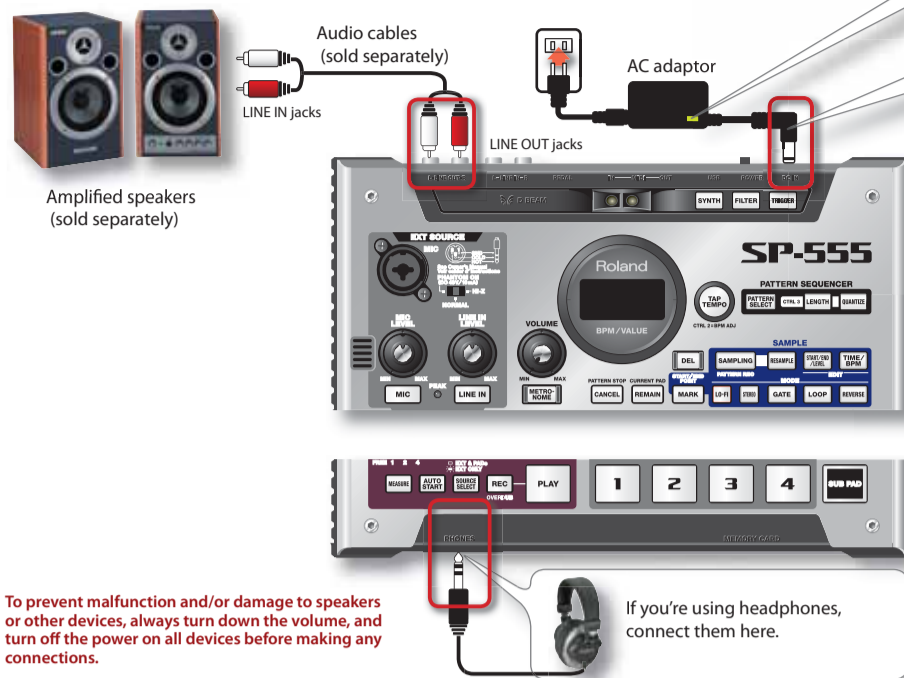# Roland®

04783367   07-07-2N

SP-555

Quick Start Guide

Read this first

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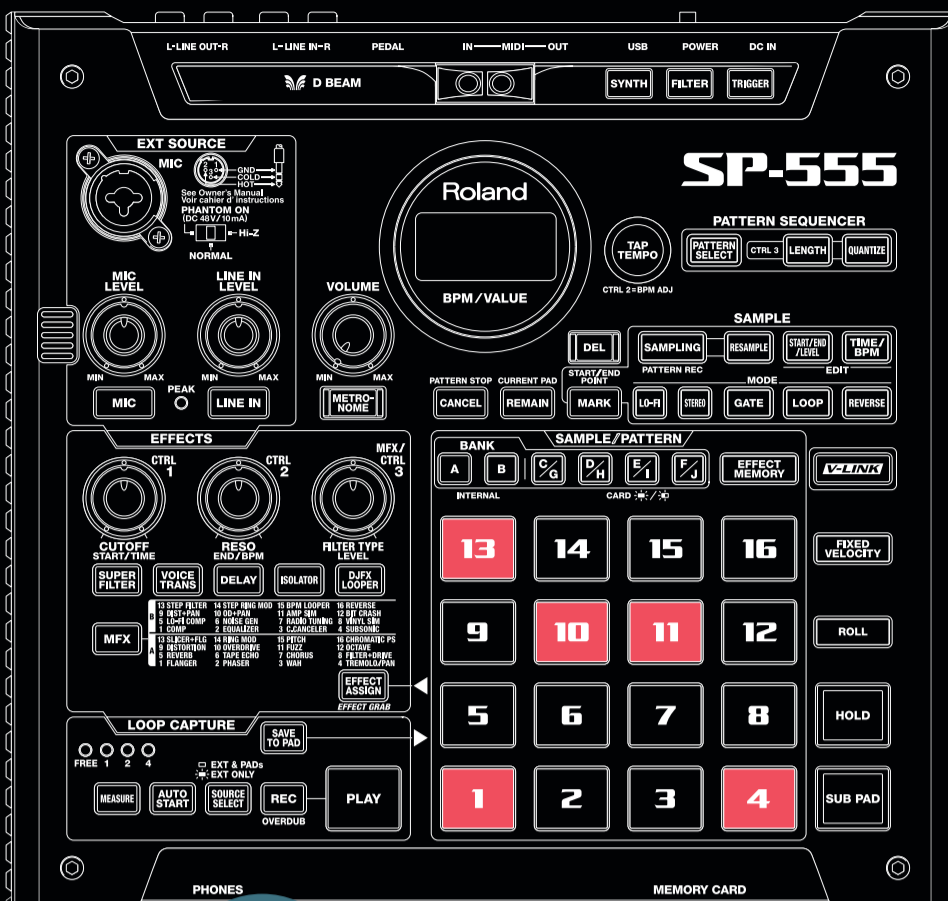
1 Connect the SP-555 to your amplified speakers

Make sure that the SP-555 and your amplified speakers (which we'll simply call "speakers") are powered off, and then make connections as shown below.

Audio cables (sold separately)

LINE IN jacks

AC adaptor

Amplified speakers (sold separately)

LINE OUT jacks

Place the AC adaptor so the side with the indicator (see illustration) faces upwards and the side with textual information faces downwards.

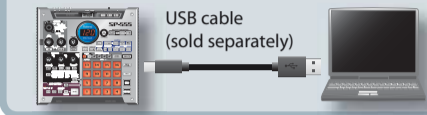* The indicator will light when you plug the AC adaptor into an AC outlet.

Use the hook to fasten the AC adaptor's cord as shown in the photo.

* To prevent malfunction and/or damage to speakers or other devices, always turn down the volume, and turn off the power on all devices before making any connections.

If you're using headphones, connect them here.

