

# V-Combo VR-700



## V-Combo Splits and Layers

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VR700WS02

## About the V-Combo VR-700 Workshop Booklets

The Roland V-Combo VR-700 Stage Keyboard is designed for the working musician, bringing together all the tools a gig demands. Roland's acclaimed virtual tone-wheel organ technology, real harmonic bars, and waterfall keyboard make it a joy to play. A rich assortment of settings allow for heart-stopping recreations of classic and modern tone-wheel organ sounds. Roland's beloved piano sounds are onboard, too, along with the most asked-for synth and ensemble patches, bundled together in one keyboard that's easy to set up and get to the gig. The V-Combo's built-in rhythms and backing-track player make it even more indispensable onstage.

Each V-Combo Workshop Series booklet focuses on one V-Combo topic, and is intended as a companion to the *V-Combo VR-700 Owner's Manual*.

This booklet requires V-Combo Operating System v1.08 or higher. You can download the latest V-Combo O.S. for free from [www.RolandUS.com](http://www.RolandUS.com).

### About This Booklet

With the V-Combo's ability to generate separate upper and lower organ sounds—as well as a pedal-keyboard sound—plus two ensemble tones, you have five different sounds to use together. This booklet describes the most common ways to combine sounds on the V-Combo.

### Understanding the Symbols in This Booklet

Throughout this booklet, you'll come across information that deserves special attention—that's the reason it's labeled with one of the following symbols.



A note is something that adds information about the topic at hand.



A tip offers suggestions for using the feature being discussed.



Warnings contain important information that can help you avoid possible damage to your equipment, your data, or yourself.

## In a Hurry?

This booklet discusses splits and layers in detail. If you prefer, though, you can jump to instructions for a specific type of split or layer by clicking it here:

- *Playing the V-Combo as a Single-Manual Organ*—see Page 4.
- *Playing a Single Ensemble Tone Across the Keyboard*—see Page 4.
- *Setting Up a V-Combo Upper- and Lower-Manual Split*—see Page 4.
- *Creating a Split with Two Ensemble Tones*—see Page 5.
- *Creating an Organ/Ensemble-Tone Split*—see Page 6.
- *Layering the Organ with an Ensemble Tone*—see Page 6.
- *Layering Ensemble Sounds*—see Page 7.
- *Creating an Organ and Two-Ensemble-Tone Layer*—see Page 8.
- *Creating an Organ and Two-Ensemble-Tone Split*—see Page 8.
- *Creating a Two-Keyboard Dual Manual Organ*—see Page 9.

## The V-Combo Sounds

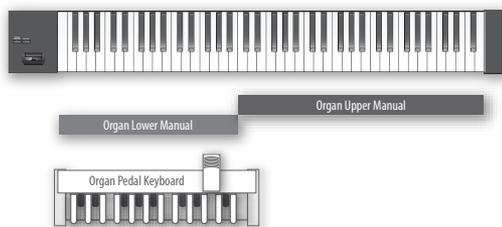
To start with, the V-Combo can produce three simultaneous organ sounds, allowing it to act as a dual-manual organ with a pedal keyboard:

- *The organ upper manual*—When the keyboard's split into two separate areas, this organ sound is played from the right-hand area of the keyboard. (When you're not splitting the keyboard, this is the organ sound that's played from the entire V-Combo keyboard.)
- *The organ lower manual*—When the keyboard's split in two, this organ sound is played from the left-hand area of the keyboard.
- *The organ pedal keyboard*—This organ sound is most typically played from an optional pedal keyboard, such as Roland's PK-25A, PK-7A, or PK-5A, sold separately. When you connect one (or an external MIDI keyboard) to the MIDI PEDAL IN jack, it automatically plays the V-Combo's pedal sound with no additional setup required.



Adjust a manual's sound using the drawbars by pressing its HARMONIC BAR button, or LOWER and UPPER together for the pedal sound.

