

BOSS RC-500

BOSS RC-500 Loop Station Instruction Manual

Model: RC-500

Brand: BOSS

INTRODUCTION

The BOSS RC-500 Loop Station is an advanced two-track looper designed for guitarists, singer/songwriters, multi-instrumentalists, and anyone looking to enhance their looping capabilities. It allows for the creation of real-time compositions using two independent loop tracks, microphone and stereo instrument inputs, built-in rhythms, and inspiring Loop FX. The unit features premium 32-bit audio quality, extensive onboard memory for storing loops, and expanded control options via external devices and MIDI.



Front view of the BOSS RC-500 Loop Station, emphasizing its dual-track powerhouse design.

KEY FEATURES

- **Dual-Track Looping:** Create complex arrangements with two independent loop tracks, offering flexible composition possibilities.
- **Premium Sound Quality:** Experience crystal-clear audio with class-leading 32-bit AD/DA conversion and 32-bit floating-point processing, even with multiple overdubs.
- **Extended Recording Time:** Enjoy up to 13 hours of stereo recording capacity, supporting long creative sessions and performances.
- **Onboard Rhythms:** Access 16 different drum kits and 57 preset rhythms, each with A/B variations, to provide dynamic backing for your loops.
- **Phrase Memories:** Store up to 99 phrase memories, saving your loops along with their rhythm, audio, and control settings for instant recall.
- **Dynamic Loop FX:** Enhance your performances with built-in Loop FX including repeat, scatter, shift, and vinyl flick.
- **Intuitive Control Interface:** Features an LCD with a multi-color backlight for clear viewing of loop status and editing parameters, along with hands-on track faders and a mic level knob for easy adjustments.
- **Expanded Control Support:** Connect external footswitches, an expression pedal, or MIDI devices for advanced remote operation and MIDI sync capabilities.
- **USB Connectivity:** Easily back up your loops to a computer and load WAV audio files via USB, integrating with your digital audio workstation (DAW) or for sharing.

SETUP

Power Supply

The RC-500 can be powered by four AA batteries (included) for portable use, offering approximately 3-4 hours of operation. For extended use or studio environments, an optional 9V AC adapter (sold separately) is recommended.

Connections

Connect your instruments and microphones to the RC-500 using the following inputs:

- **INST IN (A/MONO, B):** Stereo instrument inputs for guitars, keyboards, or other line-level devices.
- **MIC IN:** XLR input for microphones, featuring phantom power for condenser microphones.
- **OUTPUT (A/MONO, B):** Stereo outputs to connect to an amplifier, mixer, or audio interface.
- **MIDI IN/OUT:** Mini TRS jacks for MIDI control and synchronization. A BMIDI-5-35 adapter cable is available separately for standard MIDI connections.
- **CTL 1,2/EXP:** Connect external footswitches (e.g., BOSS FS-5U, FS-6, FS-7) or an expression pedal (e.g., Roland EV-5) for additional control.
- **USB:** Connect to a computer for backing up phrase memories and importing/exporting WAV files.

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SUPER SOUND QUALITY

The RC-500 offers **best-in-class 32-bit AD/DA and floating-point processing** for crystal-clear loops, even with multiple overdubs. And with 13 hours of stereo recording time, it supports extended creative sessions.

MEMORY

Lets you make settings for loop play/record, and specify the function of an expression pedal or footswitch connected to this unit.

TEMPO

Press to specify the tempo of the rhythm.

ON/OFF

Each time you press the button, the rhythm switches on/off/standby.

TRACK 1, 2

Adjust the playback levels of tracks 1 and 2.

EDIT

Press to make track settings.

REC/PLAY

Switches between recording, playback, and overdubbing.

STOP

Stops the track that is currently recording/playing/ overdubbing.

MENU

Lets you make settings that affect the entire RC-500, such as system settings and MIDI settings.

MEMORY/VALUE

Selects a memory. Also selects a parameter or changes a value.

INPUT

Press to turn phantom power on/off, or to make settings related to input and output.

EXIT

Press to return to the previous screen.

