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Roland FA-06

Roland FA-06 61-Key Music Workstation User Manual

Model: FA-06

Introduction

The Roland FA-06 is a 61-key music workstation designed to streamline the music creation process with effortless real-time power, ultra-fast workflow, and maximum versatility. It features a massive sound collection inherited from the flagship INTEGRA-7, studio-quality effects, expressive real-time controls, and onboard sampling with zero load time for instant audio playback from its 16 backlit pads. The integrated sequencer allows for simple operation and non-stop loop recording, enabling users to capture musical ideas quickly and export them as multitrack data for use with a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). The FA-06 seamlessly integrates into a computer music studio setup, functioning as a standalone keyboard or a command center with USB audio/MIDI interfacing, powerful real-time controllers, and DAW transport controls.

Key Features

- Reimagined music workstation designed to maximize your creative flow.
- Light, mobile body with 61-note velocity-sensitive keyboard.
- Over 2000 sounds from the flagship INTEGRA-7 sound module, including SuperNATURAL synth and acoustic tones and drums; add even more tones via internal wave sound expansion slots.
- SuperNATURAL synth engine is fully compatible with the expansive collection of free INTEGRA-7 synth tones available from Roland's Axial sound library site.
- 16-track sequencer with non-stop loop recording makes it easy to build songs quickly; export your sequencer tracks to an SDHC card as a complete stereo mix, or as multitrack audio or MIDI data for use in your DAW.

Setup Guide

Before operating your Roland FA-06, ensure proper setup to prevent damage and ensure optimal performance.

1. Power Connection

Connect the supplied AC adapter to the DC IN jack on the rear panel of the FA-06. Plug the other end into a standard AC outlet. Ensure the power switch is in the OFF position before connecting or disconnecting the power supply.

2. Audio Connections

For audio output, connect the L/MONO and R OUTPUT jacks to your amplifier, mixer, or audio interface using standard 1/4-inch phone cables. For personal monitoring, connect headphones to the PHONES jack.

3. USB/MIDI Connections

The FA-06 supports USB MIDI and USB Audio. Connect the USB COMPUTER port to your computer using a USB Type B cable for MIDI and audio data transfer. This allows the FA-06 to function as an audio interface and MIDI controller for your DAW. Additionally, a USB MEMORY port (USB Type A) is available for connecting USB flash drives to import/export data, samples, and settings.



Figure 1: Top-down view of the Roland FA-06, highlighting its comprehensive layout including the 61-note keyboard, 16 backlit pads, and various control sections for sound modification and sequencing.

Basic Operation

This section covers the fundamental operations of the Roland FA-06, allowing you to quickly start creating music.

1. Powering On and Initial Sound Selection

After connecting power and audio, press the POWER switch to turn on the unit. The display will illuminate, and the system will boot up. Use the CATEGORY buttons (e.g., PIANO, KEYBOARD, BASS) and the VALUE dial to browse and select different instrument sounds. The large color LCD provides clear visual feedback on the selected sound and its parameters.

2. Using the 16 Backlit Pads

The 16 backlit pads on the right side of the control panel are highly versatile. They can be used for triggering samples, playing drum sounds, or initiating phrases from the sequencer. In sampler mode, you can assign audio files to each pad for instant playback. The pads are velocity-sensitive, allowing for expressive performance.

