

### Reference Manual / Parameter Guide

Details on operations and menu lists are provided in "Reference Manual" and "Parameter Guide".

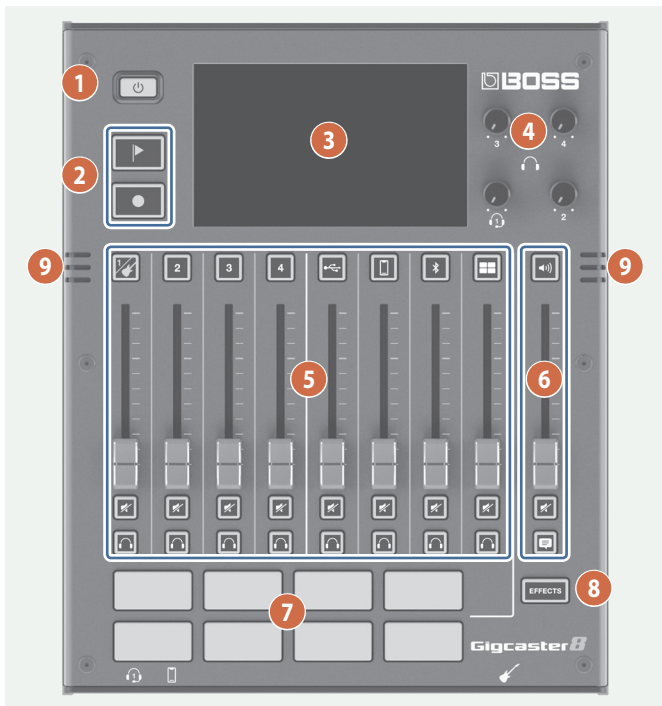
1. Enter the following URL in your computer.  
[https://roland.cm/boss\\_om](https://roland.cm/boss_om)
2. Choose "GCS-8" as the product name.



Before using this unit, carefully read "USING THE UNIT SAFELY" and "IMPORTANT NOTES" (the leaflet "USING THE UNIT SAFELY" and the Startup Guide (p. 10)). After reading, keep the document(s) where it will be available for immediate reference.

# Panel Descriptions

## Top Panel



### 5 CHANNEL

#### []-[] (Channel edit) buttons

When these are on (lit up), the unit switches to the settings screen for the selected channel.

#### Channel faders

These adjust the volume for each input channel.

#### [] (Mute) buttons

Turns the mute feature on (lit) or off (unlit) for each input channel.

#### [] (Monitor) buttons

Turn this on (lit up) for a channel to output its sound to the headphones jack.

This lets you hear the sound using your headphones.

### 6 OUTPUT

#### [] (OUTPUT edit) button

Turn this on (lit up) to switch to the output (MAIN OUT, headphones, etc.) settings screen.

#### OUTPUT fader

Adjusts the volume for the output (MAIN OUT, USB MAIN).

#### [] (Mute) button

Turns the output (MAIN OUT or USB MAIN) on (lit) or off (unlit).

#### [] (Talkback) button

When this is on (lit up), the audio input from the built-in mic or headset mic is output only to the PHONES jacks (talkback).

Use this to communicate only with the people who are recording with you.

### 7

#### Pads 1–8

The functions of the sound pads/effect pads change depending on whether the [EFFECTS] button is ON or OFF.

[EFFECTS] button	Function
Off (Unlit)	<b>Sound pads</b>
	Plays the audio assigned to each pad.
On (Lit)	<b>Effect pads</b>
	Lets you use the settings for the effects assigned to each pad.

### 8

#### [EFFECTS] button

When this is on (lit), pads 1–8 work as effect pads.

### 9

#### Built-in mic

Use this for recording acoustic instruments or when using talkback.

### 1

#### [] button

Turns the power on/off.

Long-press the button to turn the power off.

### 2

#### [] (mark) button

When you press this button during recording, a mark is added at that position.

Use the mark feature as a guide when editing on your computer.

- \* The mark feature is enabled for multitrack recording. You can't add a mark when recording normally (two-channel mix).

#### [] button

Starts/pauses the recording.

