Control Descriptions

Mode Selector

The MODE selector control is located in the upper left corner of the control panel and is used to select different operations for both programming and playing the instrument. Pressing the MODE key cycles through each of the six modes: PATTERN CLEAR, 1st PART, 2nd PART, MANUAL PLAY, PLAY, and COMPOSE. Holding the SHIFT-WRITE/NEXT key while pressing the MODE key reverses the direction of the selection cycle.

Rhythm Pattern Programming Modes

The PATTERN CLEAR mode is used to clear patterns from memory so that Rhythm Patterns can be reprogrammed. The red CLEAR button is used to activate the CLEAR function whilst in PATTERN CLEAR mode. The 1st PART mode is used to program the first section of a pattern. Patterns with 16 or fewer steps can be programmed using just the 1st Part of the pattern programming mode. To create patterns of up to 32 steps, the 2nd PART mode is used. Patterns are initialized to 16 steps for the 1st part and 0 steps for the 2nd part. The red CLEAR button is used in combination with the step switches to determine the number of steps in a pattern. A combination of different pattern lengths and PRE-SCALE settings allows different time signatures to be achieved.

Play Modes

The MANUAL PLAY mode is a performance mode that allows you to play any of the Rhythm Patterns stored in memory. Additionally, it offers automatic switching for intros and fills. Shuffle and instrument rolls can be used in MANUAL PLAY mode to further improvise during performance.

The PLAY mode allows you to play any of the 12 Rhythm Tracks stored in memory. The Rhythm Tracks are selected using the INSTRUMENT/TRACK buttons.

Compose Mode

The COMPOSE mode allows any of the Rhythm Patterns stored in memory to be linked together into a composition called a Rhythm Track. Each of the 12 Rhythm Tracks can contain a unique sequence of up to 64 patterns. The Rhythm Track memories can be cleared using the red CLEAR button. Programming the sequence of Rhythm Patterns is accomplished with the STEP buttons and the SHIFT-WRITE/NEXT key.

Instrument/Track Selectors

There are 12 Instrument/Track selector buttons. When programming Rhythm Patterns these buttons are used to select a drum voice or Accent to program. From the left the drum voices are AC (ACCENT), BD (BASS DRUM), SD (SNARE DRUM), LT/LC (LOW TOM or LOW CONGA), MT/MC (MID TOM or MID CONGA), HT/HC (HI TOM or HI CONGA), RS/CL (RIM SHOT or CLAVES), CP/MA (HANDCLAP or MARACAS), CB (COWBELL), CY (CYMBAL), OH (OPEN HIHAT), and CH (CLOSED HIHAT). When two options are available, you can press the Instrument button a second time to toggle between the two available instruments.

Drum voices with two instruments can be programmed independently on different steps of the same pattern and the drum voice will automatically switch between instruments on each step.

Holding the SHIFT-WRITE/NEXT key whilst pressing an instrument will toggle its MUTE function. The Instrument/Track selectors are also used to select the 12 memories available for composing Rhythm Tracks in COMPOSE mode and playing any individual Rhythm Track in PLAY mode.

Tempo Control

The Tempo Control sets the tempo of the internal sequencer. The internal sequencer has a tempo range of 30 beats per minute (BPM) to 290 BPM.

When the 880 is slaved to an external clock, the Tempo Control knob becomes inactive.

Auto Fill In Selector

The AUTO FILL IN selector is used to insert Fill In Rhythm Patterns whilst playing in MANUAL PLAY mode. Pressing the AUTO FILL IN selector button cycles through the six different fill options. The first fill option is MANUAL which allows Fill In Rhythms to be inserted manually by pressing the TAP button. Automatic insertion of the Fill In Rhythm is accomplished with any of the remaining five options: 16, 12, 8, 4 and 2. Automatic insertion occurs every 16th measure, every 12th measure, every 8th measure, etc.

Holding the SHIFT-WRITE/NEXT key whilst pressing the AUTO FILL IN key changes the context of the control to set the SYNC MODE. The SYNC MODE cycles through INTERNAL CLOCK, MIDI IN, DIN SYNC OUT, DIN SYNC IN, and CLOCK SYNC modes.