If you connect the SP-555 to your computer via USB

If you use a USB cable to connect the SP-555 to your computer, you'll be able to use DAW software such as SONAR LE to record performances created using the SP-555, or have sound from your computer be played by the SP-555.

* Install the driver in your computer before you connect the USB cable. For details, refer to "Connecting the SP-555 to your computer" (p. 40) in the Owner's Manual.

USB cable (sold separately)

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2 Turn the power on

* Once the connections have been completed, turn on power to your various devices in the order specified. By turning on devices in the wrong order, you risk causing malfunction and/or damage to speakers and other devices.

1. **Minimize the volume of the SP-555 and your speakers.**
   Turn the SP-555's VOLUME knob all the way to the left.

2. **Turn the SP-555's POWER switch ON.**

   * This unit is equipped with a protection circuit. A brief interval (a few seconds) after power up is required before the unit will operate normally.

3. **Turn on the power of your speakers.**

4. **Adjust the volume.**
   While striking the pads of the SP-555 to produce sound, slowly turn the VOLUME knob toward the right, and adjust the volume on the SP-555 and on your speakers.

Turning the power off

1. Minimize the volume of the SP-555 and your speakers.
2. Turn off the power of your speakers.
3. Turn the SP-555's POWER switch OFF.

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3 Insert and format a CompactFlash card

If you insert a commercially available CompactFlash card into the SP-555 you'll be able to sample for longer periods of time

CompactFlash cards usable with the SP-555

The SP-555 supports CompactFlash cards (type I) ranging from 32 MB up to 2 GB in capacity.

* You can't use Type II cards such as Microdrives.

Next table shows the currently available CompactFlash cards that Roland has tested for compatibility with the SP-555.

Manufacturer	Model
SanDisk	SDCFH-2048-903 (2GB), SDCFX3-1024-903 (1GB)
IO Data	CF115-256M (256MB), CF115-512M (512MB)
Buffalo	RCF-X128MY (128MB), RCF-X256MY (256MB) RCF-X512MY (512MB), RCF-X1GY (1GB)
Hagiwara Sys-Com	HPC-CF1GZF (512MB), HPC-CF2GZP(2GB) HPC-CF1GZ2F (1GB), HPC-CF2GZ2F (2GB)

* All compatibility testing was done in Japan, using CF cards available to the Japanese market. As such, be advised that the listed CF cards may not be available outside of Japan.

Available sampling times

Using a higher-capacity CompactFlash card will let you sample for a longer period of time. The approximate sampling times available for the internal memory and the supported sizes of CompactFlash cards are shown below.

Card capacity	Recording Time	
	STANDARD stereo (mono)	LO-FI stereo (mono) unit: minuts
Internal Memory*	5 (11)	11 (22)
128 MB	24 (48)	48 (96)
256 MB	48 (96)	96 (193)
512 MB	96 (193)	193 (386)
1 GB	193 (386)	386 (772)
2 GB	386 (772)	772 (1544)

* Includes the preloaded samples

Inserting a card

* Never insert or remove a CompactFlash card while this unit's power is on. Doing so may corrupt the unit's data or the data on the CompactFlash card.

1. **Remove the card cover from the front panel.**

2. **Insert the card into the slot, and replace the cover.**
   * Carefully insert the CompactFlash card all the way in—until it is firmly in place.

Removing a card

1. **Press the eject button.**

2. **Grasp the card and pull it out toward yourself.**

Formatting a card

* Before using a card for the first time, you must format it on the SP-555. The SP-555 will fail to recognize a card that was formatted by a different device.
* Formatting a card will erase all data that was on the card.

1. **While holding down [CANCEL], press [REMAIN].**
   The display will indicate "FMC" and BANK [C/G]–[F/J] will blink.

2. **Press any one of the BANK [C/G]–[F/J] buttons.**
   [DEL] will blink. If you decide not to format the card, press [CANCEL].

3. **Press [DEL].**
   While formatting is in progress, [DEL] will light and the dot in the display will blink. When the blinking stops, formatting is completed.

* Never turn off the power while the dot is blinking. Doing so may damage the card and render it unusable.
* Do not modify or delete the files and folders that are created when the card is formatted. Doing so will prevent the SP-555 from recognizing the card correctly.
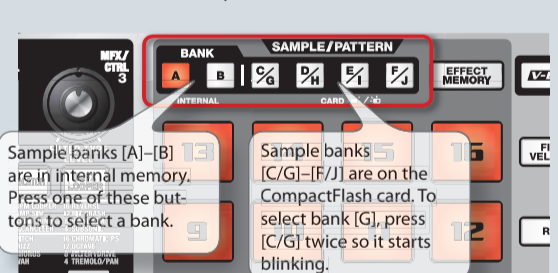
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4 Playing sounds

Playing samples

What's a sample?
Samples are pieces of sampled (recorded) sound together with their loop settings, etc. That are assigned to the sixteen pads. You can play a sample by pressing the corresponding pad [1]–[16].

Pads to which a sample is assigned will light red. Press a lit pad to play the sample.
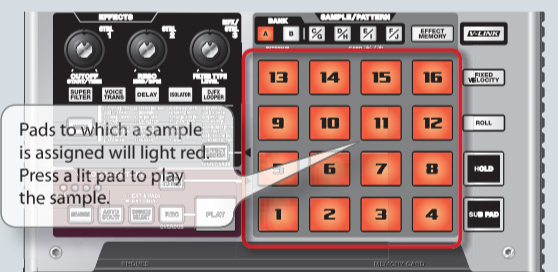
What's a sample bank?
A sample bank is a set of sixteen samples assigned to the pads. The SP-555 has ten sample banks, A–J.

Sample banks [A]–[B] are in internal memory. Press one of these buttons to select a bank.