Here's a way to visualize the V-Combo's organ sounds:



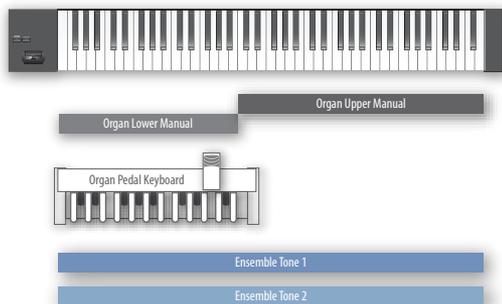
In addition, the V-Combo can produce two ensemble tones at once, either layered on top of each other...



...or split into different areas of the keyboard.



And they can all work together at the same time using splits and layers.



Here we're showing the two ensemble sounds being layered with each other, but, of course, they can also be used in a split.

## What Are Splits and Layers?

Splits and layers allow you to use V-Combo sounds together. With a

- *split*—you divide the keyboard into two zones, each of which plays its own sound(s). For the V-Combo's organ sounds, splitting the keyboard allows you to treat its two zones as upper and lower manuals. (You also have the option of playing the V-Combo pedal sound in the lower area of the keyboard instead if you want to.) For ensemble tones, you can play a different sound with either hand when you split the keyboard.



You can set up full-sized upper and lower manuals with the V-Combo by connecting an external MIDI keyboard, as we'll describe on Page 8.

- *layer*—sounds play the same notes at the same time to create complex textures. You can layer the V-Combo's organ sounds with ensemble tones, or layer ensemble tones alone.

## Saving Splits and Layers as Favorites

The tremendous flexibility of the V-Combo's splitting and layering system inevitably carries along with it a certain complexity. Splits and layers on the V-Combo are best set up in advance of a gig or session and then saved as Favorites you can quickly recall on the spot. You *can* tweak them as you go, of course.

## A Word About Split Points

When you're working with splits, the key at which the keyboard is divided is called the "split point." This is shown on the V-Combo display as the highest key your left hand plays.



When you split the V-Combo keyboard, the default split point—the highest key your left hand plays—is B3, just below Middle C.

We'll note how to change the split point later on.

## Playing Single Sounds Across the Whole Keyboard

### Playing the V-Combo as a Single-Manual Organ



To play the V-Combo as a single manual organ, with the organ upper-manual sound across the entire keyboard:

- 1 Make sure that the SPLIT and LAYER buttons aren't lit.
- 2 Press the HARMONIC BAR ORGAN ON button so it's lit. Since the entire keyboard now plays the upper-manual organ, press the HARMONIC BAR UPPER button so it's lit and the LOWER button is turned off—this assigns the drawbars to the organ upper manual, which is what you're hearing and playing.



### Playing a Single Ensemble Tone Across the Keyboard



To play one ensemble tone across the entire V-Combo keyboard:

- 1 Make sure that the SPLIT and LAYER buttons aren't lit.
- 2 Press the desired tone-category button, and use the - and/or + buttons to choose the desired tone from the selected category.



If the HARMONIC BAR ORGAN ON button is lit, press it once to turn it off.



To adjust the level of the ensemble tone without changing the V-Combo's overall volume, use the ENSEMBLE VOLUME drawbar—if you save the tone as a Favorite, this setting will be remembered for you.

## Simple Splits

### Setting Up a V-Combo Upper- and Lower-Manual Split



This section describes how to set up two shortened manuals across the single V-Combo keyboard. To learn how to set up two full-sized physical manuals using an external keyboard, see Page 8.

- 1 If any ENSEMBLE BUTTONS are lit, press them so they're not—doing this automatically turns on the HARMONIC BARS ORGAN ON button.
- 2 Press SPLIT—the dual-manual split is turned on, and the current split point is shown in the display. You can use the - and/or + buttons to change the split point if you like.



To change the split point later on, you can always double-click the SPLIT button, and use the - and/or + buttons to set the split as desired.

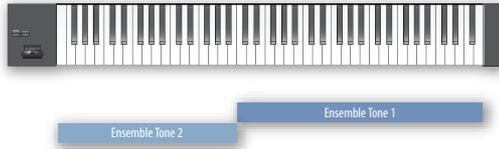


To change either the upper- or lower-manual sound using the drawbars, press the HARMONIC BARS area's UPPER or LOWER button, respectively, to light it, assigning the drawbars to the control of the desired manual.



If you're not using a pedal keyboard and would prefer the characteristic pedal sound under your left hand instead of the lower manual, hold down LOWER and UPPER and press SPLIT so it lights.

