS FV-300L foot Volume/Expression • KC-100/300/500 keyboard amplifiers