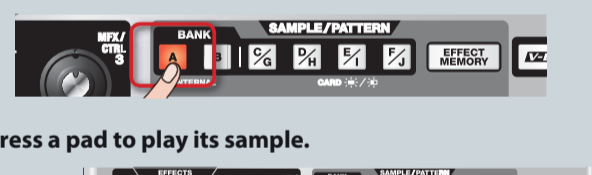Sample banks [C/G]–[F/J] are on the CompactFlash card. To select bank [G], press [C/G] twice so it starts blinking.

When the SP-555 is shipped from the factory, samples are assigned to pads [1]–[16] of sample bank A. Let's start by listening to these samples.
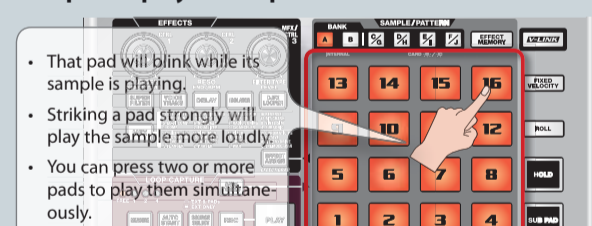
1. **Make sure that [PATTERN SELECT] is extinguished.**
   If it is lit, press the button to turn it off.
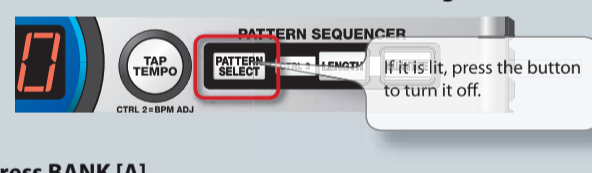
2. **Press BANK [A].**

3. **Press a pad to play its sample.**
   * That pad will blink while its sample is playing.
   * Striking a pad strongly will play the sample more loudly.
   * You can press two or more pads to play them simultaneously.

Try playing samples using the functions described at the right.

If the sound won't stop
If the sound won't stop, press [CANCEL] four times in rapid succession. All of the SP-555's sounds will stop.
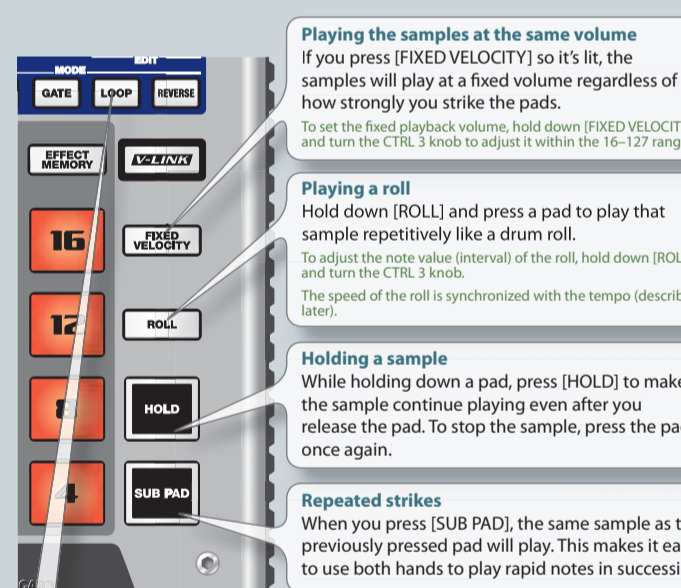
Playing the samples at the same volume
If you press [FIXED VELOCITY] so it's lit, the samples will play at a fixed volume regardless of how strongly you strike the pads.
To set the fixed playback volume, hold down [FIXED VELOCITY] and turn the CTRL 3 knob to adjust it within the 16–127 range.

Playing a roll
Hold down [ROLL] and press a pad to play that sample repetitively like a drum roll.
To adjust the note value (interval) of the roll, hold down [ROLL] and turn the CTRL 3 knob.
The speed of the roll is synchronized with the tempo (described later).

Holding a sample
While holding down a pad, press [HOLD] to make the sample continue playing even after you release the pad. To stop the sample, press the pad once again.

Repeated strikes
When you press [SUB PAD], the same sample as the previously pressed pad will play. This makes it easy to use both hands to play rapid notes in succession.

Check the sample settings
These buttons indicate the sample settings of the pad you pressed most recently (the "current pad").

Button name	When lit	When not lit
GATE	Sample playback will stop when you release the pad	Sample playback will continue even if you release the pad
LOOP	Play back repeatedly (looped)	Play back once (not looped)
REVERSE	Play backward	Play normally

You can change the sample settings by pressing these buttons. Use the procedure described on the opposite side of this leaflet to record a sample, and then try changing the settings.
* At the factory settings, the bank A samples are protected and cannot be modified. For details on disabling protection, refer to the Owner's Manual (p. 51).

📖 For more about playing samples, refer to "Playing samples" (p. 15) in the Owner's Manual.

Applying effects

The SP-555 contains 37 types of effects. As an example, here's how to apply the Super Filter to a sample.

1. **Press a pad to play its sample.**

2. **Press [SUPER FILTER].**
   Use these buttons to switch the effect. (The button's light will be off if the effect is off.) For MFX, the effect to be used is selected by holding down [MFX] and pressing bank [A] or [B] and a pad [1]–[16].

3. **Turn the CTRL 1–3 knobs to adjust the effect.**

Knob	Result
CTRL 1	Adjusts the cutoff frequency of the filter.
CTRL 2	Adjusts the resonance of the filter.
CTRL 3	Changes the type of filter.

   Normally, the effect will be applied only to the pad you pressed most recently. However, by making use of [EFFECT ASSIGN], you can set it so an effect is applied to multiple samples.

   While holding down [EFFECT ASSIGN], press this button to apply the effect to the mic or line input as well.

   While holding down [EFFECT ASSIGN], press the desired pads to have the effect be applied to each pad that is lit.

Storing the effect settings (EFFECT MEMORY)
The Effect Memory function lets you store up to sixteen effect settings and switch between them instantly.