## Creating a Split with Two Ensemble Tones



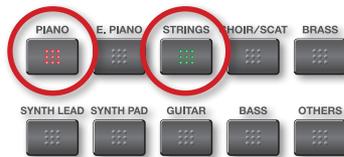
To create a split with two ensemble tones:

- 1 With the SPLIT and LAYER buttons unlit, press the category button for the ensemble tone you want to play with your right hand—the button lights red. This is the category button for Ensemble Tone 1.



Here we've selected the Piano category.

- 2 Press the - and/or + buttons to select a tone within the category.
- 3 While holding down the button you pressed in Step 1, press the category button for the ensemble tone you want to play with your left hand—the button turns green. This is Ensemble Tone 2's button.



Now we've got the Piano and Strings categories selected.

- 4 Hold down the tone-category button you selected in Step 3, and press TO LOWER/PEDAL once—the SPLIT button lights, and the second ensemble tone now occupies the lower area of the keyboard.



At Step 4 above, the ORGAN ON indicator also lights, to show that the pedal keyboard sound is now available for you to play bass lines along with your ensemble split if you've got a pedal keyboard connected.



To change the split point, double-click the SPLIT button, and use the - and/or + buttons to set the split as desired.



To shift the octave of Ensemble Tone 1, press the OCTAVE SHIFT button and use the - and/or + buttons to set the tone's pitch as desired.

## Selecting Different Tones

You can change either sound's tone category by repeating Step 3 above, pressing the buttons for the categories you want. Then, to select

- *Ensemble Tone 1*—if the TONE indicator to the left of the display isn't lit, press the DISPLAY button repeatedly until it is. Use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone.
- *Ensemble Tone 2*—while holding down the category button for Ensemble Tone 2, use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone.

## Changing the Balance Between Split Ensemble Tones

To change the level balance between the two ensemble tones, hold down both tone-category buttons—the display shows their relative levels.

Ensemble Tone 1's level      Ensemble Tone 2's level



The maximum relative level for a tone is 9.

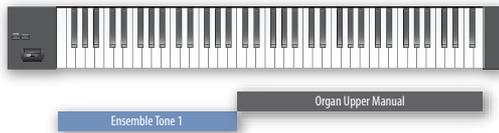
While continuing to hold down the buttons, use the -and/or + buttons to set their balance as desired.



To adjust the overall level of your layered sound—without affecting their volumes relative to each other—use the ENSEMBLE VOLUME drawbar instead of the MASTER VOLUME since it'll be stored along with the rest of your setup if you save it as a Favorite.

## Creating an Organ/Ensemble-Tone Split

Here's how to split the keyboard so that you have the upper organ sound under your right hand and an ensemble tone under your left.



Before performing Step 1, make sure both the SPLIT and LAYER buttons are turned off.

You can start building a layer from either an organ sound or an ensemble tone, which we'll view as Ensemble Tone 1 in this context.

- 1 Press the LAYER button to light it. If you're starting with an
  - *organ sound*—proceed to Step 2.
  - *ensemble tone*—the upper organ manual is now layered with Ensemble Tone 1.
- 2 Press the desired tone-category button—the tone-category button lights red—and then use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone in that category as Ensemble Tone 1.
- 3 Press the ENSEMBLE TO LOWER/PEDAL button so it lights—the SPLIT button lights, and Ensemble Tone 1 is now under your left hand along with the lower-manual organ sound.
- 4 Press the LOWER HARMONIC BARS button, and then push the drawbars all the way in to silence the lower manual organ if you like.



To select a different ensemble tone, press a different tone-category button and use the - and/or + buttons to select the tone you want. To change the organ sound, make sure that only the UPPER HARMONIC BARS button is lit, and then use the drawbars.



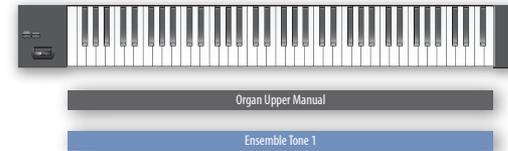
To change the split point, double-click the SPLIT button, and use the - and/or + buttons to set the split as desired.



