TR-505

Manual for the Roland TR-505 Rythm Composer

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General:

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1. Selecting a mode

Track Play/Pattern Play mode:

• Press 'Mode Play/Write' button repeatedly to switch between Track Play and Pattern Play mode

Track Write/Step Write/Tap Write mode:

- Press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Mode Play/Write' button repeatedly to switch between Track Write, Step Write and Tap Write mode

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2. Playing the instruments by hand

You can play the instruments by hand using the pads, either stand alone or alongside running tracks or patterns. You can give an instrument an accented (louder) sound by pressing the 'Accent' button when playing that instrument.

Track Play mode:

- Select Track Play mode
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to play alongside a running track if required
- Press pad button 1-16 to play each of the 16 drum samples.
- Pressing and holding 'Accent' button while at the same time pressing one of the 16 pad buttons will give the corresponding instrument an accented sound (play louder).

Track Write, Pattern Play, Step Write or Tap Write mode:

- Select Track Write, Pattern Play, Step Write or Tap Write mode
- Press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Level' button, display shows 'P'
- Press pad button 1-16 to play each of the 16 drum samples.
- Press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Level' button, to quit manual play mode

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3. Selecting an instrument

- In either mode, press 'Level' button, display shows 'Level'
- Press pad button 1-16 to select corresponding instrument, display shows instrument mnemonic (LCG = Low Conga, OH = Open Hi-Hat)
- Press 'Level' button again to return to Track/Pattern mode

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4. Setting instrument volume level

Both individual instruments and accent can be assigned their own volume level

- In either mode, press 'Level' button, display shows 'Level'
- Press pad button 1-16 or Accent button to select an instrument or Accent
- Press 'Level down' button repeatedly to decrease instrument volume level (0-5), where level=0 produces no sound at all. Press 'Level up' button repeatedly to increase instrument volume level.
- Press 'Level' button to return to pattern/track mode

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5. Setting tempo

Tempo determines how fast a track/pattern plays

- Press 'Tempo/Meas' button, display shows current tempo in beats-per-minute (BPM)
- Use rotating tempo knob to increase or decrease tempo
- Press 'Tempo/Meas' button to return to pattern/track display

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6. Selecting a pattern

There are 96 patterns, of which 48 are pre-defined and cannot be changed and 48 are user-definable. The 48 pre-defined patterns are divided over pattern groups A, B and C, each pattern group containing 16 patterns. The

48 user-definable patterns are divided over pattern group D, E and F, also each pattern group containing 16 patterns.

- Press pattern group button A/D, B/E or C/F in Pattern Play mode repeatedly to switch between pattern groups A/D, B/E or C/F or in Step/Tap Write mode once to select pattern group D, E or F.
- Press pad button 1-16 to select a pattern within the selected pattern group

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7. Playing a pattern

Selecting a different pattern during pattern play will automatically start playing the next selected pattern immediately following the previous one.

- Select Pattern Play mode •Select pattern group and pattern
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to play the selected pattern
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to stop selected pattern playing

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8. Playing 2 or more consecutive patterns in sequence (pattern block)

Temporarily group 2 or more consecutive patterns in a pattern group to be played in sequence and in a loop:

- Select Step/Tap Write mode, not running or Pattern Play mode, either running or stopped
- Press at the same time the pad buttons that correspond to the first and last pattern of the consecutive patterns to be played in sequence, display shows 'BLOCK'
- Select an individual pattern in order to delete the pattern block

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9. Setting scale of a pattern

- Select Step or Tap Write mode (not running)
- Press 'Scale' button repeatedly to scroll through the 4 scale settings: ..TBA..
- Release 'Scale' button at appropriate scale setting

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10. Setting number of steps of a pattern

- Select Step or Tap Write mode (not running)
- Press and hold 'Last step' button and press pad button 1-16 once to select number of steps (1 to 16).
- Release 'Last step' button

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11. Clearing the contents of a pattern

This irreversibly erases the contents of a user definable pattern.

- Select Step or Tap Write mode (not running)
- Select pattern group and user definable pattern
- Press and hold 'Clear' button and press pad button 1-16 of corresponding pattern to be cleared.
- Release 'Clear' button

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12. Creating a pattern in step write mode

- Select Step Write mode
- Select pattern group and user definable pattern
- Select different scale if required
- Select different number of steps if required
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to run pattern
- Select an instrument

- Adjust volume level of selected instrument if required
- To write an instrument press pad button 1-16 to make selected instrument sound on step 1-16, press same pad button again to deselect the sound. The display shows a black dot at each step the selected instrument will sound.
- Select and write another instrument if required
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to stop pattern running

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13. Writing a pattern in tap write mode

- Select Tap Write mode
- Select pattern group and user definable pattern
- Select different scale if required
- Select different number of steps if required
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to run pattern
- Write an instrument in real time by repeatedly pressing corresponding pad button 1-16
- Select an instrument in order to adjust volume level and for the display to show a black dot at each step where the selected instrument will sound.
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to stop pattern running

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14. Copying a pattern

To copy the contents of one pattern into a user definable pattern, erasing it's original contents:
- Select Step or Tap Write mode
- Select pattern group and user definable pattern
- Press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Copy' button once, display will show 'COPY'
- Select pattern group and pattern to copy from
- Press 'Enter' button to confirm
- Release 'Shift' button