Storing an effect setting
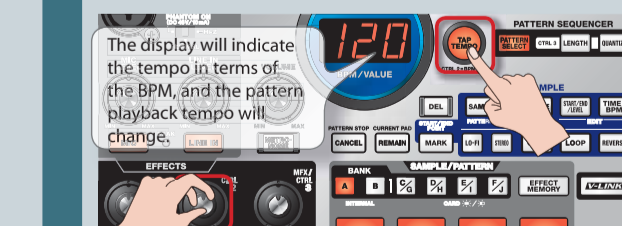[EFFECT MEMORY]➔ [SAMPLING] ➔ pad [1]–[16] ➔ [SAMPLING]
Calling up an effect setting
[EFFECT MEMORY] ➔ pad [1]–[16] to select

📖 For more about effects, refer to "Using effects" (p. 18) in the Owner's Manual.

Playing patterns

What's a pattern?
The SP-555 lets you successively play several samples by pressing a pad, and create a song by recording this performance. Such a succession of samples is called a "pattern."

Pads to which a pattern is assigned will blink red. When you press a blinking pad, the pattern will play.

What is a pattern bank?
A "pattern bank" is a set of sixteen patterns assigned to the pads. The SP-555 has ten pattern banks, A–J.

Pattern banks [A]–[B] are in internal memory. Press one of these buttons to switch banks.

Pattern banks [C/G]–[F/J] are on the CompactFlash card. To select bank [G], press [C/G] twice so it starts blinking.

At the factory settings, patterns are assigned to pads [1]–[16] of pattern bank [A]. Let's start by listening to them.

1. **Press [PATTERN SELECT] so it's lit.**
   The display will indicate "Ptn."
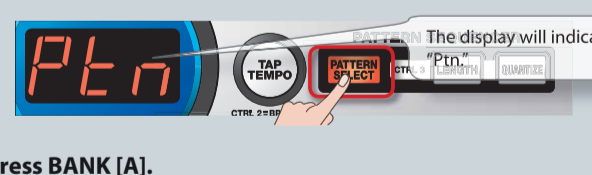
2. **Press BANK [A].**

3. **Press a pad, and the pattern will play.**
   The pad will change from blinking to lit, and the pattern will begin playing.

4. **Press another pad to reserve the next pattern.**
   If you press another pad while a pattern is playing, the pattern to play next will be reserved, and that pad will blink. When the currently playing pattern has finished playing, the reserved pattern will play.
   If you hold down [SUB PAD] and press a pad, the pattern will change immediately.

5. **Press [CANCEL] to stop pattern playback.**
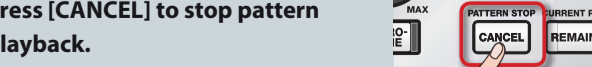
📖 For more about patterns, refer to "Playing samples and recording your performance (Pattern Sequencer)" (p. 33) in the Owner's Manual.

Using the D Beam

You can apply a variety of effects by positioning your hand above the D Beam sensor.

1. **Press a button to select the D Beam effect.**
   The specified pad will play.
   This is the D Beam sensor.
   A synth sound will play.
   A filter will be applied to the output sound.
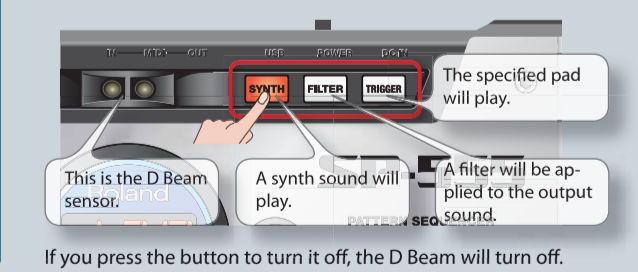
   If you press the button to turn it off, the D Beam will turn off.

2. **Position your hand above the D Beam sensor, and slowly move it up and down.**
   * The sensitivity of the D Beam controller will change depending on the amount of light in the vicinity of the unit. If it does not function as you expect, adjust the sensitivity as appropriate for the brightness of your location. (Owner's Manual p. 38)

D Beam settings
Hold down a D Beam button, press a pad [1]–[16] or turn a CTRL 1–3 knob to make D Beam settings.

D Beam button	Pad	CTRL knob
SYNTH	Pad 1–8: Synth sound Pad 9–16: Delay settings	CTRL 1: Key (pitch) CTRL 2: Scale (pitch interval) CTRL 3: Synth volume
FILTER	Filter type	Not used
TRIGGER	Select the pad to play	CTRL 3: Playback volume

📖 For more about D Beam, refer to "D Beam Controller" (p. 38) in the Owner's Manual.

Adjusting the tempo

Here's how to change the playback tempo of the pattern.

1. **Hold down [TAP TEMPO] and turn the CTRL 2 knob.**
   The display will indicate the tempo in terms of the BPM, and the pattern playback tempo will change.

What's BPM?
This stands for Beats Per Minute, which is the number of quarter-note beats played in one minute.

Matching the tempo of a CD or turntable
You can set the tempo by pressing [TAP TEMPO] at quarter-note intervals of the music from your CD or turntable.
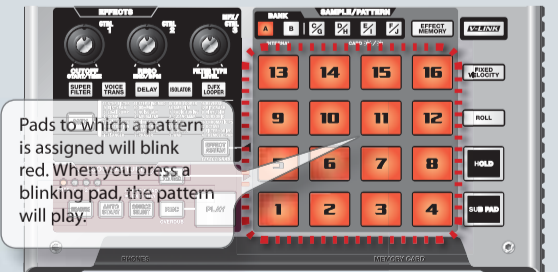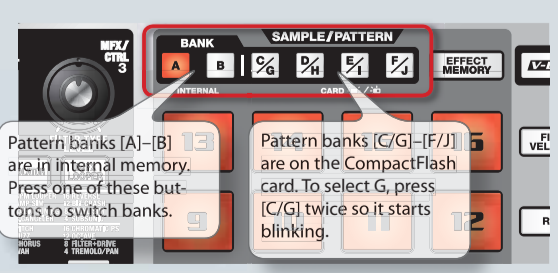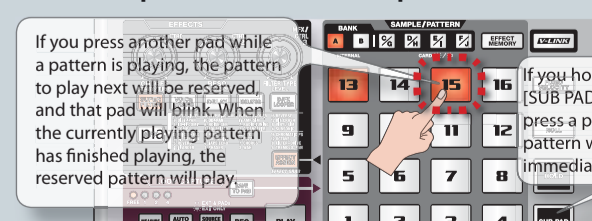Set the tempo by pressing [TAP TEMPO] four times or more at the desired tempo.

