

# QUICK START

## GR-55

### Guitar Synthesizer + Modeller



Here is the fantastic GR-55 Guitar Synth - the most advanced and fastest Guitar Synth in the world, and now, the world's only new available Guitar Synth.

#### WHY DO I NEED IT?

With the GR-55 you can use a guitar or bass to create great new ways to express yourself and add a unique sound to your songs! Listen! At <http://www.gr-55.rolandmusik.de/> you can find great Factory sound examples, sorted by ROCK, POP, BALLAD, VARIOUS and BASS categories, that showcase the sounds that you can play! On that site you can also see a video of Steve Stevens, guitar hero from the Billy Idol band, using the GR-55. Absolutely worth seeing!

#### WHAT CAN IT DO?

The GR-55 can provide four sounds at once: Two different synthesizer sounds (chosen from 910 of the best Roland Synth Samples) + a guitar sound (with Guitar Modeling including virtual tuning and Amp Modeling effects from the Roland VG-99) + the sound of your normal pickup (that also can be fed to the Amp Modeling). The synth sounds are triggered incredibly fast with almost no Delay time. The Guitar modeling is almost instant. It has a built-in 20 second Looper, can play backing tracks from a USB stick and is a complete USB Audio / MIDI Interface (making the import of MIDI notes into the computer possible).

#### INSTALLATION OF GK-PICKUP AND BALANCING WITHIN THE GR-55

The GR-55 takes the signal from each string individually, so, a GK-3 pickup (or a GK-3B Pickup for Bass) is necessary. Installation and calibration takes about 15 minutes and the process for the calibrating the guitar is described in detail in the manual (instructions are also outlined for the Bass's GK-3B pickup and the GR-55 use). There are also plenty of guitars and basses in which a GK pickup is already installed. In Germany, those available models can be found at [www.gkworld.de](http://www.gkworld.de) under "GK guitars".

#### PLAYING THE FACTORY SOUNDS

Let's go! The GR-55 has 270 factory presets for guitar and 90 for bass (the bass mode, see below. In the box is the GR-55 Patch List. You can showcase the presets by turning the dial continuously, or, you change the three sounds per bank with the three foot switches (1, 2 and 3). You can change Banks with the two buttons on the GK-3 pickups (factory set to change banks, but, can be used to switch other functions too).

Firstly, tuning accuracy is important: Most synth sounds will follow a continuously bending-in-pitch note, but not all of them. (i.e. piano sounds only change in semitones). Press foot-switch 2 and 3 simultaneously for the tuner. You can go back to the Preset with the same key combination.



The factory sounds are divided into three groups (SOUND STYLES) - LEAD, RHYTHM and OTHERS which include sound effects. You can select those groups directly by selecting the buttons below the display.



If you are curious, to know which sounds are used to create a specific patch, press the Edit button. You will see the four audio sources which make up the patch sound and which one is selected and enabled (Green arrows).

**CAUTION:** Use the PAGE buttons ◀ ▶ to change between the top "tabs" (Blue arrow). With the four arrow keys on the dial you can move within the current display.

Using the PAGE buttons, select the "SYSTEM" page and then highlight the "Output Select" and press the Enter key. The Factory setting is "Line / Phones" and is the correct setting when connected a PA / sound reinforcement system or headphones. You can change this setting for the best sound when connecting a GR-55 to a guitar amp. (See page 12 in the instructions).

Press EXIT to Go Back.

## SWITCHING THE OPERATION TO BASS MODE

When switching on the GR-55, after a few seconds the display will indicate whether it is in GUITAR MODE or BASS MODE. From the factory, Guitar Mode is active.

To switch the GR-55 to BASS MODE:

Press the EDIT button, and then

Press the PAGE ◀ ▶ buttons to select the "SYSTEM" tab

Press the arrow buttons to display the "Backup / Init" icon, then press ENTER,

Select the Guitar <-> Bass Symbol and press ENTER, and then select "OK" if you are sure.

Press ENTER again,

The message "Please restart" prompts you to turn the GR-55 off; turn the GR-55 off.

When you turn the GR-55 on it will now be in BASS MODE.

This setting will be saved! To change back to guitar: use the same procedure as above, James!

## LOOPER

To make a lot more fun, you can to stack the different sounds with the Looper to build a little song:

Press foot switch 3 and CTL simultaneously to activate the Looper (see the labelling on the device).

Press the CTL-foot switch to start recording start and again to finish - then your recording will play automatically in a loop. Now select the switches 1, 2 or 3, to select a different sound, and again press the CTL pedal to capture an overdub and stop, while the Loop goes on forever.

To stop the loop, press the CTL pedal twice in quick succession – more Details on p. 64 (you can also store and back-up loops via USB for use with the Boss Looper RC Series)



## GR-55 AS AN AUDIO PLAYER

If you use the GR-55 on stage, you not only have all kinds of guitar models and synths that you can play with the GR-55, but, you can also play your song tracks! Only a beer can bring the GR-55 to shame!

Open the door on the left side and put a USB stick with your own songs (wav or aiff) into it. Then press the AUDIO PLAYER button, Here's what appears in the display:



If you use the arrow keys and navigate to "AUDIO LEVEL", you can set the playback volume with the dial. With the Foot-switches 1 and 2 you can look for a Song.

Foot-switch 3 starts / stops the song.

Foot-switch CTL switches to normal display, so that you can select a new sound to jam on. Go to page 65 in the manual for full details.

## DESIGNING YOUR OWN SOUND

Now we want to create our own sound: a 12-string Telecaster with a Vox AC-30 amplifier, to a Fretless Bass with a Strings Pad – You Know that you are a guitarist, but, can you offer something different?

Choose the sound-Style "Rhythm" and then patch 04-1 "Double Low Piano" as a basis for the sound: Press the EDIT button and select the PAGE ◀ ▶ buttons to the "TONE" page, then you see the adjacent display.



Navigate using the four arrow keys near the dial to the "on-off switches" in the display (green arrow) and activate PCM1, PCM2 and MODEL via the dial. (MODEL = Modeling).



Navigate to PCM1 and turn the dial to select "Sound 342 Mood Strings" and press Enter.



For PCM 2 make sure the "Sound 219 FretlessBs 2" is selected. For MODEL you should select "Sound 04 E.GTR TE" (TE = a Telecaster). Now you can set the three sound volumes on the right; PCM1 = 45, PCM2 = 60, and the Telecaster modeling = 70, like in the picture.



If you press the arrow button once to the right ▶, the following adjacent display appears for the three sound sources to allow modification of additional sound parameters. Now, when you press ENTER, all of the parameters appear, hurray!



What more could really be desired? –

Using the PAGE ◀ ▶ buttons select the "MODEL" tab and press up on the arrow keys in the parameter list to highlight the "12-string-switch" and turn it "ON" using the dial – now your Telecaster is a 12-string!

To come back out of the parameter list press EXIT. Now select the "EFFECT" Tab.

The AMP (AMP=Amplifier) Effect is active and set to 15 VO CLEAN = Vox AC Model set to a level of 30.

There, as well, you can press ENTER in the parameter list, where you can really adjust many more parameters.

The setting of your own sounds is described in the manual on page 22. The parameters are listed on page 25.

At the end of your editing, press the WRITE button and choose a user space to save to. Press WRITE again - that's it!