KORG D-888
HARD DRIVE REPLACEMENT
HOWTO

I purchased my D-888 (new) from Guitar Center in 2006. It served me well until the HDD died this month. Although most musicians, myself included, use a DAW for studio projects, my D-888 still comes in handy for capturing tracks – particularly when a performer is unable to come to my home studio. It captures up to 64 tracks of CD-quality (44.1K/16-bit) audio on location that can easily be imported to my DAW via the D-888's USB 2.0 interface. The replacement HDD was about $30 + shipping through one of Amazon's third-party sellers.

The D-888 comes up in STANDBY mode. After plugging in the power cord and switching the power on, the STANDBY LED illuminates. Press the ON button and normally you'll see the SPLASH SCREEN, followed by a little flickering of the HDD LED and then the last song you worked on will load automatically. I knew mine was toast when the HDD LED failed to flicker and the LCD perpetually displayed the SPLASH SCREEN (pictured on the right).

Before drilling down into the details, please note this document's limitations:

- **The procedure was NOT reviewed by or approved by the manufacturer**. If you contact KORG Support they'll tell you the D-888 can only be serviced by an authorized KORG dealer. Fair enough and a position their dealers probably appreciate. However, if you've ever replaced the HDD in a PC or a Mac then you can probably getterdone without much cussing or grief.
- **This document is NOT a guide for upgrading disc capacity**. Some folks say you can use an 80GB ATA (IDE) drive to double your storage. I simply replaced the factory 40GB drive since everything I capture is immediately moved to my DAW.

Here's what you need for the job:

- a #2 Phillips screwdriver
- a relatively clutter-free 3' x 2' work surface. Good lighting is a plus.
- a clean, dry bath towel to protect the top panel while your working on the innards
- a little cup to store for storing all the screws until it's time for re-assembly
- a new hard drive. I used a **Seagate ST340019ACE**. You <u>cannot</u> use a SATA drive**. The D-888's interface supports ATA (IDE) only. I'm told ATA drives are no longer being manufactured but there are plenty of them for sale and, for the most part, a brand new drive is fairly inexpensive.

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Disassembly

- Disconnect all cables from the D-888 – **especially the AC power cable**. You could easily get a nasty electrical shock (or worse) if you attempt this process while the D-888 is connected to AC power.
- Set the D-888 on the right half of your work surface, oriented exactly as if you were going to begin a recording project.
- Lift the front edge of the D-888 until it is resting on its back panel (the back panel is where the power cable plugs in) and remove the three screws along the bottom front edge as shown in the picture. Drop the screws into that handy cup.

REMOVE THESE 3 SCREWS

VIEW: Bottom panel with front of D-888 toward the top.

- Return the D-888 to its original position then turn it clockwise 90 degrees so the right side panel (plastic) is facing you.
- Remove the 5 side panel screws, stow them in the cup and set the side panel aside.
- Turn the D-888 180 degrees so the left side panel is facing you. Remove the left side panel.
- Turn the D-888 90 degrees (counter-clockwise) so you're looking at the rear panel.
- Remove and stow the 4 screws shown below. Don't remove any other back panel screws.

VIEW: Back panel

REMOVE THESE 4 SCREWS
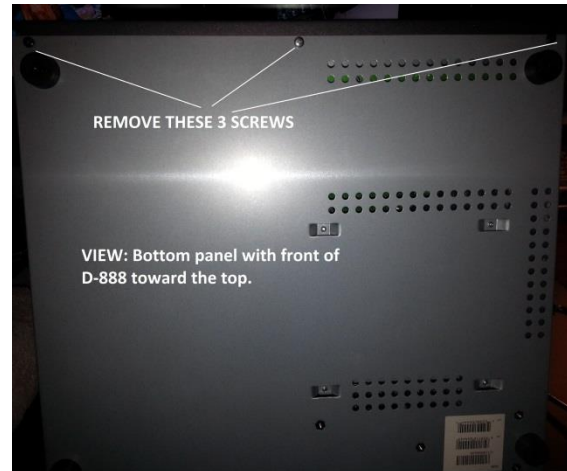
- With the back panel facing you, make sure the D-888 is still on the right half of your work surface.
- Fold the bath towel so it's roughly the same width and length as the D-888's top panel then lay it on the left side of your work surface.
- Gently pull on the lower edge of the back panel toward you while slowly lifting the top assembly. When the top assembly side panels are clear of the bottom assembly, push slightly forward until the top assembly's front edge clears the front edge of the bottom assembly.

- Slowly lift the edge of the top assembly on your right (like you were opening a book) and set the top assembly (face down) on the bath towel. Cables connecting the top and bottom assemblies will still be connected.

- Note bottom assembly components from top to bottom and left to right
  - Hard drive
  - Power supply
  - Power switch
  - AC power cord input

Remove the Hard Drive

The hard drive is mounted on two rails which are attached to the bottom assembly using 4 Phillips head screws.