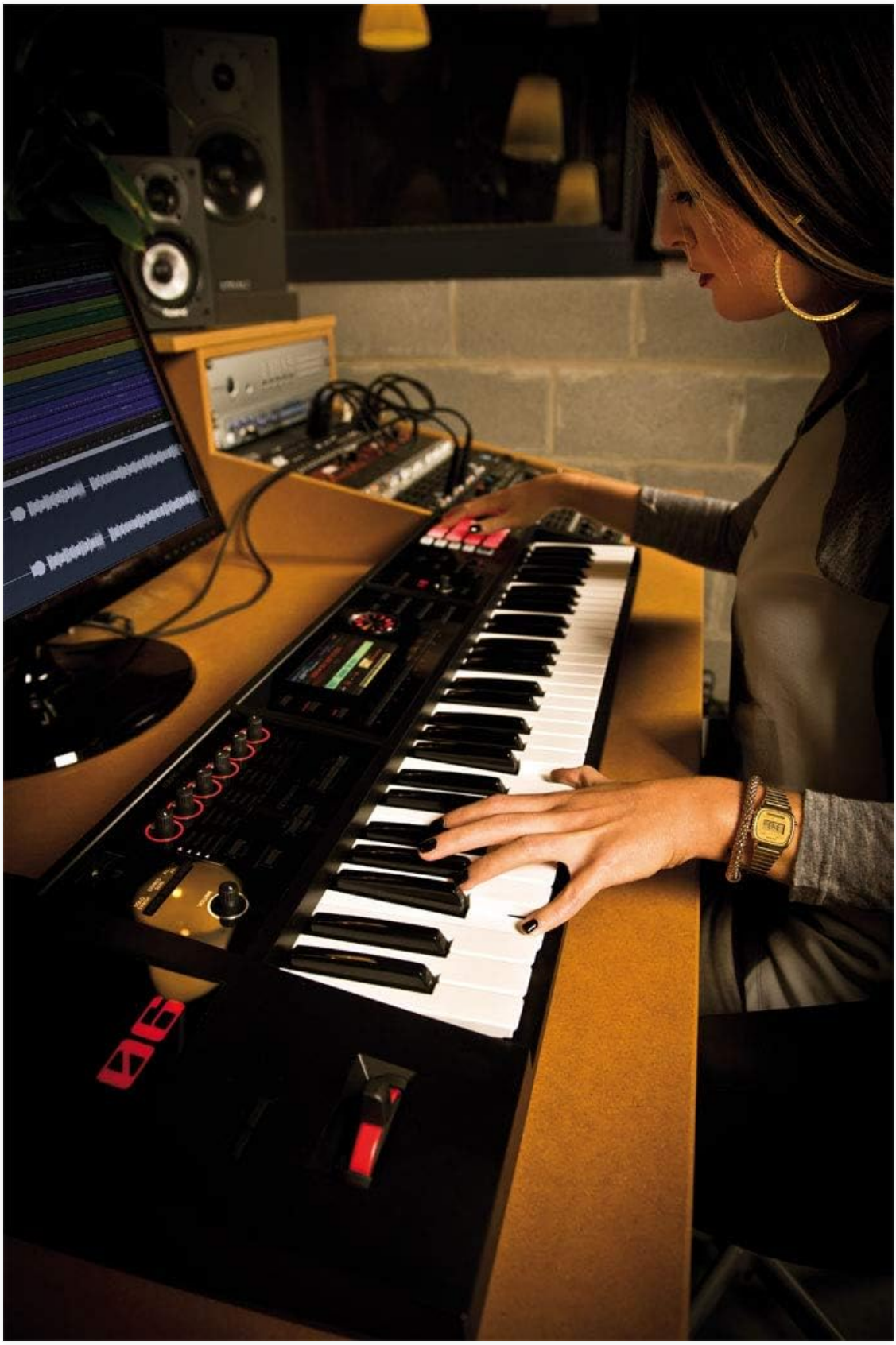

Figure 2: A musician interacting with the Roland FA-06 in a studio environment, illustrating the ergonomic design and ease of access to controls during a performance or production session.

3. Sequencer Basics

The FA-06 features a powerful 16-track sequencer. To start recording, select a track and press the REC button. You can record in real-time or use step recording. The sequencer supports non-stop loop recording, allowing you to build up arrangements layer by layer. Use the transport controls (PLAY, STOP, REC) to manage playback and recording. Tracks can be muted or soloed for mixing purposes.

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Video 1: Official product video demonstrating the Roland FA-06 61-Key Music Workstation in action, showcasing its sound capabilities, pad performance, and sequencer functionality.

Advanced Features

1. Sampling

The FA-06 includes a robust sampler with zero load time. You can sample audio directly into the unit via its input jacks or import WAV/AIFF files from a USB flash drive. Samples can then be assigned to the 16 pads for instant triggering, allowing for creative integration of custom sounds into your performances and productions.

2. Effects

The FA-06 is equipped with a wide array of studio-quality effects, including reverb, chorus, and various multi-effects. These can be applied to individual parts or the overall mix to enhance your sound. Parameters for each effect can be adjusted using the dedicated knobs and the LCD screen.

3. DAW Integration

The FA-06 is designed for seamless integration with Digital Audio Workstations. It can function as a USB audio/MIDI interface, allowing you to record audio and MIDI directly into your computer. Dedicated DAW Control buttons provide transport control over popular software like Logic Pro, Cubase, and Ableton Live, enhancing your workflow.

Maintenance and Care

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Roland FA-06, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the surface of the instrument. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed by a dry cloth. Avoid abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the FA-06 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. If transporting, use a padded case to protect it from physical shock.
- **Power Off:** Always turn off the power before connecting or disconnecting cables, or when the unit will not be used for an extended period.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Roland FA-06, refer to the following common troubleshooting tips. For more detailed solutions, consult the full owner's manual available on the Roland website.

No Sound Output

- Check that the power is on and the volume knob is turned up.
- Verify that all audio cables are securely connected to the correct input/output jacks on both the FA-06 and your amplifier/mixer.
- Ensure that the selected sound (patch/performance) has an audible volume level.
- If using headphones, ensure they are fully plugged in and the headphone volume is adjusted.

MIDI Not Responding

- Check USB cable connection to your computer.
- Verify MIDI settings on the FA-06 and in your DAW software.
- Ensure the correct MIDI drivers are installed on your computer.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Name	FA-06
Number of Keys	61
Item Weight	12.1 pounds
Product Dimensions	39.7 x 11.8 x 4 inches
Connectivity Technology	USB
Connector Type	USB Type B, USB Type A
Power Source	Corded Electric
Supported Software	DAWs
UPC	761294504338

Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information, technical support, and additional resources, please visit the official Roland website or contact their customer service. You can also find updated drivers, software, and sound libraries on the Roland website.

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