If you'd like to shift the octave of Ensemble Tone 1 so it suits its keyboard range better, press the ENSEMBLE OCTAVE SHIFT button and use the - and/or + buttons to set its octave as desired.

## Simple Layering of Sounds

### Layering the Organ with an Ensemble Tone



Here are instructions for layering the upper-manual organ sound with Ensemble Tone 1.



Before performing Step 1, make sure both the SPLIT and LAYER buttons are turned off.

You can start building a layer from either an organ sound or an ensemble tone, which we'll view as Ensemble Tone 1 in this context.

- 1 Press the LAYER button to light it. If you're starting with an
  - *organ sound*—proceed to Step 2.
  - *ensemble tone*—the upper organ manual is now layered with Ensemble Tone 1.

- Press the desired tone-category button—the tone-category button lights red—and then use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone in that category as Ensemble Tone 1.



To adjust the level of the ensemble tone relative to the organ sound, use the ENSEMBLE VOLUME drawbar, since it'll be stored along with the rest of your setup if you save it as a Favorite.



To change the organ sound, make sure that only the HARMONIC BARS UPPER button is lit, and then use the drawbars. To select a different ensemble tone, press a different tone-category button and use the - and/or + buttons to select the tone you want.



If you'd like to shift the octave of Ensemble Tone 1 so it sits better against the organ sound, press the ENSEMBLE OCTAVE SHIFT button and use the - and/or + buttons to set the tone's octave as desired.



You can quickly convert this to a split in which the ensemble tone is played by your left hand by pressing the ENSEMBLE TO LOWER/PEDAL button so it lights.

## Layering Ensemble Sounds

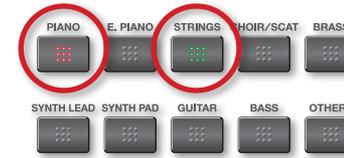
- With the SPLIT and LAYER buttons unlit, press the category button for the first ensemble tone you want—the button lights red. This is the tone-category button for Ensemble Tone 1.



Here we've selected the Piano category.

- Use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone within the selected category.

- While holding down the button you pressed in Step 1, press the category button for the second ensemble tone you want to use—the button turns green. This is Ensemble Tone 2's category button.



Here we've got tones from the Piano and Strings categories layered.

## Selecting Different Tone Categories

You can change either sound's tone category by repeating Step 3 above, pressing the buttons for the categories you want.

## Selecting Different Tones

To change

- Ensemble Tone 1*—if the TONE indicator to the left of the display isn't lit, press the DISPLAY button repeatedly until it is. Then use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone.
- Ensemble Tone 2*—while holding down the category button for Ensemble Tone 2, use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone.

## Changing the Balance Between Ensemble Tones

To change the balance between the two ensemble tones, hold down both tone-category buttons—the display shows their relative levels.



The maximum relative level for a tone is 9.

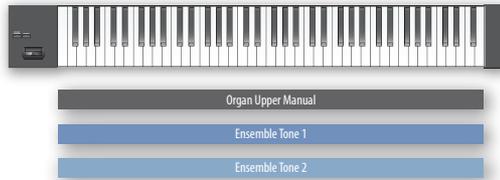
While continuing to hold down the buttons, use the -and/or + buttons to set their balance as desired.



To adjust the overall level of your layered sound—without affecting their volumes relative to each other—use the ENSEMBLE VOLUME drawbar instead of the MASTER VOLUME, since it'll be stored along with the rest of your setup if you save it as a Favorite.

## Getting Fancy

### Creating an Organ and Two-Ensemble-Tone Layer



- 1 Follow the steps in “Layering the Organ with an Ensemble Tone” on Page 6.
- 2 Hold down the category button for Ensemble Tone 1 and press the tone-category button you want to use for Ensemble Tone 2.
- 3 Hold down Ensemble Tone 2’s category button and use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone.



You can change Ensemble Tone 2 at any time by repeating Steps 2 and 3 above.

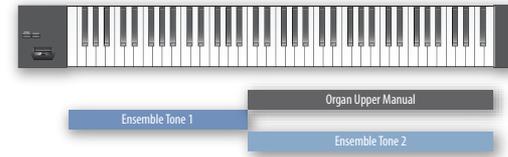
- 4 To adjust the volume balance between the two ensemble sounds, hold down both tone-category buttons, and, while continuing to hold them down, use the - and/or + buttons to shift their level balance as desired.

