

VG-99 V-Guitar System



On-the-Gig Sound Settings

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VG99WS03

About the Workshop Booklets

Roland's VG-99 V-Guitar System is, simply put, the most powerful guitar processor ever made. It's the third and latest generation V-Guitar system from Roland, and it offers an astounding set of creative sound-making tools for the guitarist. Featuring dual COSM guitar and amp modeling paths, two independent multi-effects processors, massive realtime control options, pitch-to-MIDI conversion, and USB, the VG-99 is a guitarist's dream machine, capable of producing sounds that are limited only by your imagination.

Each VG-99 Workshop booklet focuses on one VG-99 topic, and is intended as a companion to the *VG-99 Owner's Manual*.

About This Booklet

The VG-99 lets you tailor its sound output to match the amplification system you're connected to and the environment you're performing in without changing the settings stored in individual patches. We'll show you how in this booklet.

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.

Adjusting the VG-99's Sound Output for Your Performance Environment

The VG-99 gives you an amazing amount of sound-shaping power, allowing you to store a complete "finished" sound in every patch, including instrument, amps, effects, EQ, and so on. However, when you perform with the VG-99, you'll probably find that you need to adjust the overall sound of all patches slightly to optimize your tone for a given performance situation.



Why is this? Well, because every performance situation is a bit different. For instance, at a live gig you'll probably plug the VG-99 into an instrument amplifier, while for a recording session you'll likely connect it directly to a mixer or a computer. And when you play live, the acoustics of a given room may be very different from those where you originally created your patches. For example, you might find your patches sound too "wet" in a live room or too "dry" in a dead-sounding room, or that you want to add a little treble or bass to the overall sound.

Obviously, it's not practical or desirable to go into each patch and tweak the sound for every gig. That's why the VG-99 provides a number of parameters that let you tailor the overall sound of all patches, while not actually affecting the stored patch data itself. These parameters are stored in groups called "Global Settings," *global* meaning that they affect every sound coming from the VG-99's outputs.

In a Global Setting, you can make the following sound adjustments:

- *Main Output Select*—This adjusts the VG-99's MAIN outputs to match the device you're plugging in to, be it headphones, a mixer, a combo amp, an effects return on an amp head, etc.
- *Global Main EQ and Global SUB EQ*—These powerful four-band equalizers allow you to independently adjust the tone of signals sent to the VG-99's MAIN OUT and SUB OUT jacks.
- *Global Reverb Level*—This setting increases or decreases the overall reverb level relative to the level(s) set in each patch.



- *Global noise suppressor adjustment*—This adjusts the noise suppressor threshold relative to the threshold level(s) set in each patch.
- *Global SUB OUT Level*—This increases or decreases the level of signals sent to the SUB OUT jacks relative to the SUB OUT levels set at the system level or in each patch.

You can edit, name, and recall 10 different Global Settings. This lets you quickly and easily set up the VG-99's sound output for the environments you perform in frequently.

Editing Global Settings

- 1 Press GLOBAL, and then use the PAGE buttons to go to Page 1 in the display. (The current page number is shown in the upper right-hand corner of the display.)



- 2 Use the F1 knob or button to choose the Global Setting (1-10) you'd like to edit.



There is no “save” procedure when working with Global Settings. All the adjustments you make to a selected Global Setting are saved automatically.

- 3 Use the PAGE buttons to select the desired Global Setting screen, and use the F knobs and/or buttons to make the desired adjustments.
- 4 When you're done, press EXIT to return to the Play screen.



The Play screen is the VG-99's “home” screen. It's the screen that's displayed after the VG-99 finishes its power-up sequence. You'll usually want to return to the Play screen when you're done editing any VG-99 functions.

MAIN OUTPUT SELECT

On Page 1 of the Global Setting screens, you can select the type of device you're connecting the VG-99's MAIN OUT jacks to. Most of these settings add some subtle equalization to the signal to compensate the VG-99's sound to match the inherent tonal characteristics of various instrument amplifiers. The exception is the LINE/PHONES setting, which outputs an un-equalized, “flat response” sound.



