

BOSS SY-1000

BOSS SY-1000 Guitar Synthesizer

Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

The BOSS SY-1000 is an advanced guitar and bass synthesizer and modeling processor designed to transform your instrument's sound with extensive sound design capabilities. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your SY-1000 to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Before using the unit, carefully read the following safety instructions to prevent malfunction, electrical shock, short circuit, damage, fire, or other hazards.

- Do not open or modify the unit.
- Do not attempt to repair the unit or replace parts within it. Refer all servicing to your retailer or authorized BOSS service center.
- Do not expose the unit to direct sunlight, heat sources, or extreme temperatures.
- Do not use or store the unit in dusty or humid places.
- Use only the specified AC adaptor (PSB-1U) and ensure the voltage matches the unit's requirements.
- Keep the unit away from water and moisture.
- Handle cables carefully; avoid excessive bending or pulling.

SETUP

1. Unpacking the Unit

Carefully remove the SY-1000 from its packaging. Verify that all included accessories are present:

- BOSS SY-1000 Unit
- 1/4 inch guitar/bass cable
- GK 13-pin cable
- AC Adaptor (PSB-1U, sold separately in some regions)

- Owner's Manual (this document)

2. Connecting Your SY-1000

Refer to the diagram below for proper connection of your instrument, amplifier, and other devices.



This image provides a clear view of the rear panel of the BOSS SY-1000, displaying all input and output connections. These include GK IN, GUITAR INPUT, SEND/RETURN, MAIN OUTPUT (R/MONO, L/PHONES), SUB OUTPUT (R/MONO, L), CTL 3,4/EXP 1, CTL 5,6/EXP 2, USB ports, MIDI IN/OUT/THRU, POWER input, and a DC IN jack.

1. **GK IN:** Connect your GK-compatible guitar or bass using the supplied GK 13-pin cable. This connection is essential for accessing the SY-1000's full synth and modeling capabilities.
2. **GUITAR INPUT:** Connect your standard 1/4-inch guitar or bass cable here if you wish to blend your normal instrument signal with the SY-1000's processing.
3. **MAIN OUTPUT (R/MONO, L/PHONES):** Connect these outputs to your amplifier, mixer, or audio interface. Use the L/PHONES jack for mono output or headphones.
4. **SUB OUTPUT (R/MONO, L):** Provides additional stereo or mono outputs for routing different signals.
5. **SEND/RETURN:** For connecting external effects pedals or processors.
6. **CTL 3,4/EXP 1, CTL 5,6/EXP 2:** Connect external footswitches or expression pedals for additional real-time control.
7. **USB:** Connect to a computer for editing patches, recording audio, or updating firmware.
8. **MIDI IN/OUT/THRU:** For MIDI control and synchronization with other MIDI devices.
9. **DC IN:** Connect the dedicated PSB-1U AC adaptor here. Ensure the adaptor is securely connected.

3. Powering On and Off

To power on, ensure all connections are made, then connect the AC adaptor to a power outlet. Press the POWER switch on the rear panel. To power off, press the POWER switch again. Always power off the unit before disconnecting cables.

OPERATING THE SY-1000

1. Front Panel Controls Overview

The SY-1000's front panel provides intuitive access to its vast array of features. Familiarize yourself with the layout:



A direct front view of the BOSS SY-1000, showcasing the large central display, the six parameter knobs below it, and the eight footswitches labeled BANK V, BANK A, CTL 1, CTL 2, and 1 through 4. Additional function buttons like INST, EFFECTS, CTL, EXIT, WRITE, and SYSTEM are also visible.

- **Display:** The central LCD screen shows patch names, parameters, and menu navigation.
- **Parameter Knobs (1-6):** These knobs adjust parameters displayed on the screen, corresponding to the labels above them.
- **Footswitches (BANK V, BANK A, CTL 1-2, 1-4):** Used for changing patches, engaging/disengaging effects, and other assignable functions. The TUNER function can be accessed by holding down the BANK V and BANK A footswitches simultaneously.
- **Function Buttons (INST, EFFECTS, CTL, EXIT, WRITE, SYSTEM):** Navigate through different sections of the unit, save settings, and access system preferences.
- **OUTPUT LEVEL Knob:** Adjusts the overall output volume of the SY-1000.

