

BOSS VG-800

BOSS VG-800 V-Guitar Processor

Instruction Manual

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1. INTRODUCTION

The BOSS VG-800 V-Guitar Processor is a versatile modeling and amp/effects processor designed for both guitar and bass. It leverages advanced V-Guitar technology and the Serial GK divided pickup to transform your instrument's sound, offering a wide range of customizable guitar models, amps, alternate tunings, and more. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your VG-800 to ensure optimal performance and creative exploration.

2. SETUP

2.1. Serial GK System & VG-800

The core of the VG-800's advanced capabilities lies in its integration with the Serial GK divided pickup (GK-5/GK-5B, sold separately). This system individually tracks and sends a signal from each string to the VG-800 via the Serial GK cable, enabling latency-free playing thanks to advanced processing. The GK-5 pickups are designed for user installation on many standard electric guitars. Alternatively, new instruments can be purchased factory-fitted with the GK-5 kit for a tidier setup.

BOSS
VG-800

TAKE YOUR PERFORMANCE **BEYOND REALITY**

The **all-in-one amp/effects processor**, providing instant access to a wide range of customizable guitar models, amps, alternate tunings, and more.


Limitless
Sound Design


Unlimited
Tuning
Possibilities


Create
Hybrid
Instruments



**GK-5/GK-5B
PICKUP REQUIRED**

(SOLD SEPARATELY)

Figure 2.1: The BOSS VG-800 V-Guitar Processor connected to a guitar via the GK-5 divided pickup. The GK-5 pickup is essential for the VG-800's advanced modeling and tracking capabilities.

2.2. Connections

The VG-800 offers a comprehensive array of connections to integrate seamlessly into your setup:

- **GK IN & OUT Jacks:** Connect to GK pickups (GK-5/GK-5B) and other GK-compatible gear.
- **Guitar Input Jack:** Connect a standard guitar here to access the flagship guitar processor sounds from a standard guitar pickup.
- **SEND/RETURN Jacks (Stereo):** For connecting external effect units or similar devices.
- **Output Jacks (Stereo/Mono L/R):** Connect these to your guitar amp, PA system (line-level), or headphones (sold separately).
- **MIDI IN/OUT:** For MIDI connectivity, allowing you to output MIDI directly to external MIDI instruments.
- **CTL 2, 3 / EXP 1 & CTL 4, 5 / EXP 2:** Two external control jacks supporting up to two footswitches or an expression pedal to change tunings, pitch bend, or gradual effect changes.
- **USB Port:** For audio and MIDI connectivity with your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

- **DC IN Jack:** Connect the included AC adaptor (PSB-1U) to this jack.

BOSS VG-800

ULTIMATE CREATION AND CUSTOMIZATION

Build **virtual instruments** with **deep customization tools**, from single string pitch adjustments to panning.

GUITAR INPUT JACK

Connect a standard guitar here.

GK IN & OUT JACKS

DISPLAY

Shows various information for the VG-800.

SELECTION KNOBS

Use these knobs to select and edit the parameter values that are shown in the display.

MEMORY SWITCHES

Use these to switch between memories. Press the switches at the same time to show the tuner screen.



DC IN JACK

Connect the included AC adaptor to this jack.

OUTPUT JACKS

Connect these to your guitar amp, PA system (line-level) or headphones (sold separately).

SEND/RETURN JACKS

Connect an external effect unit or similar device here.

OUTPUT LEVEL KNOB

Adjusts the overall volume.

BASIC MENU OPERATIONS

CTL 1 SWITCH

Controls the functions that are set for each memory.

Figure 2.2: Rear panel connections of the BOSS VG-800, including GK IN/OUT, Guitar Input, Send/Return, Output, MIDI, CTL/EXP, USB, and DC IN.

3. OPERATION

3.1. Advanced Guitar Modeling

The VG-800 utilizes advanced guitar modeling technology to simulate a wide array of iconic guitars and their unique pickup characteristics. Beyond electric guitar sounds, it can also emulate the sound of various acoustic stringed instruments, such as acoustic guitars, banjos, and sitars, all from a single instrument.



Figure 3.1: The VG-800's display showing a preset, indicating its capability for complex sound configurations.

3.2. Audio Demos

The VG-800 offers diverse sound types, including S Type, T Type, LP Type, and various acoustic sounds, providing a broad palette for musical expression.

3.3. Dual Guitar Functionality

The unique Dual Guitar function allows you to combine two distinct sounds into a single hybrid instrument. Each sound has its own customizable signal path, including configurable pickup positions. You can select from a range of fully customizable tunings, amps, and effects for each sound. Furthermore, each string has independent volume and pan settings, and can be individually muted, offering unparalleled control over your sound.

