

 Roland™

Fantom Xa

Workshop



Live Audio Inputs

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About the Fantom-Xa Workshop Booklets

Roland's Fantom-Xa workstation keyboard provides lots of creative power at an affordable price. It shares many of the features of its more expensive siblings—the Fantom X6, X7, and X8—including killer sounds, 128-note polyphony, a full-featured 16-track sequencer, sampling capabilities, and so much more.

The Fantom-Xa Workshop booklets discuss some of the things you can do with your Fantom-Xa. Each booklet focuses on one topic, and is intended as a companion to your *Fantom-Xa Owner's Manual*.

About This Booklet

The Fantom-Xa sports a pair of rear-panel 1/4" input jacks. While these jacks provide a way to get audio into the Fantom-Xa for sampling, there's another interesting thing they allow you to do if you perform as a one-man/woman band along with the Fantom-Xa's sequencer.

You can plug a microphone, a guitar—or even a mixer—into the Fantom-Xa and take advantage of its built-in effect processing power. This spares you from having to drag a separate effect-processing box to a gig, simplifying your onstage setup. And, of course, your vocals/guitar benefit from the Xa's killer effects. This booklet explains how to use your input jacks as live audio inputs.

(If you want to use a mic and guitar at the same time, run them into a mixer and then into the Fantom-Xa so you can control their volumes separately.)

The Fantom-Xa offers a separate, dedicated input effect—optimized for vocals and live instruments—in addition to its usual MFX processors you can also use on your input signal.

Understanding the Symbols in This Booklet

Throughout this booklet, you'll come across information that deserves special attention—that's the reason it's labeled with one of the following symbols.



A note is something that adds information about the topic at hand.



A tip offers suggestions for using the feature being discussed.



Warnings contain important information that can help you avoid possible damage to your equipment, your data, or yourself.

About the Fantom-Xa Input Jacks

There are a pair of input jacks on the Fantom-Xa's rear panel, labeled AUDIO INPUT L (MONO)/MIC and AUDIO INPUT R. These jacks accept 1/4" connectors.



For simplicity's sake, we'll refer to the AUDIO INPUT L (MONO)/MIC jack as simply the "L input" and the AUDIO INPUT R jack as the "R input."

Jacking In

If you're:

- *using a single, mono-output instrument or device*—such as an electric guitar or other electric instrument, or the output of a mono mixer—use the Fantom-Xa's L input.
- *using a single mic*—plug it into the L input.
- *submixing*—one or more instruments or mics in a stereo mixer, connect the mixer's left and right stereo outputs to the Fantom-Xa's L and R inputs.

Setting Your Input Level

Next to the inputs on the Fantom-Xa's rear panel is the LEVEL knob, shown in the illustration on Page 2. This sets your input signal's volume going into the Fantom-Xa.

After connecting your mic, instrument, etc. to the desired input(s), set your input signal level as follows:

1. Press the SAMPLING button.
2. Press F1 (SAMPLING)—the SAMPLING STANDBY screen appears. Even though we're not going to be sampling, we want to take advantage of this screen's input level meters.



3. If you've connected a mic or instrument, set Input Select to MICROPHONE. If you've connected a stereo mixer, set Input Select to LINE IN L/R, or, for a mono mixer, LINE IN L.
4. Send a typical amount of sound into the Fantom-Xa.
5. Turn the rear-panel LEVEL knob until the meters show as strong a signal as possible without lighting the CLIP indicator on the meters, shown in the screenshot above.
6. Press EXIT twice when you're done.

Input Settings

The Fantom-Xa provides a screenful of parameters that allow you to control the basic sound of your input signal, as well as a separate screen's-worth of parameters for setting up its effect.

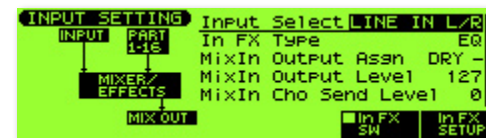


Since the Fantom-Xa clears its memory when you turn it off, set the following input parameters as desired before each performance.