Connecting equipment to the SP-555 for recording

* To prevent malfunction and/or damage to speakers or other devices, always turn down the volume, and turn off the power on all devices before making any connections.
* Howling could be produced depending on the location of microphones relative to speakers. This can be remedied by:
  1. Changing the orientation of the microphone(s). 2. Relocating microphone(s) at a greater distance from speakers. 3. Lowering volume levels.

Connecting a stereo or portable audio player

If you're connecting your stereo, CD player, or portable audio player, use audio cables to connect your device's output jacks (LINE OUT jacks, AUX OUT jacks, etc.) to the SP-555's LINE IN.

Your stereo's LINE OUT jacks

Your portable audio player's output jack

Press [LINE IN] so it's lit.
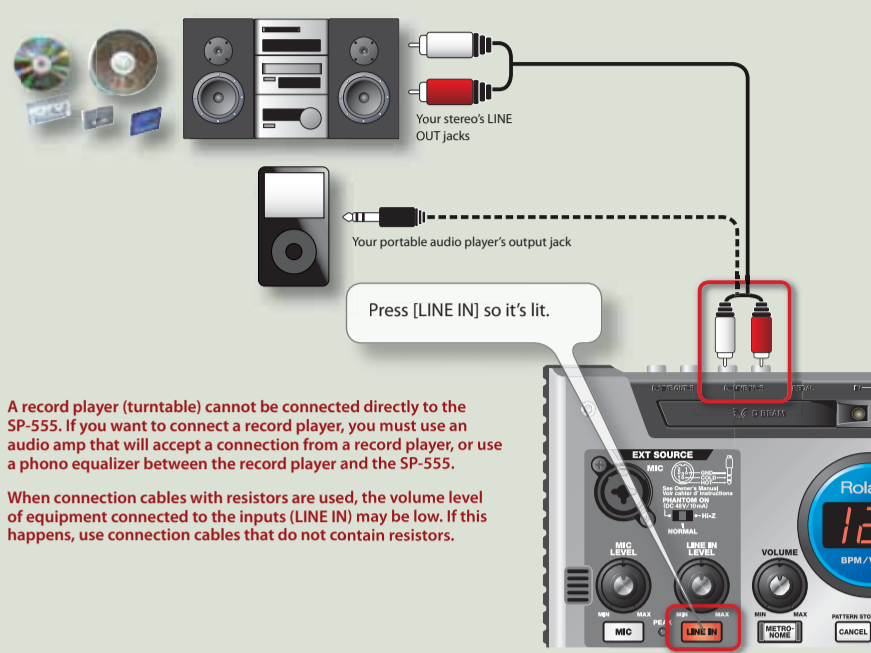
* A record player (turntable) cannot be connected directly to the SP-555. If you want to connect a record player, you must use an audio amp that will accept a connection from a record player, or use a phono equalizer between the record player and the SP-555.
* When connection cables with resistors are used, the volume level of equipment connected to the inputs (LINE IN) may be low. If this happens, use connection cables that do not contain resistors.

Connecting a guitar or bass

If you're connecting a guitar or bass directly, connect it to the MIC jack.
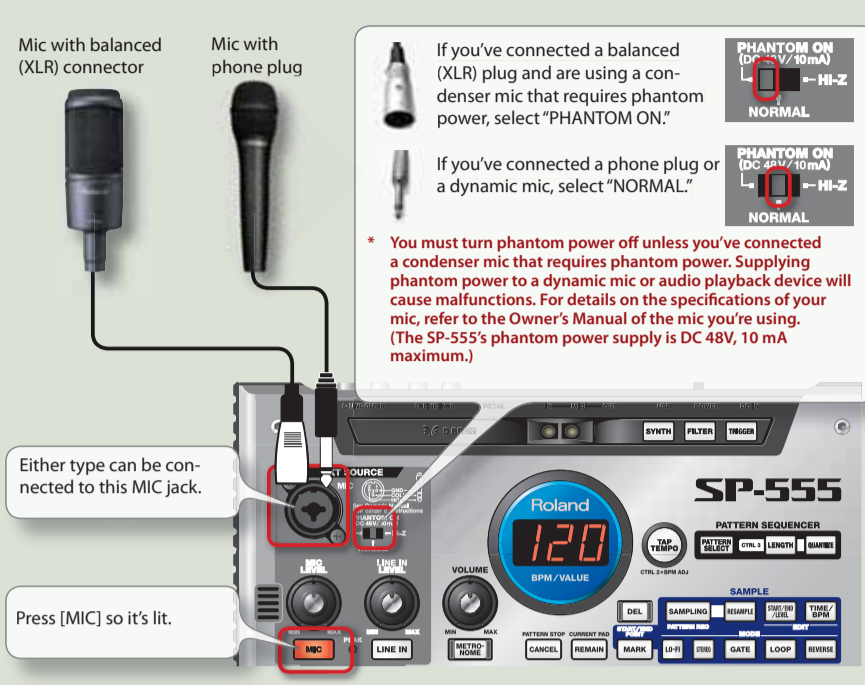
If you've connected a guitar or bass, set this to "Hi-Z."