- Remove the 4 screws holding the drive <u>rails</u> to the base plate. **DO NOT REMOVE SCREWS FROM THE HARD DRIVE**.
- Leaving the hard drive cables attached, gently lift the <u>drive and rails</u>.
- Holding the hard drive in your right hand, unplug the flat data cable and power connector from the drive. This may take a little effort so brace yourself. Don't damage other components or cut yourself on sheet metal when these connectors detach.
- You're half way there. The old hard drive has been completely removed. While it makes a dandy paper weight, don't repurpose it just yet. You need the rails to install the new drive.

Install the Replacement Hard Drive

- Check jumper settings on the new drive. It should look like the picture immediately below. This is standard out-of-the-box configuration for an IDE drive so you probably won't need to change anything. If you need to move the jumper, grab it with a small pair of needle nose pliers and put it where it belongs.
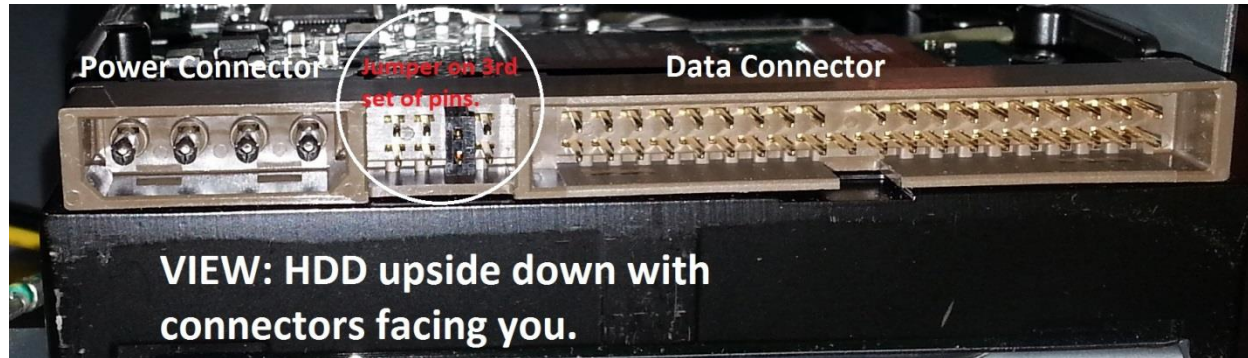
The drive rails are attached to the hard drive with two Phillips machine screws. These are the only machine screws (vs. sheet metal screws) so you might want to keep track of them separately.


- Remove the drive rails from the old drive and attach them, in exactly the same position, to the new drive. Remember to use machine screws (not sheet metal screws).
- Plug the data (flat) and power cables into the new drive. Both connectors are keyed so it's pretty hard to screw this up. The red stripe on the flat cable and the red wire on the power connector face each other toward the center of the drive.

- Install the new drive by re-attaching the rails to the base using 4 sheet metal screws from that handy cup. There are cable routing washers on the side facing the power supply. You probably noticed these earlier and wondered why I failed to mention them. Be sure to put these back under the rail screws. We wouldn't want any unsecured metal flailing its way around the power supply.
- The new drive is installed.

Re-Assembly

Except for one important detail, re-assembly is simply a matter of reversing the disassembly steps. **MAKE SURE THE FLAT CABLE IS <u>NOT</u> TUCKED BETWEEN THE MOTHERBOARD AND TOP ASSEMBLY CASE**. You'll know this happened if it's tough to get the top assembly's screw holes aligned with the bottom assembly screw holes. I learned this the hard way. The new drive would not initialize because I damaged the flat cable. Take a look at the picture below.
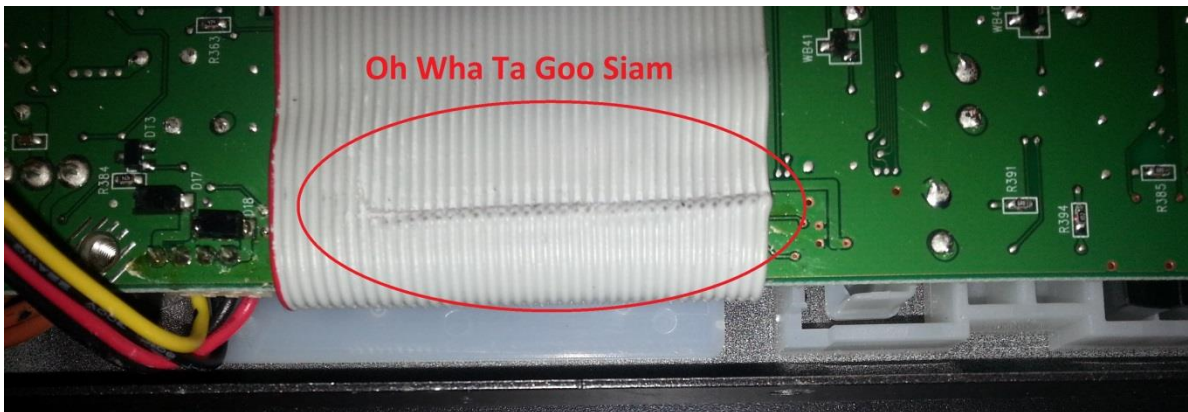