The sound output from the SUB OUT jacks is always equivalent to the LINE/PHONES setting.

Use the F4 knob or button to choose the desired MAIN OUTPUT SELECT setting:

- *JC-120*—For connecting to the front-panel input of a Roland JC-120 amplifier.
- *SMALL AMP*—For connecting to the front-panel input of a small amplifier, such as the Roland Micro CUBE, CUBE Street, or CUBE 20X/15X.
- *COMBO AMP*—For connecting to the front-panel input of a larger combo amp (e.g., a guitar amplifier with one or more 10” or 12” speakers built in). This includes the Roland CUBE 60/30X, or combo amps made by other manufacturers.
- *STACK AMP*—For connecting to the front-panel input of a stack-type amp (e.g., a guitar amp head connected to a 4x12 cabinet).
- *JC-120 RETURN*—For connecting to the effects return jack(s) on the rear panel of a Roland JC-120 amplifier.
- *COMBO RETURN*—For connecting to the effects return jack(s) on a combo amplifier.
- *STACK RETURN*—For connecting to the effects return jack(s) on a guitar amp head.
- *LINE/PHONES*—Use this setting when connecting to a line level device like a mixer or audio recorder. Also, use this setting when monitoring the sound via headphones connected to the VG-99's rear-panel PHONES jack.

Tips for Choosing the Best MAIN OUTPUT SELECT Setting

- *Let your ears be your guide*—The names given to the MAIN OUTPUT SELECT settings are only starting points. Try all the settings to see which one sounds best with your particular rig.
- *When connecting to a full-range system, choose LINE/PHONES*—A full-range system reproduces sound in an uncolored way, so there's no need to compensate the VG-99's output. Examples of a full-range system would be a keyboard amp (such as Roland's KC series), an acoustic guitar amp (such as Roland's AC series), a PA system, or a studio monitoring system.
- *Try the LINE/PHONES setting first, even when plugging into a guitar amp*—You may find that this un-equalized setting works best with your amp.
- *Turn off the VG-99's COSM speaker modeling when amplifying the VG-99 through guitar speakers*—The speaker system in a typical electric guitar amp colors the sound in a dramatic way, and plays a large role in determining the amp's overall sound character. This sound coloring is why the VG-99 includes models of guitar speakers in the first place. But COSM speaker modeling sounds best when it's used with a full-range speaker system. If you leave it on when amplifying the VG-99 through a guitar speaker, you're effectively coloring the sound twice, and this will usually result in an undesirable dark and/or "boxy" sound. To avoid this, we recommend that you create patches with COSM speaker modeling turned off for these applications.



Global MAIN EQ

The Global Main EQ is a four-band equalizer that adjusts the tonality of the sound coming out of the VG-99's MAIN OUT jacks. The High and Low EQ bands are fixed shelving-type EQs, while the Low Mid and High Mid bands are fully adjustable parametric EQs.



Up to nine additional four-band EQs are available for shaping your sound within each patch.

- 1 Go to Page 2 of the Global Setting screens.



- 2 Use the F1 knob or button to turn the Global Main EQ on and off.
- 3 Use the F2 knob to set the overall gain of the EQ (TOTAL GAIN).



Adjusting an EQ band changes the volume of the frequency range that's assigned to it. As such, the overall volume of the entire signal may be changed, especially with dramatic EQ adjustments. After you've finished adjusting all the EQ bands, toggle the EQ on and off while playing and use the TOTAL GAIN control to compensate for any level difference that may have been introduced. The goal is to achieve the same volume when the EQ is on or off.

- 4 While playing, use the F4 and F5 knobs to adjust the EQ's Low and High bands as desired. "+" settings boost the band, while "-" settings cut the band. At 0, the EQ band is turned off. (Use the F4 and F5 buttons to quickly set an EQ band to 0.)
- 5 Use the PAGE buttons to go to Page 3 of the Global Setting screens.