PHANTOM ON (DC48V/10mA) → Hi-Z
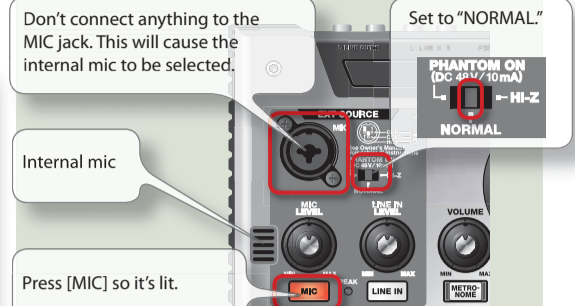NORMAL

Press [MIC] so it's lit.

Connecting a mic

This instrument is equipped with balanced (XLR/TRS) type jacks. Wiring diagrams for these jacks are shown below. Make connections after first checking the wiring diagrams of other equipment you intend to connect.

TIP / RING / SLEEVE GND — HOT COLD GND   HOT COLD GND

Mic with balanced (XLR) connector   Mic with phone plug

If you've connected a balanced (XLR) plug and are using a condenser mic that requires phantom power, select "PHANTOM ON."

PHANTOM ON (DC48V/10mA) → Hi-Z
NORMAL

If you've connected a phone plug or a dynamic mic, select "NORMAL."

PHANTOM ON (DC48V/10mA) → Hi-Z
NORMAL

* You must turn phantom power off unless you've connected a condenser mic that requires phantom power. Supplying phantom power to a dynamic mic or audio playback device will cause malfunctions. For details on the specifications of your mic, refer to the Owner's Manual of the mic you're using. (The SP-555's phantom power supply is DC 48V, 10 mA maximum.)

Either type can be connected to this MIC jack.

Press [MIC] so it's lit.

Using the SP-555's built-in mic

Don't connect anything to the MIC jack. This will cause the internal mic to be selected.

Set to "NORMAL."

PHANTOM ON (DC48V/10mA) → Hi-Z
NORMAL

Internal mic

Press [MIC] so it's lit.

TIP Sampling the sound from your computer

If you use a USB cable to connect the SP-555 to your computer, you'll be able to sample sound from your computer via USB into the SP-555.

* Install the driver in your computer before you connect the USB cable. For details, refer to "Connecting the SP-555 to your computer" (p. 40) in the Owner's Manual.

USB cable (sold separately)

Recording

TIP Two ways to record

The SP-555 gives you two ways to record. Use the method that's best for your situation.

Loop Capture
This is a new method of recording featured on the SP-555. It's a convenient way to record a loop phrase of one to four measures from a CD or portable audio player. You can also use overdubbing to continue layering your performance on the pads.

Loop Capture lets you record up to a maximum of approximately 15 seconds of sound. (If you need to record longer than 15 seconds, use the "Sampling" method.)
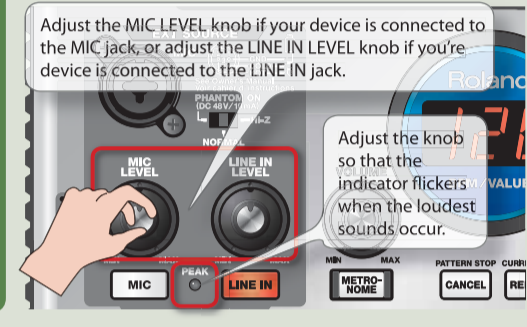
Sampling
This is the conventional recording method in which you record directly to a pad.

1 Adjust the recording level

1. Produce sound on the device that's connected to the SP-555 (if you're using a mic, vocalize into the mic).
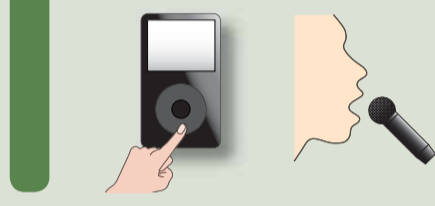
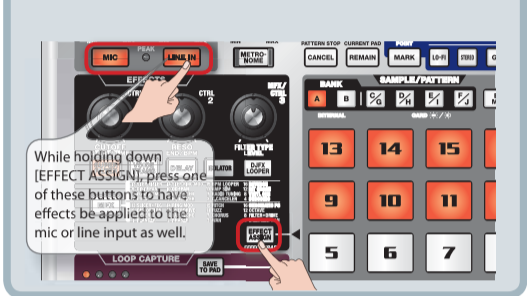2. Adjust the SP-555's knob so that the PEAK indicator barely lights when the loudest sounds occur.

Adjust the MIC LEVEL knob if your device is connected to the MIC jack, or adjust the LINE IN LEVEL knob if you're device is connected to the LINE IN jack.

Adjust the knob so that the indicator flickers when the loudest sounds occur.

TIP Adjust the level with care!
If the recording level is too low, the sound will be lacking in dynamic range and the audio quality will be poor. If the recording level is too high, the recorded sound will be distorted (crackly). Adjust the recording level with care.

**TIP Applying effects to the input sound**
[EFFECT ASSIGN] can be used to apply effects to the mic or line input as well.

While holding down [EFFECT ASSIGN], press one of these buttons to have effects be applied to the mic or line input as well.

2 Using Loop Capture

Here we'll explain how to use Loop Capture to record a phrase and save it to pad 14 of bank B (or bank C–F if you're using a card).
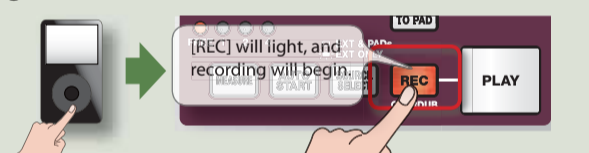
1. Press [MEASURE] enough times to get "FREE" to light.
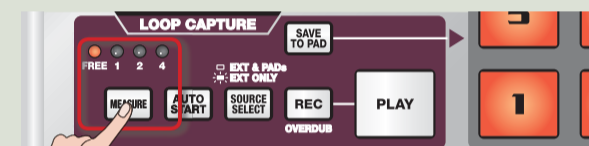
TIP If you know the tempo
If you know the tempo of the phrase you'll be recording, you can specify the tempo and the number of measures.
1. Set the tempo as described in "Adjusting the tempo" on the other side of this leaflet.
2. Press [MEASURE] enough times to get the desired number of measures to light (1, 2, or 4).
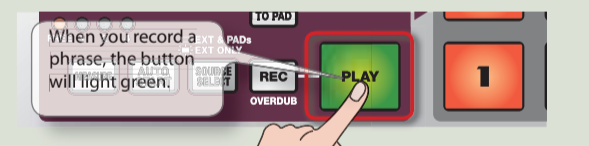
2. Produce sound on the device that's connected to the SP-555, and press [REC] when you want to start recording.

