

Introduction

- The TR-08 can operate on batteries or on USB bus power. If you are using batteries, insert four AA batteries, making sure that the batteries are oriented correctly.
- If you handle batteries improperly, you risk explosion and fluid leakage. Make sure that you carefully observe all of the items related to batteries that are listed in "USING THE UNIT SAFELY" and "IMPORTANT NOTES" (leaflet "USING THE UNIT SAFELY").
- When turning the unit over, be careful so as to protect the buttons and knobs from damage. Also, handle the unit carefully; do not drop it.
- When the batteries run low, the indication "Bt. Lo" appears in the display. Replace the battery as soon as possible.

Using the TR-08 in conjunction with the DK-01 Boutique Dock (accessory)

For installation/removal/angle adjustment, refer to the DK-01's Owner's Manual.

Playing the TR-08 via MIDI or USB

You can also play the TR-08 via MIDI or USB. For details, refer to "Connecting Your Equipment".

Connecting Your Equipment

- To prevent malfunction and equipment failure, always turn down the volume, and turn off all the units before making any connections.



A Micro USB (Type-B) port

Use a commercially available USB 2.0 cable (A-microB) to connect this port to your computer. It can be used to transfer USB MIDI and USB audio data. You must install the USB driver when connecting the TR-08 to your computer. Download the USB driver from the Roland website. For details, refer to Readme.htm which is included in the download.



→ <https://www.roland.com/support/>

- Do not use a micro USB cable that is designed only for charging a device. Charge-only cables cannot transmit data.

B [VOLUME] knob

Adjusts the volume.

C [PHONES] jack

Connect headphones (sold separately) here.

D [OUTPUT] jack

Connect this jack to your amp or monitor speakers.

E [MIX IN] jack

This is the audio input jack. Sound from the connected device is output from the OUTPUT jack and PHONES jack.

F [MIDI connectors]

If you connect the TR-08 to another MIDI device using commercially available MIDI cables, the TR-08 can play in synchronization with the MIDI device.



Turning the TR-08 On

G [POWER] switch

This turns the power on/off.

- After you've made connections correctly, be sure to turn on the power in the order of the TR-08 first, and then the connected system. Powering-on in the incorrect order may cause malfunctions or damage. When turning the power off, power-off the connected system first, and then the TR-08.

- Before turning the unit on/off, always be sure to turn the volume down. Even with the volume turned down, you might hear some sound when switching the unit on/off. However, this is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.

Returning to the Factory Settings (Factory Reset)

Here's how to return the TR-08 to its factory-set state.

- While holding down the [2] button, turn on the power.
The [TAP] button blinks.
If you decide to cancel the factory reset, turn off the power.
- Press the [TAP] button to execute the factory reset.
- When all buttons blink, turn the TR-08's power off, then on again.

Data Backup/Restore

Backup

- Connect your computer to the TR-08's USB port via USB cable.
- While holding down the [START/STOP] button, turn on the power.
It takes about one minute to prepare the drive. The STEP NO [1]–[16] indicators show the progress.
- Open the "TR-08" drive on your computer.
The backup files are located in the "BACKUP" folder of the "TR-08" drive.
- Copy the backup files into your computer.
- After copying is completed, eject the USB drive.

Windows 10/8/7

Right-click on the "TR-08" icon and execute "Eject."

Mac OS

Drag the "TR-08" icon to the Trash icon in the Dock.

- Turn the TR-08 power off.

Restore

- As described in the procedure for "Backup" Step 1–3, open the "TR-08" drive on your computer.
- Copy the TR-08 backup files into the "RESTORE" folder of the "TR-08" drive.
- After copying is completed, eject the USB drive and then press the [TAP] button.
- After the LEDs have completely stopped blinking, turn off the power.

Panel Descriptions



1 Display/TEMPO section

The current tempo is shown in the display.

Controller	Explanation
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[TEMPO] dial Adjusts the tempo.

[BANK] (TEMPO/SHUFFLE) button Hold down the [BANK] button and press a [1]–[16] button to select a bank. Continue holding down the [BANK] button and press a [1]–[16] button once again to select a number.
* If you release the [BANK] button without specifying a number, the previous pattern remains.