It was an ugly experience. When drive initialization fails, all eight CHANNEL ARM buttons flash red. My heartbeat accelerated. I felt like Seattle's finest had pulled me over just after I'd placed a fresh PBR (number 6 of 6 I'd consumed that evening) in the cup holder of my van. Life sucked until I figured out where I'd gone wrong. I probably should have replaced the flat cable but that seemed like a bunch of work. I tried using the "damaged" cable (installed properly) and it worked fine. I'm not recommending you do this. Roll your own dice – or don't. Hopefully, you won't have to deal with this issue.

Initialize the New Hard Drive

Once the D-888 is re-assembled you're ready to initialize the new drive. This is no big deal. You do <u>not</u> have to partition or format the drive in advance using Windows or any other operating system. KORG made this part elegantly simple.
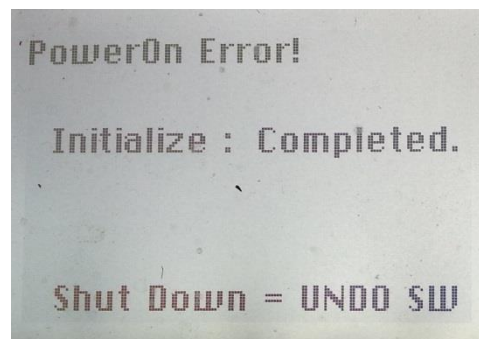
- Attach the power cord, turn the power supply switch on then press the ON/STANDBY button.
- You'll see this screen...
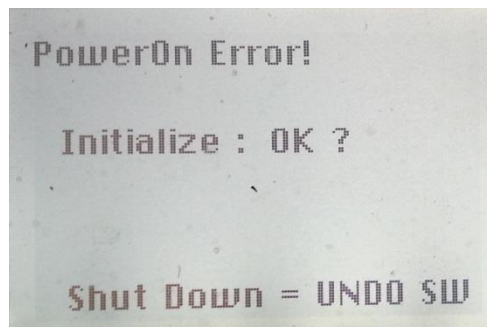
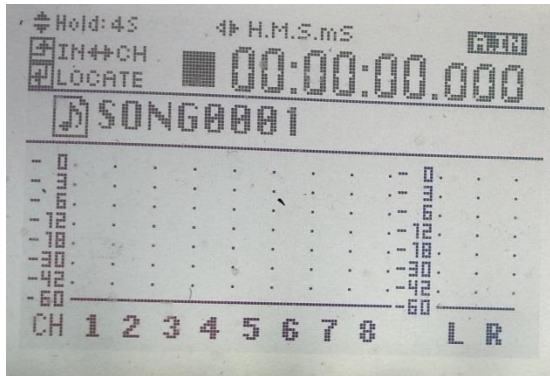- Press the ENTER/OK button and you'll see this screen for about 6-7 minutes....
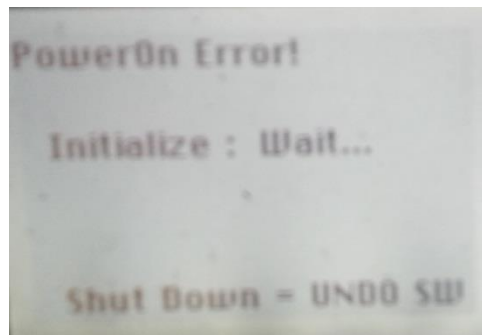
- If all goes well, your patience will be rewarded with this screen...

- Turn the power supply switch off, wait a few seconds then turn it back on.
- Press the ON/STANDBY button and, after the HDD LED flickers a bit, you should see this screen...

- At this point you can use the D-888's USB interface to restore your songs from the backups you diligently kept. Didn't make backups? Oh well. Look at it as an opportunity to re-record your songs. You can fix all the timing errors and red notes that were driving you crazy. Anything worth doing right is worth doing twice.
- If things didn't go so well, you'll get a screen that says "Initialize Failed" and all eight channels will flash red. Bummer. The first thing I'd look at is whether the flat cable got pinched. Beyond that, you may have gotten a defective drive.

Closing Comments

If you found this HOWTO helpful, please consider a donation to Campfire Boyz Foundation (www.campfireboyz.org). I am fighting advanced prostate cancer. Ironically, the cancer is what gave me time to write this HOWTO. Nothing you contribute goes directly to me but it will help Campfire Boyz Foundation increase prostate cancer awareness and fund research aimed at finding a cure.

Wishing You Well,

Steebee