ENTER

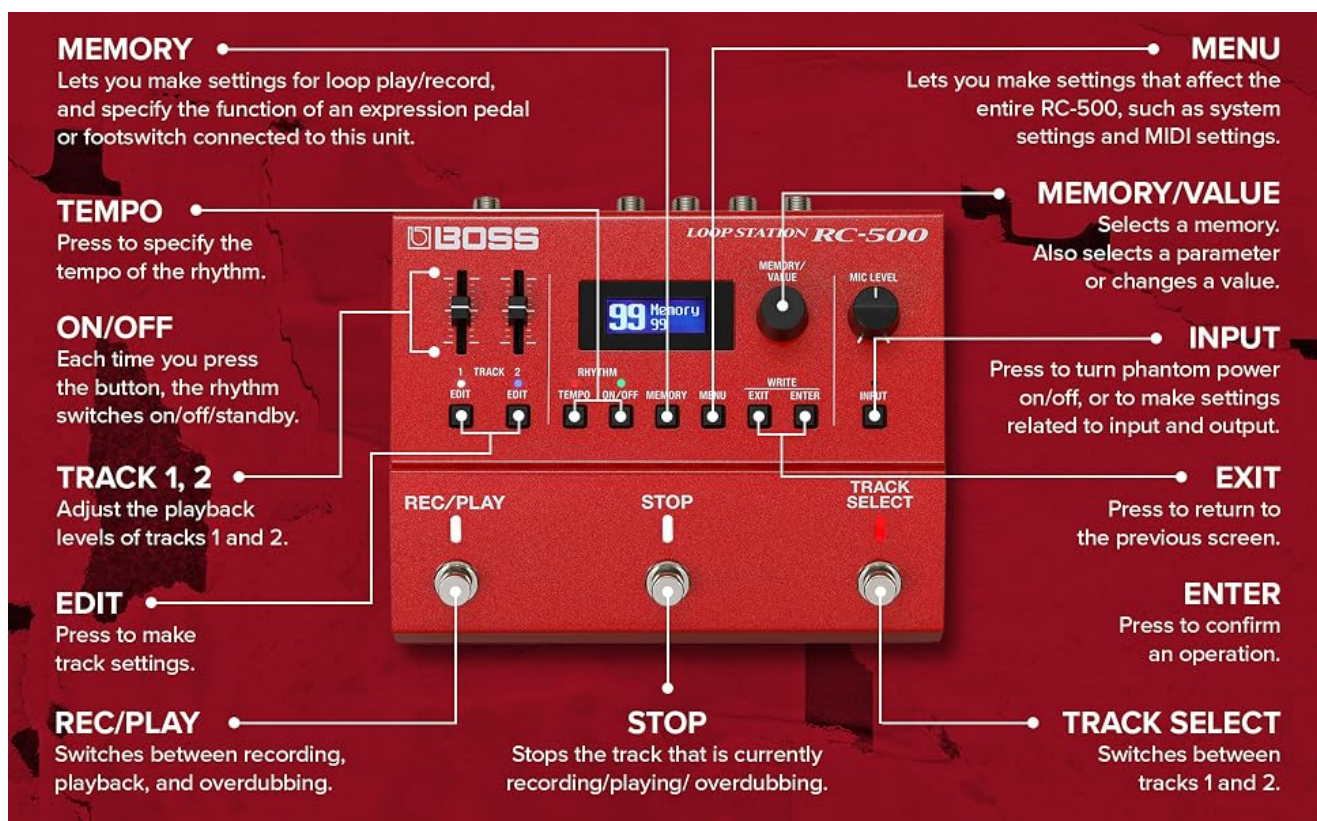
Press to confirm an operation.

TRACK SELECT

Switches between tracks 1 and 2.



Rear panel connections of the RC-500, including instrument, mic, output, MIDI, and control jacks.



The RC-500 connected to various instruments and external controls, demonstrating its flexible I/O.

OPERATING THE RC-500

Basic Looping Functions

- **REC/PLAY Footswitch:** Press once to start recording. Press again to switch to playback. Press a third time to overdub.
- **STOP Footswitch:** Stops the currently playing or overdubbing track.
- **TRACK SELECT Footswitch:** Switches between Track 1 and Track 2 for recording, playback, or overdubbing.
- **Undo/Redo:** The RC-500 supports undo and redo functions for both stereo tracks, allowing for creative experimentation without commitment.

Track Control and Mixing

Adjust the playback levels of Track 1 and Track 2 using their dedicated faders. The MIC LEVEL knob controls the input level of your microphone. Use the EDIT buttons to access detailed settings for each track.