[FINE] (VALUE) knob Finely adjusts the tempo.
You can also press the [BANK] button to switch to the decimal point display. Turning this knob while holding down the [BANK] button adjusts the amount of shuffle (rhythmic bounce).

2 Mode switch>Select switch/[CLEAR] button

Controller	Explanation
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Mode switch PATTERN CLEAR This mode lets you clear a rhythm pattern.
PATTERN WRITE 1st PART This mode lets you write to the 1st part.
PATTERN WRITE 2nd PART This mode lets you write to the 2nd part.
MANUAL PLAY This mode lets you play manually.
PLAY This mode lets you play a rhythm track that you composed.
COMPOSE This mode lets you compose a rhythm track.

Select switch Selects an instrument.
AC (ACCENT), BD (BASS DRUM), SD (SNARE DRUM), LT (LOW TOM), MT (MID TOM), HT (HI TOM), RS (RIM SHOT), CP (HAND CLAP), CB (COWBELL), CY (CYMBAL), OH (OPEN HIHAT), CH (CLS'D HIHAT)

[CLEAR] button Clears the recorded content from an individual instrument, or clears a rhythm pattern.

3 TRIGGER OUT section

Controller	Explanation
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TRIGGER OUT jack The TRIGGER OUT jack outputs a trigger pulse. This can control an external device connected via a mini-plug (mono).
* Do not use a stereo mini-plug cable. It will not work correctly.

TRIGGER OUT button Use this to input a trigger out signal during step-write, or for tap write input.

4 [ACCENT] knob

Adjusts the strength of the accent.

5 INST edit section

Here you can adjust the character of each instrument.

You can use 11 different instruments (BD–CH) in a pattern.

Controller	Explanation
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[LEVEL] knob Adjusts the volume of the instrument.

[TONE] knob In the case of the bass drum and snare drum, this adjusts the tension of the head. In the case of the cymbal, this adjusts the character of the sound.

[TUNING] knob Adjusts the pitch of a tom or conga.

[DECAY] knob Adjusts the decay. Turn the knob toward the left for a crisp sound, or toward the right for a more extended sound.

[SNAPPY] knob Controls the sound of a snare drum's wire snare. Turn the knob toward the left for a sound without the wire snare.

Instrument select switch Selects an instrument. It is not possible to play or write both of these instruments simultaneously.

LOW CONGA ↔ LOW TOM, MID CONGA ↔ MID TOM,
HI CONGA ↔ HI TOM, CLAVES ↔ RIM SHOT,
MARACAS ↔ HAND CLAP

Sequencer section

Controller	Explanation
[BASIC-VARIATION] switch	This switch selects a variation of the basic rhythm. The A (or B) position repeats the A (or B) rhythm pattern. The AB position alternately repeats rhythm patterns A and B.
Measures selector	Selects the interval at which a fill-in is automatically inserted (auto fill-in). MANUAL (a fill-in is not inserted automatically) 16, 12, 8, 4, 2 (units of measures)
[I/F-VARIATION] switch	Selects the variation of intro and fill-in.
[START/STOP] button	Plays/stops the rhythm pattern.
[PRE-SCALE] switch	Selects the note length of a step. 1: 8th note triplet 3: 16th note 2: 16th note triplet 4: 32nd note
1st PART/2nd PART indicator	Indicates which part is currently playing.
[1]–[12] button	STEP NO [1]–[12] / BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] For each step, these buttons turn on/off the instrument that is selected by the select switch. These buttons select a rhythm pattern that is written into BASIC RHYTHM.
[13]–[16] button	STEP NO [13]–[16] / INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] For each step, these buttons turn on/off the instrument that is selected by the select switch. These buttons select a rhythm pattern that is written into INTRO/FILL IN.
[TAP] button	When using the intro, this button turns the intro on/off. To use a fill-in, press this button at the location where you want to insert a fill-in.

7 [MENU/SUB STEP] button

This button accesses menu mode.
While writing a pattern, you can enter a sub-step by holding down the [MENU/SUB STEP] button and pressing a [1]–[16] button.

Playing/Recording a Rhythm Pattern

The recorded performance data is called a "rhythm pattern."
The TR-08 has 256 rhythm patterns, and two variations (A and B) for each rhythm pattern.