[REC] will light, and recording will begin.

3. When you want to stop recording, press [PLAY].

If you've specified the tempo and the number of measures in step 1, recording will stop automatically, and the recorded sound will play as a loop.

Recording will stop, and the recorded phrase will immediately play as a loop.

4. Press [PLAY] to stop the loop playback.

When you record a phrase, the button will light green.

TIP If you decide to re-record
Delete the phrase as follows, and then re-record.

Hold down [EFFECT ASSIGN] and press [REC]; the recorded phrase will be deleted and the PLAY button will go out.

For more about Loop Capture, refer to "Loop Capture" (p. 25) in the Owner's Manual.
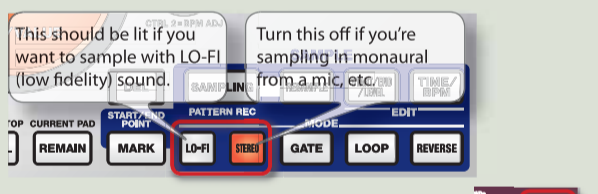
Saving the phrase to a pad

1. Press [SAVE TO PAD].

The button will light.

If you decide not to save the phrase, press [CANCEL].

2. Press BANK [B] so the button is lit.

If you want to save the phrase to the card, press [C]–[F].
The pads to which the phrase can be saved will blink.

3. Press pad [14].

Pad 14 will light, and [SAVE TO PAD] will blink.

4. Make LO-FI and STEREO settings.

This should be lit if you want to sample with LO-FI (low fidelity) sound.

Turn this off if you're sampling in monaural from a mic, etc.

5. Press [PLAY] to begin loop playback.

6. Use the CTRL 3 knob to adjust the level.

Use the CTRL 3 knob to adjust the digital level so that the display barely lights red when the sound is loudest.

7. Press [SAVE TO PAD] to save the sound.

The display will change from "rdY" to "rEC." When the sound has been saved, "rEC" will disappear.
* Never turn off the power while data is being saved. Doing so may destroy not only the sample being saved, but other samples as well.

2 Sampling

Here we'll explain how to use Sampling to record to pad 13 of bank B (bank C–F if you want to sample to the card).

1. Make sure that [PATTERN SELECT] is extinguished.

If it's lit, press the button to turn it off.

2. Press [SAMPLING] so the button is lit.

If you decide to cancel sampling, press [CANCEL].

3. Press BANK [B] so the button is lit.

Press [C]–[F] if you want to sample to the card.

Pads to which you can sample will blink.

4. Press pad [13].

Pad 13 will light, and [SAMPLING] will blink.

5. Make LO-FI and STEREO settings.

This should be lit if you want to sample with LO-FI (low fidelity) sound.

Turn this off if you're sampling in monaural from a mic, etc.

TIP How this affects the sampling time
Sampling at LO-FI (low fidelity) will produce lower audio quality, but will give you approximately twice as much sampling time.
Sampling in monaural will give you approximately twice as much sampling time as stereo.

6. Produce sound on the device that's connected to the SP-555, and press [SAMPLING] when you want to start sampling.

[SAMPLING] will light, and sampling will begin.

* Never turn off the power while sampling is in progress. If you turn off the power, not only the sample being recorded but also other samples may also be destroyed.

7. When you want to stop sampling, press the [SAMPLING].

[SAMPLING] will go out, and sampling will end.

TIP If the display indicates "FuL"
If the available sampling time is exceeded, the display will indicate "FuL," and sampling will end automatically.

8. Press pad 13 to play back the sound you just sampled.

TIP If the sample included an unwanted portion
If there is unwanted sound or silence at the beginning or end of the sample, you can make settings so that only the desired portion will be heard.

For details, refer to "Adjusting the playback region of a sample" (p. 28) in the Owner's Manual.

TIP If you want to re-record the sample
Delete the sample as described below in "Deleting a sample," and then sample again.

For more about sampling, refer to "Sampling (recording)" (p. 21) in the Owner's Manual.

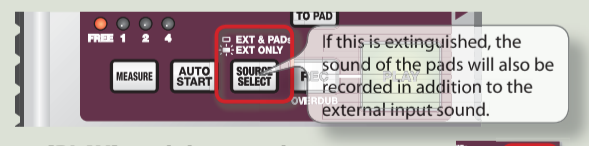## 3 Overdubbing

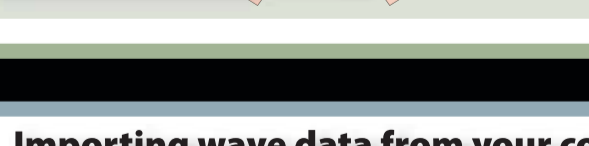Here we're going to overdub your performance using the pads onto the phrase you recorded using Loop Capture.

1. Make sure that [SOURCE SELECT] is extinguished.

If this is extinguished, the sound of the pads will also be recorded in addition to the external input sound.
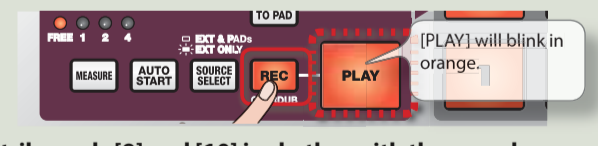
2. Press [PLAY], and the sound you recorded above will play as a loop.