COSM speaker modeling is part of the VG-99's COSM amp section. To learn more about working with COSM speaker modeling, see the VG-99 Owner's Manual.

- 6 While playing, use the F knobs and buttons to adjust the Low Mid and High Mid EQ bands.

For the Low Mid band:

- *select the frequency*—with the F1 knob or button.
- *adjust the bandwidth or “Q” of the selected frequency*—with the F2 knob or button.
- *adjust the gain of the selected frequency*—with the F3 knob. At 0, the EQ band is turned off. (Use the F3 button to quickly set the Low Mid EQ band to 0.)

For the High Mid band:

- *select the frequency*—with the F4 knob or button.
- *adjust the bandwidth or “Q” of the selected frequency*—with the F5 knob or button.
- *adjust the gain of the selected frequency*—with the F6 knob. At 0, the EQ band is turned off. (Use the F6 button to quickly set the High Mid EQ band to 0.)



Even though they’re named “Low Mid” and “High Mid,” these EQ bands can actually be set to adjust a specific frequency over a very broad range, from 20 Hz to 10 kHz.

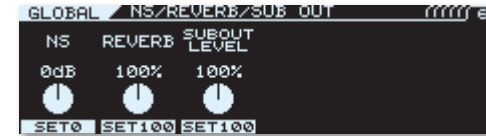
Global SUB EQ

The Global SUB EQ is a four-band equalizer that adjusts the tonality of the sound coming out of the VG-99’s SUB OUT jacks. Functionally, it’s identical to the Global Main EQ. Navigate to Pages 4 and 5 of the Global Setting screens to adjust the Global SUB EQ.



Global Noise Suppressor, Reverb, and SUB OUT Adjustments

Use the PAGE buttons to go to Page 6 of the Global Setting screens to adjust the following.



Global Noise Suppressor (NS) Threshold

The VG-99 includes noise suppressors that reduce hum and noise that are picked up by your guitar’s pickups. Up to four noise suppressors can be active at any given time: one for each COSM instrument (A and B), and one in each multi-effects processor (A and B).



The noise suppressors work by suppressing noise and hum that rise above a certain level, or “threshold.” The threshold control in each noise suppressor lets you dial in the level at which the noise occurs and silence it.

Due to conditions in your performance environment—such as the presence of AC line noise, RF interference, etc.—you may need to raise the noise suppressors’ thresholds to get rid of noise. Conversely, you may want to lower them in conditions where noise interference isn’t present. Using the Global NS setting, you can offset the threshold settings stored in each patch as necessary.

Use the F1 knob to adjust the Global NS setting until the noise disappears. “+” settings raise the threshold, while “-” settings lower it. Press F1 to quickly set the threshold to 0 dB. (At 0 dB, the VG-99 uses the threshold settings stored in each patch.)



Depending on the noise suppressor settings and other settings in the currently selected patch, adjusting the Global NS threshold may have no audible effect.

Global Reverb Level

The reverb effects in the VG-99 allow you to add ambience to the sound, simulating the effect of playing in a reverberant environment such as a large room or a concert hall. Up to three reverb effects can be active at once: one in each multi-effects processor (A and B), and one in the mixer.



When you're creating patches, the amount of reverb you add is likely to be greatly influenced by the environment in which you make the settings. For example, if you're creating patches in an acoustically dead room—such as a carpeted and curtained living room or bedroom—you'll probably turn the reverb level up to liven up the sound. On the other hand, if you're creating patches in an acoustically live space—like a large room with a high ceiling and hardwood floor—you'll dial back the reverb amount.

The reverberation conditions in a given performing environment may be quite different from where you created your patches, necessitating a change in reverb level. Using the Global Reverb Level, you can raise or lower the overall reverb level relative to the reverb level(s) stored in each patch.

Use the F2 knob to adjust the Global Reverb Level as necessary. Settings above 100% raise the reverb level, while settings below 100% lower it. Press F2 to quickly set the level to 100%. (At 100%, the VG-99 uses the reverb levels stored in each patch. At 0%, the reverb is effectively turned off.)