Playing a Rhythm Pattern

Selecting PATTERN PLAY mode

- Set the mode switch to MANUAL PLAY.
One of the INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] indicators is lit, and one of the BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] indicators is blinking.

Selecting a rhythm pattern

- Press a BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] button to select the basic rhythm.
The indicator of the selected rhythm pattern is blinking.

- Set the [BASIC-VARIATION] switch.

If you select AB, A (first measure) and B (second measure) play alternately.

Playing a rhythm pattern

- Press the [START/STOP] button.
The STEP NO indicators light successively from left to right.

- Use the [LEVEL] knob of each instrument to adjust the volume balance, and use the rear panel [VOLUME] knob to adjust the overall volume.

Playing patterns consecutively

When selecting a pattern, you can select multiple patterns by pressing two buttons at the same time. The patterns you've selected will play consecutively. The currently-playing pattern blinks.

Adjusting the Tempo

- Use the [TEMPO] dial or the [FINE] knob to adjust the playback speed (40.00–300.00 BPM).

- To stop, press the [START/STOP] button once again.

Intro / Fill-In Operations

You can add an intro before the basic rhythm plays, or insert a fill-in while the basic rhythm plays.

Adding an intro

- Press an INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] button to select an intro rhythm.

- Set the [I/F-VARIATION] switch.

- Press the [TAP] button.

The indicator of the selected intro blinks.
To cancel the intro, press the [TAP] button once again.

- Press the [START/STOP] button.

The intro plays for one measure, and then the basic rhythm plays.

Inserting a fill-in

Manually

- Set the measure selector to "MANUAL."

- Press the [START/STOP] button.

- Press an INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] button to select a fill-in rhythm.

- Set the [I/F-VARIATION] switch.

- Press the [TAP] button when you want to insert a fill-in.

If the first beat is playing, the fill-in is inserted starting at the second beat; if the second or subsequent beat is playing, the fill-in is inserted starting at the next measure.

Using auto fill-in

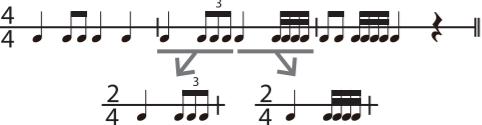
- Press a BASIC RHYTH

Watching the [1]–[16] buttons

The [1]–[16] buttons are arranged in the order in which playback time flows (from left to right). If a button is pressed, a note is sounded at that step. When you're writing a pattern, these buttons operate as step number buttons, not as rhythm select buttons.

Writing a rhythm pattern that doesn't fit the scale

Even if the desired rhythm pattern does not fit in a single pre-scale, you can write it as follows.



When writing the pattern shown in this illustration, the first measure and the third measure can be written using pre-scale 3; however, since the second measure contains a triplet, it cannot be written using pre-scale 3 (16 steps).

In this case, divide the second measure and consider it as two measures, of which the first measure can be written using pre-scale 1 (one measure = 6 steps) and the second measure can be written using pre-scale 3 (one measure = 8 steps).

After writing, playing these two measures in succession results in the performance shown in the notation above.

Recording with the 1st part and 2nd part

1. Start by clearing the position.
→ "Selecting a position and clearing it"
2. Set the mode switch to "PATTERN WRITE 1st PART."
3. Press the [START/STOP] button.
4. Set the [PRE-SCALE] switch to the desired position, and press the [CLEAR] button.
5. Set the mode switch to "PATTERN WRITE 2nd PART."
6. Hold down the [CLEAR] button and press a STEP NO [1]–[16] button to specify the number of steps (the steps that follow from the 1st part). At this time, the flow of the steps indicated by the LEDs changes, flowing from step 1 of the 1st part to the specified number of steps of the 2nd part.
7. Set the mode switch to "PATTERN WRITE 1st PART."
8. Use the select switch to select an instrument.
9. Use the STEP NO [1]–[16] buttons to specify the steps at which you want a note to play.
10. Set the mode switch to "PATTERN WRITE 2nd PART."
11. Use the STEP NO [1]–[16] buttons to specify the subsequent steps.
12. To write the steps for another instrument or for the accent, repeat steps 7–11.

