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Roland FC-300

Roland FC-300 Twin Expression MIDI Foot Controller User Manual

Model: FC-300 | Brand: Roland

1. Introduction

The Roland FC-300 is an advanced MIDI foot controller designed to provide extensive control over MIDI-compatible instruments and devices. It features twin expression pedals, control pedals, and multiple footswitches, offering a versatile interface for live performance and studio applications. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your FC-300.

2. Key Features

- Advanced MIDI foot controller with two assignable expression pedals, two control pedals, nine footswitches, and expandability.
- New Patch Mode stores up to 100 MIDI setups.
- In addition to standard MIDI connection, newly developed RRC2 Protocol adapted for bidirectional data flow between FC-300 and Roland RRC2-equipped products.
- 3-Way power supply and rock-solid metal construction for stage use.
- Two amp control switches for controlling amp channels or effects.

3. Setup

3.1 Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the FC-300 from its packaging. Ensure all components are present and undamaged. Retain the packaging for future transport or storage.

3.2 Power Supply

The FC-300 supports a 3-way power supply system. It can be powered via an AC adapter (not included), batteries (1 AAA battery is included for memory backup), or through the RRC2 connection when connected to a compatible Roland device. For optimal performance, use the recommended AC adapter.

3.3 Connections

Connect the FC-300 to your MIDI devices or RRC2-compatible Roland equipment using appropriate cables. The unit features standard MIDI IN and OUT ports, as well as RRC2 IN and OUT ports for advanced communication. Two AMP CONTROL jacks are also available for controlling external amplifier functions.



This image displays the full layout of the Roland FC-300. On the left, the main unit features ten footswitches (labeled 1/6 through 5/10), two control pedals (CTL 1, CTL 2), and a digital display showing '001' and 'Roland FC-300'. Above the footswitches are mode selection buttons and parameter adjustment controls. The top edge includes power input, RRC2 ports, and MIDI IN/OUT. To the right are two large expression pedals, labeled EXP PEDAL 1 and EXP PEDAL 2, each with an ON/OFF indicator.

4. Operating the FC-300

4.1 Overview of Controls

The FC-300 features a comprehensive set of controls:

- **Footswitches (1/6 to 5/10):** These ten switches are primarily used for program changes, control changes, or other assignable functions.
- **Control Pedals (CTL 1, CTL 2):** Two dedicated footswitches for activating or deactivating specific functions, often used for effects toggling.
- **Expression Pedals (EXP PEDAL 1, EXP PEDAL 2):** Two large pedals for continuous control of parameters such as volume, wah, or modulation. Each has an ON/OFF indicator.
- **Mode Buttons:** Select between STANDARD, CONTROL, SYS EX (System Exclusive), and PATCH modes to define the FC-300's operational behavior.
- **BANK/NUMBER Display:** A digital display showing the current bank and patch number, or other relevant information.
- **Parameter/Value Buttons:** Used to navigate parameters and adjust their values within the FC-300's settings.
- **Utility/Mode Buttons (JUMP, INS, DEL, EXIT, WRITE):** Provide access to various utility functions for editing and saving settings.

4.2 Modes of Operation

The FC-300 operates in several modes, each optimized for different control scenarios:

- **Patch Mode:** Allows you to store and recall up to 100 complete MIDI setups, including assignments for footswitches, control pedals, and expression pedals.
- **Standard Mode:** Provides direct control over MIDI messages, typically used for sending program change and control change messages.
- **Control Mode:** Focuses on real-time control of parameters using the expression and control pedals.
- **System Exclusive (SYS EX) Mode:** Enables the transmission and reception of System Exclusive messages for advanced control and data transfer with compatible devices.

4.3 Assigning Functions

The FC-300 allows extensive customization of its controls. Refer to the detailed programming section in the full manual for specific steps on assigning MIDI messages (e.g., Program Change, Control Change, Note On/Off) to footswitches, and continuous controller

messages to expression pedals. This typically involves selecting a control, choosing the MIDI message type, and setting its value or range.

4.4 Using Expression and Control Pedals

The two expression pedals (EXP PEDAL 1, EXP PEDAL 2) provide continuous control over assigned parameters. Pressing the toe-switch on each expression pedal can toggle an effect or function on/off. The control pedals (CTL 1, CTL 2) are typically used for momentary or latching on/off functions, such as activating a boost or switching an effect.

4.5 Amp Control Switches

The two AMP CONTROL outputs can be used to switch channels or effects on compatible guitar amplifiers or other devices. Connect these outputs to the appropriate control inputs on your amplifier.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Cleaning

To clean the FC-300, use a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth with mild, non-abrasive cleaner can be used, followed by a dry cloth. Avoid using harsh chemicals, solvents, or abrasive materials, as these can damage the finish and components.

5.2 Storage

When not in use for extended periods, store the FC-300 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If using battery power, remove the batteries to prevent leakage.

5.3 Battery Replacement

The FC-300 uses 1 AAA battery for memory backup. If the unit loses its stored settings when powered off, the AAA battery may need replacement. Refer to the battery compartment for instructions on proper replacement, ensuring correct polarity.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your FC-300, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the AC adapter is securely connected and functioning, or check battery levels if operating on battery power. Verify the power switch is in the 'ON' position.
- **No MIDI Signal:** Check all MIDI cable connections. Ensure the FC-300's MIDI OUT is connected to the receiving device's MIDI IN. Verify that the FC-300 is in the correct operating mode (e.g., Standard or Patch Mode) and that the receiving device is configured to respond to the MIDI messages being sent.
- **Incorrect Parameter Control:** Confirm that the expression pedals and control pedals are correctly assigned to the desired MIDI Control Change (CC) messages and that the receiving device is configured to respond to those CCs. Calibrate expression pedals if they are not responding correctly.
- **Settings Not Saving:** Check the memory backup battery (AAA). If it is depleted, replace it. Ensure you are performing the 'WRITE' operation after making changes to save your settings.

For more complex issues, consult the comprehensive troubleshooting guide in the full product manual or contact Roland customer support.

7. Specifications

Model Name	MIDI Foot Controller
Item Model Number	FC-300
Brand	Roland
Item Weight	14.1 Pounds (approximately 6.4 kg)
Product Dimensions	6 x 24.96 x 14.06 inches (approximately 15.24 x 63.4 x 35.71 cm)

Batteries	1 AAA battery required (included for memory backup)
Compatible Devices	Guitar, MIDI-compatible instruments and devices
Connector Type	5-pin DIN (MIDI), RRC2
Hardware Interface	Ethernet (for RRC2), MIDI
Supported Software	Ableton Live, Avid Pro Tools, FL Studio (and other MIDI-compatible DAWs)
Material Type	Metal
Connectivity Technology	MIDI, RRC2

8. Warranty and Support

For information regarding the product warranty, please refer to the warranty card included with your FC-300 or visit the official Roland website. For technical support, service, or additional inquiries, please contact Roland customer support through their official channels. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.

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