2. Basic Operation

1. **Patch Selection:** Use the BANK V (down) and BANK A (up) footswitches to cycle through banks of patches. Footswitches 1-4 select individual patches within the current bank.
2. **Editing Parameters:** Press the INST, EFFECTS, or CTL buttons to access different editing screens. Use the PAGE buttons to navigate through pages of parameters. Turn the Parameter Knobs (1-6) to adjust values.
3. **Saving Settings (WRITE):** After making changes to a patch, press the WRITE button to save your modifications. Follow the on-screen prompts to select a destination and confirm.
4. **Tuner:** Hold down both BANK V and BANK A footswitches to activate the built-in tuner.

3. Sound Engine Overview

The SY-1000 features a powerful next-generation synth engine with custom DSP and 48 kHz/32-bit processing. It allows

for three simultaneous instrument types and advanced real-time signal processing.

- **Dynamic Synth:** A new synth type that perfectly follows the guitar's natural envelope, offering uncompromised tone shaping. It includes two 16-part step sequencers for evolving control of pitch, filter, and amplitude.
- **OSC Synth:** Classic oscillator-based synthesis for a wide range of synth sounds.
- **GR-300:** A faithful recreation of the iconic Roland GR-300 guitar synthesizer.
- **Modeled Instruments:** Includes newly refreshed versions of historic BOSS/Roland guitar synth and modeling technologies such as E.Guitar, E.Bass, Acoustic, VIO Guitar, and Poly FX.
- **Premium Effects and Amps:** Derived from the flagship GT-1000, offering high-quality signal processing.



This image displays the BOSS SY-1000 Guitar Synthesizer from an angled perspective, highlighting its blue casing, central LCD screen, six main footswitches, and various control knobs. The 'GK' input is visible on the top right.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your SY-1000, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the unit. For stubborn dirt, use a slightly damp cloth and then wipe dry. Avoid abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Cable Care:** Regularly check all cables for damage. Avoid kinking or excessive bending of cables.

- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the BOSS website for firmware updates to ensure your unit has the latest features and bug fixes.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your SY-1000, consult the table below for common problems and solutions.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound output.	• Cables not connected properly. • Output level too low. • Incorrect patch selected. • GK cable issue.	• Check all audio and GK cable connections. • Increase the OUTPUT LEVEL knob. • Select a different patch. • Ensure GK cable is securely connected and GK-compatible pickup is functioning.
Distorted or noisy sound.	• Input level too high. • Faulty cables. • Ground loop.	• Adjust input sensitivity in system settings. • Try different cables. • Ensure all equipment is properly grounded.
Unit does not power on.	• AC adaptor not connected. • Incorrect AC adaptor used.	• Ensure the PSB-1U AC adaptor is securely connected to the DC IN jack and a power outlet. • Verify you are using the correct BOSS PSB-1U adaptor.
Footswitches or knobs unresponsive.	• Temporary software glitch. • Firmware issue.	• Power cycle the unit (turn off, then on). • Perform a factory reset (refer to the full owner's manual for instructions). • Check for and install the latest firmware update.

If the problem persists after trying these solutions, please contact BOSS customer support or an authorized service center.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	SY-1000
Dimensions (W x D x H)	19.45 x 12.72 x 5.2 inches (approx.)

Feature	Detail
Weight	8.27 pounds
Processing	48 kHz/32-bit
Instrument Types	3 simultaneous (Dynamic Synth, OSC Synth, GR-300, E.Guitar, E.Bass, Acoustic, VIO Guitar, Poly FX)
Connectors	GK IN (13-pin DIN), GUITAR INPUT (1/4-inch phone type), MAIN OUTPUT (L/PHONES, R/MONO 1/4-inch phone type), SUB OUTPUT (L, R/MONO 1/4-inch phone type), SEND/RETURN (1/4-inch phone type), CTL 3,4/EXP 1, CTL 5,6/EXP 2 (1/4-inch TRS phone type), USB (Type B), MIDI IN/OUT/THRU, DC IN
Power Supply	AC Adaptor (BOSS PSB-1U series)
Current Draw	500 mA
Included Accessories	1/4 inch guitar/bass cable, GK 13-pin cable

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The BOSS SY-1000 is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official BOSS website for detailed warranty information specific to your region. For technical support, service, or additional resources, please visit the official BOSS website or contact your local BOSS distributor.

Visit the [BOSS Store](#) for more products and information.

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ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

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After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question