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Roland JX-08

Roland JX-08 Tabletop Sound Module Boutique Synthesizer Instruction Manual

Model: JX-08 | Brand: Roland

1. Introduction

The Roland JX-08 is a compact, lightweight, and portable tabletop sound module synthesizer, designed to reintroduce the unique sound of the classic 1985 JX-8P. This instrument was renowned for its warm pads, shimmery chorus, and crystalline textures, which became staples in the music of its era. The JX-08 meticulously recreates this sought-after sound, enhancing it with powerful new effects, an advanced polyphonic sequencer, and a comprehensive panel of hands-on controls inspired by the original PG-800 programmer unit.

This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Roland JX-08, ensuring you can fully explore its capabilities and integrate it into your musical setup.

2. Key Features

- Authentic JX-8P sound and behavior, meticulously recreated.
- Integrated PG-800 programmer functions for intuitive control.
- Includes 32 presets from the original JX-8P, plus 111 new, versatile presets.
- Features 17 new effect types, including JUNO-106 chorus, SDD-320 reverb, lo-fi comp, super filter, and pitch shifter.
- Two-part, 64-step, eight-note (per part) polyphonic sequencer with motion recording, random pattern generator, and memory for 128 patterns.
- Onboard arpeggiator for dynamic melodic creation.
- Expanded polyphony compared to the original hardware, supporting up to 20 voices.
- Two-part multitimbral capabilities for playing multiple patches with dual and split functionalities.
- Versatile connectivity with USB-C audio/MIDI interface, full-size MIDI I/O, and external clock input.
- Flexible power options: via batteries (4 x AA) or USB-C.

3. Setup Guide

3.1 Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove the JX-08 from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage during transit. Ensure all included components are present: the JX-08 unit and any documentation. The PG-800 programmer functions are integrated, and

optional accessories like the DK-01 Boutique Dock or K-25m Keyboard Unit are sold separately.

3.2 Powering the Unit

The JX-08 can be powered in two ways:

- **Battery Operation:** Insert four (4) AA batteries into the battery compartment located on the underside of the unit. Ensure correct polarity.
- **USB-C Power:** Connect a standard USB-C cable (not included) from the JX-08's USB-C port to a USB power adapter (5V DC, 500mA or more) or a powered USB port on a computer.



Figure 3.2: Rear panel of the JX-08 with power and connectivity options.

3.3 Audio and MIDI Connections

Connect the JX-08 to your audio system, headphones, or computer using the appropriate ports on the rear panel:

- **Audio Output:** Use the 1/8-inch (3.5mm) stereo output jack to connect to an amplifier, mixer, or audio interface.
- **Headphones:** Connect headphones to the dedicated 1/8-inch (3.5mm) stereo headphone jack for private monitoring.
- **Mix In:** The 1/8-inch (3.5mm) stereo mix-in jack allows you to connect an external audio source (e.g., a music player) and mix its sound with the JX-08's output.
- **MIDI I/O:** Use standard 5-pin MIDI cables to connect to other MIDI devices (keyboards, sequencers, etc.). The JX-08 features both MIDI IN and MIDI OUT ports.
- **USB-C:** This port functions as both a power input and a USB Audio/MIDI interface. Connect to a computer to send/receive MIDI data and audio simultaneously.
- **EXT CLK IN:** Connect an external clock source for synchronization with other gear.



Figure 3.3: JX-08 mounted on an optional keyboard unit.

4. Operating Instructions

4.1 Overview of Controls

The JX-08 features a comprehensive set of controls, including knobs, sliders, and buttons, providing direct access to sound parameters. Familiarize yourself with the layout:

- **LFO Section:** Controls for Low-Frequency Oscillator rate, delay time, and waveform.
- **DCO-1/DCO-2 Sections:** Digital Controlled Oscillator parameters including LFO depth, tune, range, and waveform.

- **Mixer Section:** Adjusts the balance between DCO-1, DCO-2, and noise.
- **VCF Section:** Controls for Voltage Controlled Filter, including cutoff, resonance, key follow, and envelope depth.
- **VCA Section:** Voltage Controlled Amplifier level and envelope select.
- **Envelope 1/2:** ADSR (Attack, Decay, Sustain, Release) controls for shaping the sound's amplitude and filter.
- **Effects Section:** Dedicated controls for Chorus and Reverb, plus a button to access 17 additional effect types.
- **Arpeggio/Seq Section:** Buttons for Arpeggiator and Sequencer functions.
- **Display and Navigation:** A numerical display and buttons (START, MENU, VALUE, PUSH ENTER) for patch selection, sequencer control, and deeper parameter editing.
- **Part/Bank/Number Buttons:** Used for selecting parts (A/B), banks (1-8), and individual patches (1-16).



