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› Roland VP-03 Boutique Series Portable Vocoder Instruction Manual

Roland VP-03

Roland VP-03 Boutique Series Portable Vocoder Instruction Manual

Model: VP-03

1. INTRODUCTION

The Roland VP-03 Boutique is a compact re-creation of the classic VP-330 Vocoder Plus, designed to blend synthesized sounds with the human voice. Utilizing ACB (Analog Circuit Behavior) technology, it faithfully emulates the original's vocoder, human voice, and strings sound sources. This portable unit includes a built-in gooseneck microphone and introduces new features such as a 16-step Voice Step Sequencer and Chord Memory. This manual provides detailed instructions for the setup, operation, and maintenance of your VP-03.



Figure 1.1: Roland VP-03 Boutique Series Portable Vocoder, top view.

Compact Design with High Functionality

An ultra-Portable recreation of the iconic VP-330 Vocoder, retaining the sound, character & user interface of the original but with a new Voice Step Sequencer & Chord Memory Function.



Figure 1.2: Compact design and key controls of the VP-03.

2. SETUP

2.1 Unpacking and Included Components

Carefully remove the VP-03 from its packaging. Ensure all components are present. The package should include the Roland VP-03 unit and a dedicated gooseneck microphone.

2.2 Power Supply

The VP-03 can be powered by four AA batteries or via USB. For battery operation, open the battery compartment on the underside of the unit and insert four AA batteries, observing the correct polarity. For USB power, connect a standard Micro-USB cable from the VP-03's Micro-USB port to a USB power adapter or a computer's USB port.

2.3 Connections

The VP-03 offers various connectivity options:

- **Microphone Input:** Connect the included gooseneck microphone to the dedicated XLR mic input on the top panel. Ensure the 'PLUG-IN POWER' switch is set to 'ON' if your microphone requires phantom power (the included mic does).
- **Audio Output:** Use the 3.5mm mini-jack 'OUTPUT' for connecting to external mixers, audio interfaces, or amplifiers.
- **Headphones:** Connect headphones to the 3.5mm mini-jack 'PHONES' output for private monitoring.
- **MIDI In/Out:** Use the standard MIDI DIN connectors for connecting to other MIDI devices, such as keyboards or sequencers.
- **USB:** The Micro-USB port can be used for power, MIDI over USB, and audio over USB (for connecting to a computer/DAW).



Figure 2.1: Rear panel connections of the VP-03.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Controls Overview

The VP-03's front panel is intuitively laid out with faders and buttons for various sound parameters. Key sections include VOCoder, HUMAN VOICE, STRINGS, VIBRATO, and BALANCE. Familiarize yourself with the position and function of each control.

Features:

USB/MIDI/XLR
Connectivity

Chord Memory
plays back chords
with one finger

16 Step Voice
Sequencer



Figure 3.1: Key features and controls of the VP-03.

3.2 Vocoder Functionality

The vocoder section allows you to process your voice through the synthesizer. Speak or sing into the gooseneck microphone while playing notes on the VP-03 (or an external MIDI keyboard). Adjust the 'LEVEL' and 'TONE' faders in the VOCoder section to shape the sound. The 'BALANCE' fader controls the mix between the direct microphone signal and the vocoded sound.

3.3 Human Voice and Strings

In addition to the vocoder, the VP-03 features dedicated 'HUMAN VOICE' and 'STRINGS' sound sources. Use the respective faders to adjust their 'LEVEL', 'TONE', 'ATTACK', and 'RELEASE' parameters. The 'HUMAN VOICE' section includes 'MALE' and 'FEMALE' options for different vocal characteristics. These can be blended with the vocoder or used independently.

3.4 Voice Step Sequencer

The 16-step Voice Step Sequencer allows you to create dynamic rhythmic effects. You can input a single note, a chord, or even your voice into each of the 16 steps. Each step can comprise up to six notes, offering complex melodic and harmonic possibilities. Use the step buttons to program and trigger sequences.

3.5 Chord Memory

The Chord Memory function enables you to play back complex chords with a single finger. The VP-03 provides 16 memory locations to store and recall your favorite chords using the 16 step buttons. You can also create and save your own custom chords. Stored chords can be backed up to a computer for safekeeping.

3.6 Ribbon Controllers

The VP-03 features dual ribbon controllers on the left side of the unit. These can be used for real-time control of pitch bend, modulation, and other expressive parameters, adding dynamic performance capabilities to your sound.



Figure 3.2: Ribbon controllers for expressive control.



Figure 3.3: VP-03 in use with an optional K-25m keyboard.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1 Cleaning

To clean the unit, use a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed by a dry one. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the finish and internal components.

4.2 Storage

When not in use for extended periods, store the VP-03 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If using batteries, remove them to prevent leakage and potential damage to the unit.

4.3 Battery Care

Always use the recommended type of AA batteries. Do not mix old and new batteries, or different types of batteries. Dispose of used batteries responsibly according to local regulations.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Roland VP-03, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound Output:**
 - Ensure the unit is powered on (check power switch and battery/USB connection).
 - Verify that the 'VOLUME' knob is turned up.
 - Check all audio cable connections (OUTPUT, PHONES) to your mixer, amplifier, or headphones.
 - Ensure the faders for VOCoder, HUMAN VOICE, and STRINGS sections are raised.
- **Microphone Not Working / No Vocoder Effect:**
 - Confirm the gooseneck microphone is securely connected to the XLR input.
 - Ensure the 'PLUG-IN POWER' switch is set to 'ON'.
 - Adjust the 'DIRECT MIC' level fader and the 'VOCoder' section's 'LEVEL' fader.
 - Make sure you are playing notes on the VP-03 or a connected MIDI keyboard while speaking into the mic.
- **Connectivity Issues (USB/MIDI):**
 - Verify USB or MIDI cables are correctly connected.
 - If connecting to a computer, ensure the necessary drivers (if any, typically class-compliant for basic functions) are installed and your DAW/software is configured to recognize the VP-03 as a MIDI device.
 - Check MIDI channel settings on both the VP-03 and your external MIDI device.
- **Unexpected Behavior / Unit Freezing:**
 - Turn the unit off, wait a few seconds, and then turn it back on.
 - If using batteries, try replacing them with fresh ones.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Model Name	VP-03
Brand	Roland
Dimensions (L x W x H)	14 x 7 x 4.25 inches (35.56 x 17.78 x 10.8 cm)
Item Weight	1 pound (0.45 kg)
Body Material	Metal
Finish Type	Glossy
Color	Black
Power Supply	4 AA batteries or Micro-USB
Included Components	Dedicated gooseneck microphone

Feature	Specification
Connector Types	Micro USB, USB Type B, MIDI In/Out, XLR Mic Input, 3.5mm Line Out, 3.5mm Headphone Out
UPC	761294509265
ASIN	B01LVTVF2W
Date First Available	September 10, 2016

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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

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