3.4. Split Sound

The VG-800 allows you to divide these two sounds across different strings or before and after specified frets. This feature enables playing otherwise unachievable combinations in the real world, offering two completely independent sounds for a powerful and creative guitar setup.

3.5. Tunings

Addressing the challenge of alternate and down tunings, the VG-800's V-Guitar modeling offers customizable guitar models. You can instantly switch to custom or alternate tunings, including drop tunings and open string tunings. The string bend feature allows for real-time pitch changes of specific strings, which can be used to emulate techniques like a B Bender. Additionally, the Harmony function creates an ensemble effect from either playing single notes or chords.

3.6. Bass Mode

For bass players, the VG-800 supports GK divided pickups for 4, 5, and 6 string basses. This opens up a creative set of sounds within the VG-800's bass mode, including filter bass effects.

3.7. Amps & FX

The VG-800 boasts a massive library of premium amps and effects, derived from Boss's flagship effect processors. You can run a stereo chain or split the amps and effects for dual processing of your guitar sounds, providing extensive sonic possibilities.

3.8. Expansion with GM-800

Moving beyond traditional guitar sounds, the VG-800 can be connected to the GM-800, a next-generation guitar and bass synthesizer. The GM-800 features an onboard sound library with over 1200 tones and 70 rhythm sounds. By connecting the VG-800 and GM-800 together via the Serial GK cable, you can play both units simultaneously. It's even possible to output the processed sound from both units as a stereo pair. The advanced Zencore engine unlocks any imaginable sound, infusing your guitar or bass with unlimited musical potential.

3.9. BOSS Tone Studio & Tone Exchange

You can access all parameters and settings on the VG-800 via the BOSS Tone Studio software on your computer. This enables editing your memories and organizing sounds. For inspiration, you can download or share VG-800 live sets via the BOSS Tone Exchange platform.

4. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your BOSS VG-800 V-Guitar Processor, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the unit. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents, as they can damage the finish.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. If storing for extended periods, disconnect the AC adapter.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts. Do not place heavy objects on top of it.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure proper ventilation around the unit to prevent overheating. Do not block any ventilation openings.
- **Power Supply:** Always use the specified AC adapter (PSB-1U) provided by BOSS. Using an incorrect adapter can cause malfunction or damage.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your BOSS VG-800, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:**
 - Ensure the AC adapter is securely connected to the VG-800's DC IN jack and a working power outlet.
 - Verify that the power outlet is functional by plugging in another device.
- **No Sound:**
 - Check all cable connections (guitar input, GK cable, output to amp/PA/headphones).
 - Ensure the output level knob on the VG-800 is turned up.

- Verify that your amplifier or PA system is powered on and its volume is adjusted correctly.
- Check the volume and pan settings for individual strings or sounds within the VG-800's settings.
- Ensure no strings are individually muted in the settings.

- **Unexpected Sounds/Distortion:**

- Check for proper calibration of the GK pickup. Refer to the GK-5/GK-5B manual for calibration instructions.
- Ensure all cables are in good condition and not damaged.
- Adjust input levels to prevent clipping or distortion.

- **Connectivity Issues (USB/MIDI):**

- Ensure the correct drivers are installed on your computer. Visit the BOSS website for the latest drivers.
- Verify that the USB cable is securely connected to both the VG-800 and your computer.
- Check your DAW or MIDI software settings to ensure the VG-800 is recognized and selected as an input/output device.

If the problem persists after trying these steps, please contact BOSS customer support or a qualified service technician.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Item Weight	3.54 pounds
Product Dimensions	6.92 x 5.4 x 2.52 inches (5.3"L x 6.8"W x 2.5"H)
ASIN	B0DT7LXF1S
Item model number	VG-800
Connector Type	USB
Hardware Interface	HP-HSC
Signal Format	Analog
Material Type	Metal
Power Source	Corded Electric
Audio Output Effects	Multi-Effect

6.1. What's in the Box

- VG-800 Unit
- AC Adaptor (PSB-1U + AC Cord Set)
- Owner's Manual
- Rubber Foot (x4)
- Power cable
- USB cable

- Footswitch/Pedal



Figure 6.1: The BOSS VG-800 unit with its included accessories: AC adapter, owner's manual, and rubber feet.

7. WARRANTY & SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information and customer support, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official BOSS website. You can also find additional resources, FAQs, and software updates on their support pages.

Note: Protection plans mentioned on the product page are third-party offerings and are separate from the manufacturer's warranty.

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