Figure 4.1: Top panel layout of the JX-08.

4.2 Patch Selection and Editing

To select a patch, use the BANK buttons (1-8) and NUMBER buttons (1-16). The display will show the current patch number. To edit a patch, simply adjust any of the physical knobs or sliders. The JX-08's controls are directly mapped to the parameters, allowing for immediate sound shaping. The PG-800 programmer functions are integrated, providing a hands-on experience similar to the original hardware.



Figure 4.2: JX-08 display showing a patch name.

4.3 Using the Sequencer and Arpeggiator

The JX-08 features a powerful two-part, 64-step polyphonic sequencer. Press the "SEQ" button to enter sequencer mode. You can record notes, motion (parameter changes), and generate random patterns. The sequencer can store up to 128 patterns. The onboard arpeggiator can be activated by pressing the "ARPEGGIO" button, allowing for rhythmic melodic patterns based on held notes.



Figure 4.3: JX-08 display showing sequencer/arpeggiator related value.

4.4 Multitimbral Operation (Dual and Split)

The JX-08 supports two-part multitimbral operation, allowing you to layer two different patches or split them across a connected MIDI keyboard. This enables complex sound design and performance possibilities. Refer to the detailed manual (available on the Roland website) for specific instructions on configuring dual and split modes.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Cleaning

To maintain the appearance and functionality of your JX-08, regularly wipe the unit with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed immediately by a dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the brushed metal finish and plastic components.

5.2 Battery Replacement

If using battery power, replace all four AA batteries when the power indicator dims or the unit behaves erratically. Always replace with new, high-quality alkaline batteries. Remove batteries if the unit will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage.

5.3 Firmware Updates

Roland may release firmware updates to improve performance or add new features. Check the official Roland website periodically for the latest firmware and instructions on how to update your JX-08 via the USB-C connection.

6. Troubleshooting

6.1 No Sound Output

- Ensure the unit is powered on and the power indicator is lit.
- Check the volume knob on the JX-08 and the volume of your connected audio system/headphones.
- Verify that audio cables are securely connected to the correct output jacks.
- If using USB Audio, ensure the JX-08 is selected as the audio output device in your computer's sound settings or DAW.

6.2 MIDI Communication Issues

- Confirm MIDI cables are correctly connected (MIDI OUT of controller to MIDI IN of JX-08, and vice-versa if needed).
- Check MIDI channel settings on both the JX-08 and your external MIDI device/software. They must match.
- If using USB MIDI, ensure the JX-08 is recognized by your computer and DAW, and that MIDI input/output is

enabled.

6.3 Unexpected Sound Behavior

- Check the current patch settings. Accidental knob/slider movements can alter the sound.
- Verify that effects are not excessively applied or causing unwanted distortion.
- If using the sequencer or arpeggiator, ensure they are not active if you intend to play manually.
- Consider performing a factory reset if issues persist (refer to the full manual for instructions, as this will erase user data).

7. Specifications

Feature	Description
Model Name	JX-08
Dimensions (L x W x H)	14 x 7 x 3.25 inches (approx. 35.56 x 17.78 x 8.25 cm)
Item Weight	3 pounds (approx. 1.36 kg)
Body Material	Metal (Brushed Finish)
Polyphony	Up to 20 voices
Presets	32 original JX-8P, 111 new presets
Effects	17 types (including Chorus, Reverb, Lo-Fi Comp, Super Filter, Pitch Shifter)
Sequencer	Two-part, 64-step, 8-note polyphonic per part, 128 pattern memory
Connectivity	USB-C (Audio/MIDI), Full-size MIDI IN/OUT, 1/8" (3.5mm) Phones, 1/8" (3.5mm) Output, 1/8" (3.5mm) Mix In, EXT CLK IN
Power Source	4 x AA batteries or USB-C bus power
Included Components	PG-800 programmer functions integrated (optional DK-01 Boutique Dock, K-25m Keyboard Unit sold separately)

8. Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the warranty card or documentation included with your purchase. Warranty terms and conditions may vary by region and retailer.

For technical support, product registration, and the latest drivers or firmware updates, please visit the official Roland website:

www.roland.com

You can also find comprehensive user manuals and frequently asked questions on the support section of the Roland website.

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