Ensemble Tone 1’s level      Ensemble Tone 2’s level



The maximum relative level for a tone is 9.

### Creating an Organ and Two-Ensemble-Tone Split



In this organ-ensemble-tone split, you add a second ensemble sound to either the right hand or the left.

- 1 Follow the steps in “Creating an Organ/Ensemble-Tone Split” on Page 6.
- 2 While holding down the tone-category button for Ensemble Tone 1, press the desired tone-category button for the second ensemble tone—Ensemble Tone 2 is layered with the upper-manual organ under your right hand.
- 3 Hold down Ensemble Tone 2’s category button and use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone for Ensemble Tone 2.
- 4 You can move Ensemble Tone 2 down to the left hand to join Ensemble Tone 1 by holding down Ensemble Tone 2’s tone-category button and pressing the ENSEMBLE TO LOWER/PEDAL button—this layers Ensemble Tone 2 with Ensemble Tone 1 beneath your left hand.



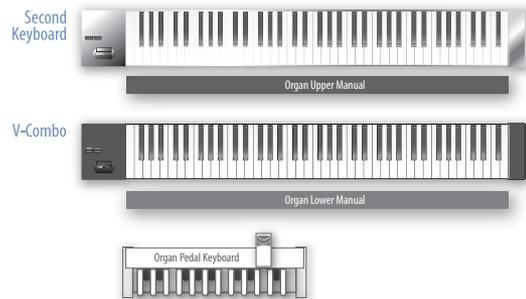
You can easily change your layered ensemble tones or turn off the layer altogether. For a different ensemble layer, repeat Steps 2 and 3 above. To turn off the layer, press the tone-category button for the single ensemble tone you want to use, and then use the - and/or + buttons to select the desired tone.



You can adjust the relative volume of your layered ensemble tones by holding down their tone-category buttons at the same time and using the - and/or + buttons.

## Creating a Two-Keyboard Dual Manual Organ

One of the most enjoyable ways to unleash the V-Combo's power is to connect a second MIDI keyboard—purchased separately—to the V-Combo so you have two full-sized manuals. Here's how to set this up.

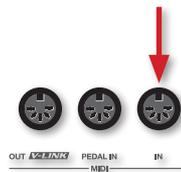


We're including a pedal keyboard in this illustration because, with one attached, you'll enjoy a full-on traditional organ experience.

In this setup, we're going to presume you'll place your second MIDI keyboard on top of the V-Combo, and use the second keyboard as your upper manual. Of course, you can place the V-Combo and second keyboard any way you like and use either one for either manual.

### Make Your Connections

Using a MIDI cable, connect the MIDI OUT jack of your second keyboard to the V-Combo's rear-panel MIDI IN jack.



Be sure to connect the second keyboard to the V-Combo's MIDI IN jack—and not its MIDI PEDAL IN jack—for this setup. The MIDI PEDAL IN jack's for your pedal keyboard.

## Configure the V-Combo

On the V-Combo:

- 1 Press the FUNCTION button beneath the display—"Fnc" appears onscreen.



- 2 Press the - and/or + buttons until "Nld" appears in the display and the ENSEMBLE and TO LOWER/PEDAL buttons begin to flash.



- 3 Press the ENSEMBLE STRINGS button to display the current values for the Sub Keyboard Function parameter.



- 4 Press - and/or + to select -U-. This assigns the upper organ manual to your second keyboard.



- 5 Press EXIT twice to exit Function mode.

If you want your V-Combo to be the upper manual and the second keyboard to be the lower manual, set this parameter to -L- instead.

Even though the upper manual's being played by another keyboard, the V-Combo's drawbars continue to control its sound as usual, along with the lower manual and pedal organ sounds.

The V-Combo's splitting and layering features are still available in this setup, and can be played by your upper-manual keyboard.

## The End

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We hope you've found this workshop helpful. Keep an eye out for other V-Combo Workshop booklets available for downloading at [www.RolandUS.com](http://www.RolandUS.com).