The steps flow repeatedly between the 1st part ↔ 2nd part. If the mode switch is set to 1st part, only the 1st part can be written. In the same way if the mode switch is set to 2nd part, only the 2nd part can be written.

13. When you've finished writing each instrument, press the [START/STOP] button.

Using the 2nd part

The Clear operation clears both the 1st part and the 2nd part (at this time, the 1st part is set to 16 steps and the 2nd part is set to 0 steps).

In order to use the 2nd part, you must specify the number of steps. The number of steps can be freely distributed to the 1st part and the 2nd part.

* The 1st part and 2nd part together make up one pattern. You can't use just the 2nd part by itself.

* For the 2nd part as well, variations A and B within the same basic rhythm (or intro/fill-in) have the same number of steps.

* By holding down the [CLEAR] button and pressing the [TAP] button, you can set the number of steps for the 2nd part to 0.

Random pattern generation function

1. While writing/playing a pattern, hold down the [MENU] button and press the [TAP] button.

The generated pattern is not written automatically.

Hold down the [MENU] button and long-press the [TAP] button to write the pattern.

In pattern play mode, an intro/fill-in is generated.

Tap Write (Realtime Recording)

You can create a pattern by using the [TAP] button to record each instrument in real time.

1. Start by clearing the position.
→ "Selecting a position and clearing it"

2. Set the mode switch to "PATTERN WRITE 1st PART."

3. Press the [START/STOP] button.

4. Set the [PRE-SCALE] switch to the desired position, and press the [CLEAR] button.

5. Use the select switch to choose the instrument that you want to use as a metronome (for example, RS: Rim Shot).

6. Press the STEP NO [1]–[16] button that will start the beat (Sounding the Metronome step).

7. Use the select switch to specify an instrument that you want to write by tapping.

8. Press the [TAP] button at the desired timing.

The LEDs light to indicate the step numbers that are closest to the timing of each tap.

9. To write the steps for other instruments or for the accent, repeat steps 7–8.

10. When you've finished writing, once again select the instrument that you selected in step 5, and clear the notes that you had been using as the metronome.

11. Press the [START/STOP] button.

Memory

Within the same basic rhythm (or intro/fill-in), A and B have the same number of steps and the same pre-scale.

Muting or Soloing an Instrument

Muting an Instrument

1. Hold down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] button and press the [TRIGGER OUT] button.
2. Continue holding down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] and [TRIGGER OUT] buttons, and use [2]–[12] to select the instrument that you want to mute.

Soloing an Instrument

1. Hold down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] button and press the [TRIGGER OUT] button.
2. Continue holding down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] and [TRIGGER OUT] buttons, and use [TAP] to choose "SOLO."
3. Continue holding down the [BANK/TEMPO/SHUFFLE] and [TRIGGER OUT] buttons, and use [2]–[12] to select the instrument that you want to solo.

Copying a Pattern

- * Continue holding down the [TAP] button during the copy operation. The operation is cancelled if you release the [TAP] button.
- 1. Set the mode switch to either "1stPart" or "2ndPart."
- 2. With the copy-destination pattern selected, hold down the [TAP] button.
- 3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press a [1]–[16] button to select the copy-source pattern.
- 4. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the copy.

Copying a Pattern Between A-B

1. Set the mode switch to either "1stPart" or "2ndPart."
2. With the pattern that you want to copy selected, hold down the [TAP] button.
3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Use the [VALUE] knob to make the display indicate "A-b" or "b-A."
4. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the copy.

Recording or Playing a Rhythm Track

About composing

You can compose (assemble) a rhythm track by successively switching between rhythm patterns during playback.

About memory (storage)

A track does not store the actual rhythm patterns that are played. Instead, it contains the rhythm select switch numbers (basic rhythm, intro/fill-in) that are written in the rhythm patterns, the number of measures, and the order in which they are played; this data is stored for each measure.

During track play, you'll need to set the basic (or I/F) variation switch as it was when you composed the track.

Moving a measure

1. Hold down the [START/STOP] button and press a [1]–[10] button to select the move-destination. Press the [16] button to move the measure to the last measure.

2. Release the [START/STOP] button to confirm the operation.

You can also select the destination by turning the [FINE] (VALUE) knob.