3. Select BANK [A], and strike pads [9] and [10] along with the rhythm.

Recording will still not occur at this point, so use both hands to practice playing at the desired rhythm.

4. Press [REC] to begin recording (overdubbing).

[PLAY] will blink in orange.

5. Strike pads [9] and [10] in rhythm with the sound.
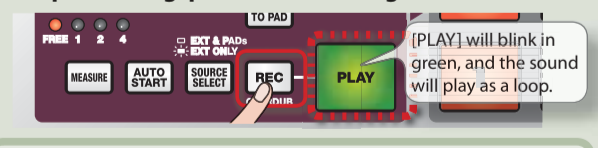
6. To stop recording, press [REC] once again.

[PLAY] will blink in green, and the sound will play as a loop.

TIP In addition to overdubbing using the pads, you can also overdub using an external input source (bass or guitar) or vocal percussion from a mic.

Deleting a sample

If you are not satisfied with the sound you sampled, use the following procedure to delete it, and then sample the sound again.
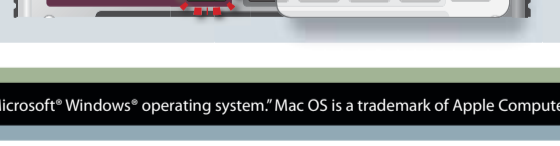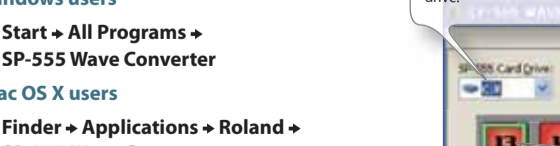
1. Press [DEL].

The display will indicate "dEL," and the pads that can be deleted will blink.

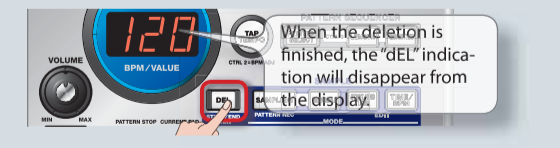Select a bank.
Pads that can be deleted will blink.
You can also delete loop capture phrases.

2. Press the pad that you want to delete.

The selected pad will change from blinking to lit.

3. Press [DEL] to delete the sample.

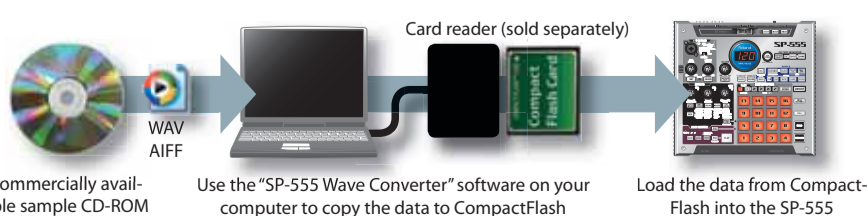When the deletion is finished, the "dEL" indication will disappear from the display.
* Never turn off the power before the deletion is complete.

Importing wave data from your computer
(Using the included "SP-555 Wave Converter" software)

By using the included "SP-555 Wave Converter" software, you can import WAVE format (Windows) or AIFF format files from your computer into the SP-555. This is a convenient way to import material from commercially available sample CD-ROM collections into the SP-555.

Commercially available sample CD-ROM

WAV / AIFF

Card reader (sold separately)

Use the "SP-555 Wave Converter" software on your computer to copy the data to CompactFlash

Load the data from CompactFlash into the SP-555

* You will need a CompactFlash card and a CompactFlash card reader that works with your computer.

1. **Installing Wave Converter.**
   Windows users
   Navigate to the **Wave Converter** folder on the **SP-555 UTILITY CD-ROM** and double-click **Setup.exe.**
   Mac OS X users
   Navigate to the **Wave Converter** folder on the **SP-555 UTILITY CD-ROM** and double-click **SP-555 Wave Converter Installer.pkg.**

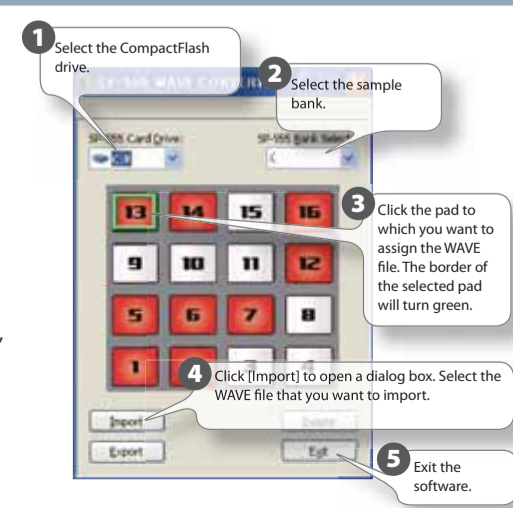2. **Connect your card reader to your computer, and insert a CompactFlash card.**

You must first format the CompactFlash card on the SP-555.

3. **Start up Wave Converter.**
   Windows users
   Start → All Programs → SP-555 Wave Converter
   Mac OS X users
   Finder → Applications → Roland → SP-555 Wave Converter

4. **Use Wave Converter to load WAVE files.**
   Using the procedure described at the right, assign WAVE files (or AIFF files) to the pads of the SP-555. When you're finished, click [Exit] to exit the software.

1 Select the CompactFlash drive.
2 Select the sample bank.
3 Click the pad to which you want to assign the WAVE file. The border of the selected pad will turn green.
4 Click [Import] to open a dialog box. Select the WAVE file that you want to import.
5 Exit the software.

5. **Insert the CompactFlash card into the SP-555, and switch on its power.**
   You'll be able to play the imported WAVE files on the SP-555.

For more about using SP-555 Wave Converter, refer to the online help.
The online help is a PDF file. You'll need Adobe Reader (available free of charge) in order to read it.

If you want to import audio files from a CompactFlash card without using the included "SP-555 Wave Converter" software, refer to "Importing audio files" (p. 46) in the owner's manual.