Zoom RT-223

Zoom RT223 Rhythm Trak Drum Machine User Manual

INTRODUCTION

The Zoom RT223 Rhythm Trak is a compact and versatile drum and bass machine designed for musicians seeking a portable rhythm solution. This manual provides detailed instructions for its setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your device.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

To prevent electric shock, short circuit, damage, or other hazards, always observe the following basic precautions when using the unit:

- Do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.
- Do not place objects containing liquid on the unit.
- Do not open the unit or attempt to disassemble the internal parts.
- Use only the specified power adapter or batteries.
- Avoid placing the unit near heat sources or in direct sunlight.
- Keep the unit away from strong electromagnetic fields.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that your package contains the following items:

- Zoom RT223 Rhythm Trak Drum Machine
- AA Batteries (x4)
- User Manual (this document)

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

This image shows the Zoom RT223 Rhythm Trak Drum Machine from an angled top-down perspective, with audio cables connected to its rear panel. The front panel controls, display, and drum pads are clearly visible.

Front Panel Controls and Display

The front panel of the RT223 features a clear LCD display and various buttons and pads for operation:

- **LCD Display:** Shows current measure, beat, tempo (BPM), and various menu parameters.
- **Navigation Buttons:** Up, Down, Left, Right arrows for menu navigation.
- **Mode Buttons:** BASS MUTE, BASS, DRUM, KIT/PROG, SONG, GroovePLAY, PATTERN.
- **Function Buttons:** TEMPO, COMP EQ, REVERB, EDIT, EXIT, STOP, PLAY, REAL-TIME REC, REC.
- **Drum Pads (1-12):** Pressure-sensitive pads for triggering drum sounds and bass notes. Each pad has primary and secondary functions (e.g., TOM 1 / MIX, SNARE / VERSE A / BASS TUNE, CLOSED HAT / FILL A / PRE COUNT, OPEN HAT / VERSE B / CLICK VOL, CRASH / BAR LENGTH, RIDE / SWING, EXTRA 1 / FILL B / FOOT SW, EXTRA 2 / BREAK / PAD SENS, EXTRA 3 / SHIFT, EXTRA 4 / ENDING / MIDI).
- **REPEAT/STEP Button:** Used for step recording and repeating patterns.
- **FUNCTION Button:** Activates secondary functions of the drum pads.

Rear Panel Connections

The rear panel provides essential input and output connections:

- **LINE IN (L/R):** Stereo input jacks for connecting external audio sources.
- **OUTPUT (L/R):** Stereo output jacks for connecting to an amplifier, mixer, or headphones.
- **FOOT SW:** Jack for connecting an optional footswitch for hands-free control.

- **DC IN 9V:** Power input jack for connecting an AC adapter (not included, but batteries are).
- **MIDI IN/OUT:** MIDI connectors for interfacing with other MIDI devices.

Setup

1. Powering the Unit

The RT223 can be powered by four AA batteries or an optional 9V DC AC adapter.

- **Battery Installation:** Open the battery compartment on the bottom of the unit. Insert four AA batteries, ensuring correct polarity.
- **AC Adapter (Optional):** Connect a compatible 9V DC AC adapter to the DC IN jack on the rear panel.

2. Connecting Audio

- Connect the OUTPUT (L/R) jacks to your amplifier, mixer, or headphones using appropriate audio cables.
- If you wish to process an external audio source through the RT223, connect it to the LINE IN (L/R) jacks.

3. MIDI Connections

To integrate the RT223 with other MIDI devices, connect standard MIDI cables to the MIDI IN and MIDI OUT jacks on the rear panel as required by your setup.

Operating Instructions

1. Power On/Off

Press and hold the POWER button (if present, or refer to specific power switch location) to turn the unit on or off. The LCD display will illuminate upon power-up.

2. Selecting and Playing Patterns

1. Press the **PATTERN** button to enter pattern selection mode.
2. Use the navigation buttons (Up/Down) to scroll through the available rhythm patterns. The display shows pattern numbers and names (e.g., "00-04 Rock", "05-10 R&B").
3. Press the **PLAY** button to start playback of the selected pattern.
4. Press the **STOP** button to halt playback.

3. Adjusting Tempo

Press the **TEMPO** button, then use the navigation buttons to increase or decrease the beats per minute (BPM).

4. Using Drum Pads

The 12 drum pads trigger various drum and bass sounds. Press a pad to play its assigned sound. To access secondary functions printed below each pad, hold down the **FUNCTION** button and then press the desired pad.

5. Programming Rhythms (Real-Time Recording)

1. Select an empty user pattern or a pattern you wish to overwrite.
2. Press the **REAL-TIME REC** button. The unit will enter record standby mode.
3. Press **PLAY** to start recording. Play the drum pads in real-time to input your rhythm.
4. Press **STOP** to end recording.

6. Applying Effects

The RT223 includes built-in Compression/EQ and Reverb effects.

- Press the **COMP EQ** or **REVERB** button.
- Use the navigation buttons to adjust effect parameters as displayed on the LCD.
- Press **EXIT** to return to the main screen.

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity of your RT223:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the unit. For stubborn dirt, use a slightly damp cloth and then wipe dry. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, remove the batteries to prevent leakage. Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your RT223, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No power	Check battery installation and charge. Ensure AC adapter (if used) is properly connected and functional.
No sound output	Verify audio cable connections. Check volume levels on the RT223 and connected amplifier/mixer. Ensure no headphones are connected if expecting speaker output.
Pads not responding	Ensure the unit is not in a menu editing mode. Check if pad sensitivity settings are too low (refer to PAD SENS function).
Patterns not saving	Follow the correct save procedure as outlined in the advanced operation section. Ensure sufficient memory is available.

If the problem persists, please contact Zoom customer support for further assistance.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model Name:** RT-223
- **Item Weight:** 1.5 pounds (0.68 kg)
- **Product Dimensions (L x W x H):** 8.6 x 7.2 x 1.4 inches (21.8 x 18.3 x 3.6 cm)
- **Material:** Plastic
- **Power:** 4 AA batteries (included) or optional 9V DC AC adapter
- **Rhythm Patterns:** 511
- **Drum Kits:** 127 (User Programmable)
- **Bass Programs:** 12
- **Effects:** Compression/EQ, Reverb
- **Connectivity:** LINE IN (L/R), OUTPUT (L/R), FOOT SW, DC IN, MIDI IN/OUT

Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Zoom website. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.