If the reverb effects in the currently selected patch are turned off, adjusting the Global Reverb Level will have no audible effect.

Global SUB OUT Level

The VG-99 allows you to assign signals to the rear-panel SUB OUT jacks, either on a system-wide basis or individually per patch via settings made in the mixer section. The Global SUB OUT Level adjustment allows you to increase or decrease the overall SUB OUT level relative to the system or patch levels.



This is handy for situations where you're using the MAIN OUT jacks to connect to your onstage amplification system, and you're using the SUB OUT jacks to send a separate feed to a house PA system or audio recorder. By adjusting the SUB OUT level globally, you can easily optimize this output signal with one control.

Use the F3 knob to adjust the Global SUB OUT Level as necessary. Settings above 100% raise the SUB OUT level, while settings below 100% lower it. Press F2 to quickly set the SUB OUT level to 100%. (At 100%, the VG-99 uses the SUB OUT level set system-wide or in each patch.)



When the Global SUB OUT Level is set to 100%, the nominal level of the SUB OUT jacks is +4 dBu (line level).



If there are no signals assigned to the SUB OUT jacks, adjusting the Global SUB OUT Level will have no audible effect.

Naming a Global Setting

You can name Global Settings to keep track of settings for the environments you perform in frequently.

- 1 Use Step 1 in "Editing Global Settings" to navigate to Page 1 of the Global Setting screens. (If you're still in another Global Setting screen, simply use the PAGE buttons to navigate to Page 1.)
- 2 Use the F1 knob or button to choose the Global Setting (1-10) you'd like to name.
- 3 Press F3 (NAME).



- 4 Enter the desired name for the Global Setting:
 - *To select a character*—use the PATCH/VALUE dial.
 - *To change to a different character position*—use the PAGE buttons.
 - *To insert or delete a character, or enter a blank space*—use the F1-F3 buttons.
 - *To change the selected character's type*—use the F4 button.
 - *To change the selected character's case*—use the F5 button.
- 5 When you're finished, press the EXIT button to return to the Play screen.

Selecting a Global Setting

To select a Global Setting:

- 1 Press GLOBAL.
- 2 Use the PAGE buttons to navigate to Page 1 in the display.
- 3 Use the F1 knob or button to select the desired Global Setting.
- 4 Press EXIT to return to the Play screen.

Tip: Create a “Home” Global Setting

No matter what patch you're using at any given time, the VG-99 is always affected by the parameters set in the currently selected Global Setting. Because of this, we recommend that you create a “home” Global Setting, one that you call up when you're back in the environment where you practice and create VG-99 patches.



This is a good idea, because it creates a “benchmark” Global Setting that you can always return to. How you set up this Global Setting is up to you, but a suggestion would be to set all the parameters “flat”—that is, so they have *no effect* on your VG-99 patches at all.



You may find that you'll want to create more than one “home” Global Setting—for example, one for working with headphones/studio monitors and another for playing the VG-99 through an instrument amp.

To make a flat Global Setting, use the procedures described previously to select an unused Global Setting and make the following adjustments:

- *MAIN OUTPUT SELECT*—Select LINE/PHONES.
- *Global Main EQ*—Set all GAIN controls to 0 dB. (Alternately, you can simply set MAIN EQ SW to OFF.)
- *Global SUB EQ*—Set all GAIN controls to 0 dB. (Alternately, you can simply set SUB EQ SW to OFF.)
- *NS*—Select 0 dB.
- *Reverb*—Select 100%.
- *SUB OUT Level*—Select 100%.



When the VG-99 ships from the factory, all the Global Settings are set as shown above.

After you've made these adjustments, give this Global Setting an appropriate name, such as “Home” or “Flat Output.” And don't forget to call up this Global Setting when you get back to your home environment after a gig!

The End

We hope you've found this workshop helpful. Keep an eye out for other VG-99 Workshop booklets available for downloading at www.RolandUS.com.