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BOSS RC-3

BOSS RC-3 Loop Station Guitar Effects Pedal User Manual

Model: RC-3

1. INTRODUCTION

The BOSS RC-3 Loop Station is a compact and powerful stereo stompbox designed for guitarists and other musicians to create and layer loops in real-time. It offers extensive recording time, numerous memory slots for storing loops, and a built-in rhythm guide to aid in timing. Its USB connectivity allows for easy transfer of WAV audio files to and from a computer. This manual provides detailed instructions on the setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your RC-3 Loop Station.



Figure 1: Front view of the BOSS RC-3 Loop Station.

2. KEY FEATURES

- Compact and powerful stereo stompbox looper.
- Massive internal memory with up to three hours of stereo recording time.
- 99 onboard memories for storing loops.
- USB 2.0 port allows you to connect to a PC and import/export WAV audio.
- Rhythm guide with real drums.

3. SETUP

Before using your RC-3 Loop Station, ensure it is properly connected to your audio system and power source.

3.1 Power Supply

The RC-3 can be powered by a 9V DC power adapter (BOSS PSA series recommended) or a 9V battery. Connect the power adapter to the DC IN jack on the rear panel. If using a battery, ensure it is correctly installed in the battery compartment.

3.2 Audio Connections

Connect your instrument (e.g., guitar) to the INPUT A (MONO) jack. For stereo input, connect a second instrument or stereo source to INPUT B. Connect the OUTPUT A (MONO) jack to your amplifier or mixer. For stereo output, connect OUTPUT B as well.

The AUX IN jack allows you to connect an external audio player (e.g., MP3 player) to play along with or record from.



Figure 2: Rear panel connections of the BOSS RC-3 Loop Station.

3.3 USB Connection

Connect the RC-3 to your computer using a standard USB cable. This allows for importing and exporting WAV files, managing stored loops, and backing up your data.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The RC-3 offers intuitive controls for recording, playing back, and managing your loops.

4.1 Basic Looping

1. **Record:** Press the pedal switch once to start recording. The REC/PLAY indicator will light red.
2. **Play/Overdub:** Press the pedal switch again to stop recording and start playback. The REC/PLAY indicator will light green. While playing, press the pedal switch again to enter overdub mode (REC/PLAY indicator blinks red/green).
3. **Stop:** Double-press the pedal switch to stop playback.
4. **Undo/Redo:** While playing or overdubbing, press and hold the pedal switch for 2 seconds to undo the last recorded phrase. Repeat to redo.
5. **Clear:** While stopped, press and hold the pedal switch for 2 seconds to clear the current loop phrase.

4.2 Memory Management

The RC-3 has 99 memory locations (01-99) to store your loop phrases.

- **Select Memory:** Use the [MEMORY] UP/DOWN buttons to select a memory number.
- **Save Loop:** After recording a loop, press and hold the [WRITE/DELETE] button for 2 seconds. The display will blink. Press [WRITE/DELETE] again to confirm saving to the currently selected memory.
- **Delete Loop:** Select the memory you wish to delete. Press and hold the [WRITE/DELETE] button for 2 seconds. The display will blink. Press and hold [WRITE/DELETE] again for 2 seconds to confirm deletion.

4.3 Rhythm Guide

The built-in rhythm guide helps you maintain perfect timing during recording and playback.

- **Rhythm ON/OFF:** Press the [RHYTHM ON/OFF] button to toggle the rhythm guide.
- **Rhythm Type:** Press the [RHYTHM TYPE] button to cycle through different rhythm patterns.
- **Tap Tempo:** Press the [TAP TEMPO] button two or more times in succession to set the tempo of the rhythm guide.
- **Rhythm Level:** Adjust the [RHYTHM LOOP] knob to control the volume of the rhythm guide relative to your loop.

5. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your RC-3 Loop Station, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the unit with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a dry, cool place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Battery Replacement:** If using battery power, replace the battery when the power indicator dims or the unit malfunctions. Always remove the battery if the unit will not be used for an extended period.
- **Firmware Updates:** Check the official BOSS website periodically for any available firmware updates for your RC-3.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your RC-3, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No sound or low volume.	<p>Check all cable connections (input, output, power).</p> <p>Ensure the [OUTPUT] knob is turned up.</p> <p>Verify the volume on your amplifier or mixer.</p> <p>Check if the instrument's volume is turned up.</p>
Cannot record or overdub.	<p>Ensure a memory location is selected and not full.</p> <p>Check if the pedal switch is functioning correctly.</p> <p>Verify input signal is present.</p>
Rhythm guide not working.	<p>Press the [RHYTHM ON/OFF] button to activate it.</p> <p>Adjust the [RHYTHM LOOP] knob to increase rhythm volume.</p>
USB connection issues.	<p>Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the RC-3 and the computer.</p> <p>Try a different USB port or cable.</p> <p>Restart your computer.</p>

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Parameter	Value
Model Number	RC-3
Item Weight	1 Pounds (0.45 kg)
Product Dimensions	12.9 x 7.3 x 5.9 inches (32.7 x 18.5 x 15 cm)
Power Source	9V DC (BOSS PSA series adapter) or 9V battery (included)
Recording Time	Up to 3 hours (stereo)
Memory Slots	99
Connectivity	Input A/B (Mono), Output A/B (Mono), AUX IN, USB 2.0
Compatible Devices	Banjo, Bass, Guitar, Mandolin, Ukulele
Color	Red
Date First Available	January 24, 2011

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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

Official BOSS Website: www.boss.info