Rhythms

The RC-500 includes 57 preset rhythms and 16 drum kits. Press the RHYTHM button to activate or deactivate the rhythm. Use the TEMPO button to set the tempo, and the MEMORY/VALUE knob to select different rhythm patterns.

Loop FX

Apply various Loop FX such as repeat, scatter, shift, and vinyl flick to add dynamic and engaging textures to your loops. These effects can be accessed and controlled via the unit's interface or assigned to external controls.

Phrase Memories

The RC-500 can store up to 99 phrase memories. Use the MEMORY button and MEMORY/VALUE knob to navigate and select different memories. Press the WRITE button to save your current loop and settings to a phrase memory.

Connect, Loop, and Mix

The RC-500's versatile I/O supports mono/stereo instruments, pedal effects, and a mic with phantom power. Use two independent tracks for compositions or blend them for rich textures. The loop station also features a color-changing LCD, track faders, and mic level knob offer intuitive control.



Flexible Creative Control

The RC-500 has three onboard footswitches to control recording, playback and track switching, as well as options for external footswitches, an expression pedal, and TRS MIDI I/O for advanced remote operation and MIDI sync.

Detailed view of the RC-500's control panel with labels for each function.

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Official product video demonstrating the BOSS RC-500 Two-Track Loop Station's core functionalities and sound capabilities.

ADVANCED CONTROL & CONNECTIVITY

External Control

The RC-500 supports external control via footswitches and expression pedals connected to the CTL 1,2/EXP jack. These can be assigned to various functions, such as memory increment/decrement, track control, or continuous parameter adjustments like track volume.

MIDI Integration

For advanced setups, the RC-500 offers full MIDI In/Out capabilities via mini TRS jacks. This allows for tempo synchronization with other MIDI devices and remote control over various parameters from MIDI foot controllers or other MIDI-enabled equipment.

USB Functions

Connect the RC-500 to your computer via USB to manage your loops. You can back up your phrase memories to your computer or import WAV audio files into the RC-500 using the BOSS Tone Studio software. This feature allows you to use the RC-500 as a stereo playback hub for lesson material, jam tracks, beats, or backing music.

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FLEXIBLE

CREATIVE CONTROL

The RC-500 has three onboard footswitches to **control recording, playback and track switching**, as well as options for external footswitches, an expression pedal, and TRS MIDI I/O for advanced remote operation and MIDI sync.



A musician utilizing the RC-500 with external pedals for enhanced control during a performance.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model Number:** RC-500
- **Item Weight:** 3.4 pounds
- **Product Dimensions:** 7.01"L x 2.36"W x 5.43"H
- **Body Material:** Plastic
- **Color:** RED
- **Batteries:** 4 AA batteries required (included), Alkaline type
- **Power Source:** Corded Electric (optional AC adapter)
- **Voltage:** 9 Volts
- **Connector Type:** USB
- **Hardware Interface:** USB

- **Signal Format:** Analog

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your BOSS RC-500 Loop Station, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the unit with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents.
- **Battery Replacement:** Replace all four AA batteries simultaneously with new ones of the same type. Remove batteries if the unit will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity.
- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the official BOSS website for any available firmware updates. Follow the instructions provided by BOSS for safe and proper installation.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your RC-500, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound:** Verify all cables are securely connected to the correct input/output jacks. Check the volume levels on the RC-500, your instrument, and your amplifier/mixer. Ensure the power supply is correctly connected and functioning.
- **Distorted Sound:** Check input levels to ensure they are not too high, causing clipping. Adjust the MIC LEVEL knob and instrument input levels as needed.
- **Unexpected Behavior:** If the unit behaves unexpectedly, try performing a factory reset (refer to the full owner's manual for instructions). This will restore the unit to its default settings.
- **MIDI Sync Issues:** Ensure MIDI cables are correctly connected (IN to OUT, OUT to IN) and that MIDI clock settings are consistent across all devices.

For more detailed troubleshooting and specific error messages, please refer to the complete owner's manual available on the official BOSS website.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The BOSS RC-500 Loop Station is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. For specific warranty terms, conditions, and registration information, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official BOSS website. For technical support, FAQs, and access to the full owner's manual, please visit the BOSS support page.

Online Resources: [Visit the BOSS Store on Amazon](#)

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

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

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