

Welcome

Congratulations on the purchase of your Roland GR-55 Guitar Synthesizer. This TurboStart contains step-by-step instructions that'll quickly introduce you to some of the GR-55's features.

Making Connections

To protect your equipment and your ears, start out with the GR-55 turned off, and turn down the gear to which you're connecting the GR-55.

- 1 Connect one end of the 13-pin cable to the GK pickup.
- 2 Connect the other end of the 13-pin cable to the GK IN jack on the back panel of the GR-55.
- 3 With a standard guitar or instrument cable, connect the L(MONO) OUTPUT on the GR-55 to the input of your amp, mixer, or PA. Or if you prefer, connect your headphones to the GR-55's PHONES output.

Note: Use the GR-55's GUITAR OUT jack to send your dry guitar signal to a different amp if you'd like—none of the GR-55's synth tones or effects come out of the GUITAR OUT jack.

- 4 Set the GK-3's three-position select switch to its MIX position.
- 5 Now turn on the GR-55 and your amp.

Setting Sensitivity

Setting the sensitivity in the GR-55 for the GK divided pickup is crucial for optimal playing results. Use the following steps to adjust the pickup sensitivity.

Note: There are many sensitivity parameters in the GR-55 that can have a significant impact on the overall performance. The following steps adjust the basic sensitivity of each string. We strongly recommend you refer to the GR-55's Owner's Manual for more details.

- 1 Press the EDIT button.
- 2 Press the PAGE ► button to select the SYSTEM tab shown at the top right of the display.
- 3 Press the cursor ◀ button to select "GK SETTING," and then press ENTER.
- 4 Press cursor ▲ or ▼ to select "PU TYPE."

- 5 Turn the dial to select the pickup type that's installed on your guitar: GK-3, GK-2A, or PIEZO, etc.
- 6 Press PAGE ► twice to select the SEN tab.
- 7 Cursor down to "1ST STRING SENS."
- 8 Play the high E string repeatedly with moderate force.
- 9 Turn the dial on the GR-55 to adjust the sensitivity value until the level indicator reaches the right side of the display under "NUA."
- 10 Continue for each of the remaining strings by selecting them with the cursor ▼ button and turning the dial to adjust the sensitivity.
- 11 Press EXIT twice when you're finished to return to the Play screen. Your settings are saved automatically.

Using the Tuner

The GR-55 features an onboard tuner that lets you quickly and easily tune your guitar. Here's how to use the tuner.

- 1 Press Pedals 2 and 3 simultaneously.
- 2 Repeatedly play the first—High E—string unfretted.
- 3 Tune the guitar until "E" shows in the center of the display and the two left and right pointing arrows are lit. If a different letter shows in the display, continue to tune the string until the "E" appears.
- 4 Repeat the tuning process for the remaining strings.
- 5 Press EXIT when you're finished to return to the Play screen.

Selecting the Correct Output Setting

It's a good idea to tell the GR-55 what you're connected to for amplification; i.e. a guitar amp or PA system, etc. This setting—referred to as "Output Select"—allows the GR to internally optimize its sound for the type of system you're using. Use the following procedure to change the Output Selection to match your setup.

- 1 Press EDIT.
- 2 Press PAGE ► to select the SYSTEM tab, and then press ENTER.
- 3 Cursor to "OUTPUT SELECT," and then press ENTER.
- 4 Turn the dial to choose the desired setting.
- 5 Press EXIT twice when you're finished. The new setting is saved automatically.

Selecting Patches

A patch is a collection of tones and effects along with their settings, stored together in a single location. Patches are stored in groups of three, each of which is called a “bank.” There are 270 Preset (factory) patches and 297 User patches in the GR-55. Sound Styles are collective groups in which the different banks and patches are stored.

To select a patch you can

- Turn the dial.
- Press the S1 or S2 switches on the GK-3 (or other 13-pin pickup system).

Note: By default in the GR-55, the S1 and S2 switches are set up for changing patches. If this has been changed, the S1/S2 switches may not function as expected.

- Press the numbered (1-3) pedals

You can change banks using the numbered pedals. Here’s how.

- 1 Press Pedals 1 and 2 simultaneously—the bank number and pedal indicators flash.
- 2 Press the 1 or 2 pedal to select a desired bank.
- 3 Press Pedal 3, and then press Pedals 1, 2, or 3 to select the patch.

Auditioning PCM Tones

The GR-55 contains a whopping 910 PCM tones! Here’s how to select and audition them.

Note: You can access tones in any patch. In this example we’ll use Patch 04-1 Drive Blues Harp.

- 1 Press the LEAD button, and then turn the dial to choose [Patch 04-01 Drive Blues Harp](#).
- 2 Press EDIT.
- 3 Press PAGE ◀ to select the TONE tab.
- 4 Use the cursor buttons to highlight “PCM1 :119 Harmonica 2.”
- 5 Now turn the dial to select the desired PCM Tone—as we mentioned, there are 910 of them.
- 6 Press EXIT when you’re finished.

Using the Phrase Loop Feature

The GR-55 contains a Phrase Looper that allows you to record and play back a performance, and then have it loop continuously. Here’s how to use the Phrase Loop.

- 1 Select the desired patch.
- 2 Press the Number 3 and CTL pedals simultaneously—the indicator on the CTL pedal begins flashing to let you know you’re in Standby mode.
- 3 Press CTL—the LED flashes rapidly and recording begins. Play for up to 20 seconds.
- 4 When you’re finished, press CTL once to stop the recording process. Playback of your new recording begins immediately.
- 5 If you’d like to overdub on top of the recording, repeat Steps 3 and 4.
- 6 Press the CTL pedal twice in quick succession to stop playback.

Note: When playback stops, the recording is deleted.

- 7 To exit Phrase Loop mode, press the Number 3 and CTL pedals simultaneously.