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15. Creating a chained pattern

Grouping 2 or more consecutive patterns together to write them as though they form one pattern:

- Select Step or Tap Write mode
- Select pattern group
- Press and hold first and last button of consecutive patterns to be chained from pad button 1-16 and press 'Enter' button once to confirm, display will show 'CHAIN'
- Writing a chained pattern is the same as writing an individual pattern with the difference that running the chained pattern will switch through all the patterns within the chain in sequence automatically.
- The chain will be broken if the contents of one of the patterns within the chain is cleared

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16. Selecting a track number

- Select Track Play mode
- Press track button 1/4, 2/5 or 3/6 repeatedly to switch between track number 1/4, 2/5 or 3/6, display shows selected track number

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17. Playing a track

- Select Track Play mode
- Select a track number
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to play the selected track
- Press 'Start/Stop' button to stop selected track playing

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18. Clearing a track

• Select Track Play mode
• Select a track number
• Select Track Write mode
• Press and hold 'Clear' button and press 'Enter' button
• Release 'Clear' button

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19. Writing a track

• Select Track Play mode
• Select a track number
• Select Track Write mode
• Select pattern group and pattern to append, press 'Start/Stop' button to play pattern
• Press 'Enter' button to append selected pattern to track, 'Measure' display is incremented by 1
• Append additional patterns if required

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20. Selecting a measure within a track

• Select Track Write mode. The first measure within the track is selected by default, 'Measure' display shows current measure
• Press 'Track fwd' button to move up one measure within a track, press 'Track back' button to move back one measure.

Alternatively:

• Press and hold 'Shift' button and punch in a specific measure number using pad buttons 1-10 and confirm with 'Enter' button
• Release 'Shift' button

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21. Changing a measure within a track

• Select Track Write mode
• Select the measure to be changed
• Select the pattern that will replace the selected measure using pattern group and pad buttons 1-16, confirm with 'Enter' button

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22. Inserting a measure within a track

• •Select Track Write mode
• Select the measure after which a pattern needs to be inserted
• Select the pattern to insert using pattern group and pad buttons 1-16 •Press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Ins' button, confirm with 'Enter' button

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23. Appending measures to the end of a track

• Select Track Write mode
• Press 'Track last meas' to jump to the end of the track, the display shows the last measure number + 1
• Select the pattern to append using pattern group and pad buttons 1-16, confirm with 'Enter' button

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24. Copying measures within a track

• Select Track Write mode

- Select the measure before which the measure or range of measures to be copied needs to be inserted
- Press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Copy' button, punch in first measure of range to be copied using pas buttons 1-10, press 'Enter' button, punch in last measure of range to be copied, confirm with 'Enter' button

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25. Deleting a measure within a track

- Select Track Write mode
- Select the measure to be deleted
- Press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Del' button, confirm with 'Enter' button

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26. Deleting a range of measures within a track

- Select Track Write mode
- Select the first measure of the range to be deleted
- Press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Del' button, punch in the number of the last measure in the range to be deleted using pad buttons 1-10 and confirm with 'Enter' button
- Release 'Shift' button

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27. Saving to cassette

- ..TBA..

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28. Loading from cassette

- ..TBA..

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29. Setting MIDI options

The TR505 can be used to play other electronic musical instruments or act as a sound source to other electronic musical instruments, sequencers and computers through MIDI. When used to trigger on or more external MIDI devices, it is possible to use the instrument pads to play notes on the connected MIDI device(s). Use 'Accent' in Step/Tap Write mode to increase the Velocity (volume) of notes send to the external MIDI device(s).

- In either mode, not running, press and hold 'Shift' button and press 'Midi' button repeatedly to switch between midi options 'MIDI Sync', 'OMNI Mode', 'Receive Channel', 'Note Number' and 'Transmit Channel'.
- Release 'Midi' button at required MIDI option
- Press 'Level down' or 'Level up' button to change the value of selected MIDI option
- exRelease 'Shift' button to return to Track/Pattern mode

MIDI Sync: MIDI Sync is used to slave the TR505 to a connected MIDI device, usually a sequencer. When MIDI Sync is 'On' the Start/Stop function and Tempo will be controlled by the external MIDI device, display shows 'MIDI SYNC'. When MIDI Sync is 'Off' the TR505 is able to act as master to any connected MIDI device, controlling Start/Stop and Tempo. Possible values: On/Off

OMNI mode: OMNI mode determines to which MIDI channels the TR505 will respond when used as a sound source to an external MIDI device. When OMNI is 'On' the TR505 will respond to MIDI messages on all 16 MIDI channels. When OMNI is 'Off' the TR505 will respond only to messages on the channel selected as 'Receive Channel'. Possible values: On/Off

Receive Channel: Receive Channel is the MIDI channel on which the TR505 expects MIDI messages in OMNI OFF mode when used as a sound source to an external MIDI device. Possible values: 1-16

Note Number: Each of the 16 instruments can output it's own MIDI Note Number, enabling it to trigger up to 16 different notes on any connected MIDI device. Possible values: 25-99

Transmit Channel: Each of the 16 instruments can output to an individual MIDI channel, enabling it to trigger up to 16 different external MIDI devices. Possible values: 1-16