The INPUT SETTING Screen

Basic input-signal settings appear on the INPUT SETTING screen. To display it:

1. While holding down SHIFT, press MIX IN—the INPUT SETTING screen appears.



2. To hear your input signal, press MIX IN so it lights.



The MIX IN button must be lit to hear your input signal. (The INPUT SETTING screen doesn't have to be visible once you've completed your setup.)



The INPUT SETTING Diagram

In the diagram at the left of the screen, you can see whether or not you're adding the dedicated input effect to your signal. By default, the input effect is off and the diagram looks like this:



Press F5 (In FX Sw) to switch on the input effect. The currently selected effect appears in the diagram.



You can press F5 (In FX Sw) again to turn the input effect off.



It's important to understand that the input effect is separate from the MFX processors available in Patch and Performance modes. This means you can apply a specially optimized input effect first, and then send the input signal on to an MFX processor for additional processing.

The INPUT SETTING Screen Parameters

Here's what each of the INPUT SETTING parameters does.

- **Input Select**—This parameter instructs the Fantom-Xa to accept a signal from a specific input or inputs, and configures the input(s) for your signal. Select:
 - **LINE IN L/R**—to use both the L and R inputs with a device such as a stereo mixer.
 - **LINE IN L**—to use only the L input with a device such as a mono mixer.
 - **MICROPHONE**—to use a mic, mic-level device, or an instrument such as an electric guitar connected to the L input.
- **In FX Type**—Select this parameter and turn the VALUE dial to select the desired input effect. You can customize the effect on the INPUT FX SETUP screen, described in the next section.



Note that selecting the desired effect type doesn't actually turn on the effect. That's the job of the In FX Sw, described below.

- **MixIn Output Asgn**—This parameter determines where the input signal goes once it leaves the entire input area, including the input effect. It can be sent:
 - *to an MFX processor*—by setting the parameter to MFX, pressing **►**, and then dialing in the desired MFX processor's number.
 - *straight into the Fantom-Xa's main mix as is*—by selecting DRY.

- **MixIn Output Level**—This parameter sets the final volume of the input signal. Use this parameter to mix the input signal in with your Fantom-Xa sounds.
- **MixIn Cho Send Level**—You can add a chorus effect to the final input signal by setting this parameter to a level other than 0. The higher the setting, the greater the amount of chorusing.

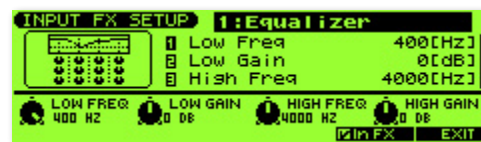


If you turn up MixIn Cho Send Level and no chorusing is added to your input signal, the chorus master switch is probably turned off. See "Adding Effects" in the *Fantom-Xa Owner's Manual* for details.

- **F5 (In FX Sw)**—This switch turns the dedicated input effect on or off. When the input effect is turned on, F5 (In FX Sw) is checkmarked.

The INPUT FX SETUP Screen

When you're using the dedicated input effect, press the INPUT SETTING screen's F6 (In FX SETUP) button to display the INPUT FX SETUP screen.



What you'll see on this screen depends on the selected input effect. In each case, you'll see parameters that allow you to customize the effect for your use.



You can quickly check out what your input effect is doing to your input signal by using the F5 (In FX) button on this screen to toggle the effect on and off and on again.

The End

We hope you've found this booklet useful—the Fantom-Xa's audio inputs can make your onstage presentation better-sounding and more fun, and easier to set up. Keep an eye out for other Fantom-Xa Workshop booklets, all available for downloading at www.RolandUS.com.



For the latest Fantom-Xa updates and support tools, visit the Roland U.S. Web site at www.RolandUS.com. If you need personal assistance, call our amazing Product Support team at 323-890-3745.