

RolandTM

Fantom Xa

Workshop



Sequencing with Rhythms

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About the Fantom-Xa Workshop Series

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 Series 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's full-featured drum machine contains rhythms that are designed for songwriting—it's only natural that you'll want to use them in your Fantom-Xa sequences.

This booklet discusses playing rhythms and explains how to lock your rhythms to the Fantom-Xa sequencer's beat.

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.

Rhythm Patterns

The Fantom-Xa's built-in drum beats are called "rhythm patterns," or "rhythms" for short. The Fantom-Xa has 256 preset rhythms covering a large variety of musical styles, and 256 user locations for storing your own rhythms.



To learn how to create your own rhythm patterns, see the *Fantom-Xa Owner's Manual*.

The TRIGGER/CATEGORY Pads

Each TRIGGER/CATEGORY pad acts as a button that starts and stops the playback of a rhythm.

The behavior of the pads depends on the state of the TRIGGER button, and of the RHYTHM button, over in ARP/RHY section of the Fantom-Xa's front panel.



When RHYTHM and TRIGGER are lit, the pads are unlit and they play rhythms.



When RHYTHM's not lit, but TRIGGER is, the pads light and they play percussion notes.



You can also use the pads for the selection of patches, but we're not concerned about that in this booklet.

Playing a Rhythm

1. Press RHYTHM so it lights if it isn't already lit.
2. Press TRIGGER so it lights if it isn't already lit.
3. Strike the desired pad—its rhythm begins playing and its pad flashes.



The rhythm plays at the Fantom-Xa's current Tempo setting. To learn about changing the rhythm/song tempo, see the *Fantom-Xa Owner's Manual*.

4. To stop a rhythm, strike its pad again. The rhythm stops and its light goes out.

Mix 'n Match Rhythms

You don't have to wait until the end of one rhythm to start playing of another one. This lets you throw together—and record—bits and pieces of different rhythm patterns to create your own rhythm arrangement on the fly.

When a rhythm is playing and you strike a new rhythm's pad, the Fantom-Xa immediately switches to the new rhythm without missing a beat. You can do this as often as you like. When you want the beat to stop, strike the last rhythm's pad.

Telling the Pads What Rhythms to Play

A set of nine rhythm patterns is called a "rhythm group." You can set the pads to play the desired rhythms by selecting the rhythm group to which they belong.

There are 32 preset rhythm groups and 32 user locations for storing your own rhythm groups.



To learn how to create your own rhythm groups, see the *Fantom-Xa Owner's Manual*.



Each rhythm group is programmed to use a particular rhythm set, so when you select a different rhythm group, you may also be selecting a new rhythm set. You can edit a rhythm group to use the kit you want to use, as described in the *Fantom-Xa Owner's Manual*.



You can select a different rhythm group even when a rhythm is currently playing.

Selecting a Rhythm Group

1. Hold down SHIFT and press RHYTHM to display the RHYTHM GROUP screen.



2. Turn the VALUE dial to select the desired rhythm group.
3. Press the EXIT button.



In Patch mode, the Fantom-Xa remembers your most recent rhythm group selection until you power off. In Performance mode, you can press the WRITE button to store your rhythm group selection in the current performance.

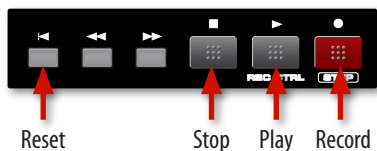
Sync or Swim

When you use a rhythm in a sequence, you'll want to make sure that the rhythm's beat and the sequencer's beat are absolutely in sync with each other and that the rhythm's measures line up with the sequencer's measures. This way, when you:

- *start playback of the sequence*—the rhythm starts, too.
- *edit the sequence*—the sequencer's beats and measures also apply to the rhythm as you edit.

Use the following procedure to perfectly line everything up.

Recording a Rhythm Into a Sequence



If your Fantom-Xa is set to load the demo song at startup, you'll have to clear the song before recording one of your own—to do this, press SONG EDIT↔LIST once or twice until "UTILITY" appears onscreen above F3. Then press F3 (UTILITY), F2 (SONG CLEAR), and finally, F6 (EXEC).

You can record a rhythm—or mix 'n match series of rhythms—into a sequence as the sequence's first track, or after you've already recorded other tracks. The procedure is precisely the same in either case.

We'll record onto the sequence's first track for our tutorial.

1. Press RHYTHM so it lights, and locate the rhythm you wish to record by striking its pad to listen to the rhythm.
2. Press the rhythm's pad again to turn off the rhythm.
3. Press the Reset button to move to the start of the song.
4. Press the SEQUENCER Record button to display the Realtime Rec Standby screen.



If you'd like to record on a track other than Track 1, set the Rec Track parameter to the desired track.

5. The key is the Count In parameter—set it to WAIT NOTE. With this setting, the sequencer won't begin recording until the rhythm starts, and will place the rhythm's first note exactly on Beat 1.



Be careful not to play the keyboard before starting your first rhythm, since any note the sequencer receives will cause it to start recording.

6. Play the pad that triggers the first rhythm you want to use—recording starts.
7. If you'd like to record a series of rhythms, strike their pads as desired.
8. When you're done, press RHYTHM to turn off the drum machine, and then press the SEQUENCER Stop button.
9. Press Reset and then Play to listen to your recording.

Do-Over

If you're not satisfied with your recording, you can re-record it in either of two ways. You can:

- *press ERASE/UNDO*—and when the Fantom-Xa asks if you're sure you want to undo your recording, press F6 (EXEC). You can then repeat the recording procedure.
- *record it again*—simply by using the same procedure with one minor change: set the Realtime Rec Standby screen's Rec Mode parameter to REPLACE so each new attempt replaces the previous one.

The End

We hope you've enjoyed this explanation of how to record rhythms in the Fantom-Xa's sequencer. The Fantom-Xa's rhythms can provide the perfect groove for most any type of song, and, as you can see, they're simple to record. 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.