Composing a Rhythm Track

Selecting/clearing a track

1. From the stopped condition, set the mode switch to the rhythm track "COMPOSE" position.

2. Set the select switch to the desired position.

3. Press the [CLEAR] button.

Composing (when the compose mode is "DrG")

4. Specify measure 1, and press the [START/STOP] button. The rhythm starts.

5. While listening to the rhythm, switch between the BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] buttons (or the INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] buttons and [TAP] button).

6. When the last measure to be composed has played, press the [START/STOP] button before that measure ends.

The rhythm stops. Even if the notes are interrupted, they have been stored to the end of the measure.

The measure at which you pressed the [START/STOP] button will be the last measure.

Editing a portion (measure) of a rhythm pattern that you composed

1. Use the select switch to select a track, and press the [START/STOP] button.

2. The moment that the measure that you want to edit is playing, switch to the rhythm pattern.

* To edit a fill-in rhythm, use the intro/fill-in switch to make the switch instead of using the [TAP] button.

* It's not possible to change only the number of measures in a composed rhythm pattern. If you want to change the number of measures, you must re-compose from the beginning.

Copying measures (Copy)

- * Keep holding down the [TAP] button during the copy operation. The operation is cancelled if you release the [TAP] button.

1. At the beginning of the copy-destination measure, hold down the [TAP] button. The display indicates "COPY."

Example: If you select measure 5, the data is pasted between measure 4 and measure 5.

2. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button, and select the starting measure of the copy-source.

The screen indicates the measure number.

Use the [1]–[10] buttons or the [VALUE] knob to make the selection.

Press the [16] button to move the measure to the last measure.

3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button, and select the ending measure of the copy-source.

Use the [1]–[10] buttons or the [VALUE] knob to make the selection.

Press the [16] button to select the last measure.

4. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the copy operation.

Inserting measures (Ins)

- * Keep holding down the [TAP] button during the insert operation. The operation is cancelled if you release the [TAP] button.

1. At the location where you want to insert measures, hold down the [TAP] button and turn the [FINE] (VALUE) knob to select "InS."

Example: If you select measure 5, the data is inserted between measure 4 and measure 5.

2. (While continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button and select the insert-source measure.

The screen indicates the measure number.

Press one of the [1]–[10] buttons or turn the [FINE] (VALUE) knob to select the last measure that will be inserted.

Press the [16] button to move the measure to the last measure.

3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the insert operation.

Deleting measures (Del)

- * Keep holding down the [TAP] button during the delete operation. The operation is cancelled if you release the [TAP] button.

1. At the measure that you want to delete, hold down the [TAP] button and turn the [FINE] (VALUE) knob to select "dEL."

2. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to select the ending measure.

The screen indicates the measure number.

Press one of the [1]–[10] buttons or turn the [FINE] (VALUE) knob to select the last measure that will be deleted.

Press the [16] button to move the measure to the last measure.

3. (Continuing to hold down the [TAP] button) Press the [START/STOP] button to execute the delete operation.

Composing (when the compose mode is "SLEEP")

1. Select the track that you want to compose, and clear it.
→ "Selecting a position and clearing it"

2. Press the [START/STOP] button.

The rhythm starts.

3. Use the BASIC RHYTHM [1]–[12] buttons (or the INTRO/FILL IN [1]–[4] buttons) to select a rhythm pattern.

4. Press the [TAP] button to advance the measure.

5. Repeat steps 3–4.

6. When you've entered the last measure that you want to compose, press the [START/STOP] button.

Playing a Rhythm Track

1. Set the mode switch to rhythm track "PLAY."

2. Set the basic variation switch to the position of the first measure.

3. Press the [START/STOP] button.

4. When the last measure has ended, press the [START/STOP] button.

Playback continues repeating until you stop it.

When you switch rhythm tracks

If you operate the select switch while a track is playing, the currently-playing rhythm pattern plays to its end, and then playback moves to the first measure of the newly selected track.

Menu Mode

1. Press the [MENU] button.

2. Use the [VALUE] knob to select an item.

3. Press the [TAP] button.

Each time you press the [TAP] button, you'll switch between selecting an item and editing its value.

Item (Parameter)	Value	Explanation

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For EU Countries

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