- \* The data that you record is saved to the microSD card.

### 3

#### Display (Touch panel)

Access the various settings by touching the screen.

You can view a variety of information by operating the display.

### 4

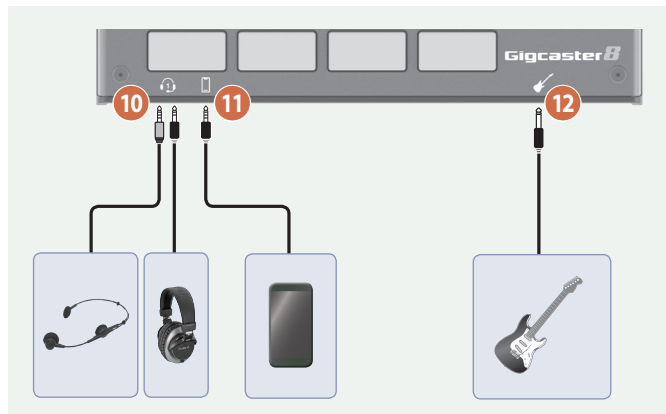
#### [] [1]–[4] (Headphones 1–4) knobs

Adjusts the volume for headphones 1–4.

## Front Panel / Rear Panel

\* To prevent malfunction and equipment failure, always turn down the volume, and turn off all the units before making any connections.

### Front panel



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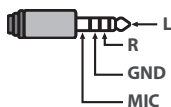
#### 🎧 (Headphones 1) jack

Connect your headset or headphones here. Headsets can only be used with headphones jack 1.

#### NOTE

Use a headset with a 3.5 mm CTIA-type mini plug (4-pole).

\* Pin arrangement for mini cable (4-pole)



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#### 📱 (Mobile) jack

Use this for inputting audio from a mobile device that's connected, such as a smartphone.

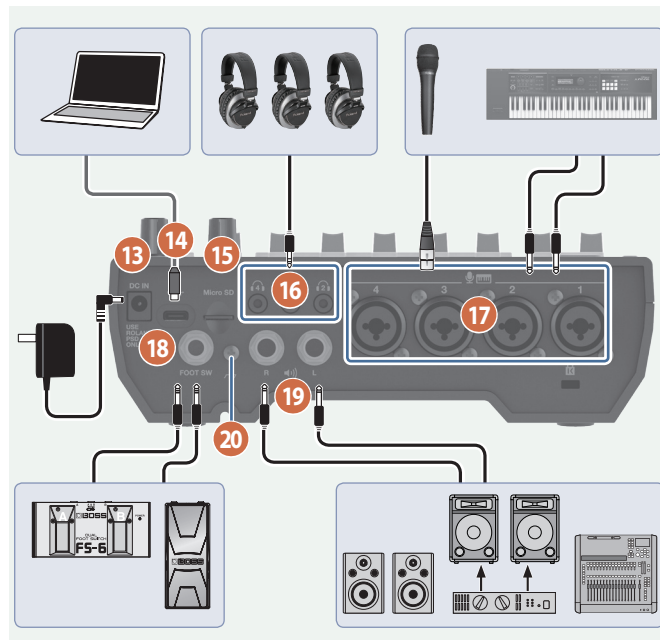
12

#### 🎸 (Guitar) jack

Connect your guitar here.

The guitar audio is input to channel 1.

### Rear panel



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#### DC IN jack

Connect the included AC adaptor to this jack.

\* Route the cord of the AC adaptor through the grooves on the bottom of the unit as shown in the illustration, to keep it in place.

\* When turning the unit over, be careful so as to protect the buttons and knobs from damage. Also, handle the unit carefully; do not drop it.



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#### 🔌 (USB) port

Connect your computer or other device here to use this unit as a USB audio interface, or for saving backups of your recorded data or device settings.

\* Do not use a USB cable that is designed only for charging a device. Charge-only cables cannot transmit data.

#### MEMO

This unit can be powered via the USB port.

A commercially available USB AC adaptor (5 V $\pm$ /3 A or greater) is required to power this unit.

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#### Micro SD card slot

Insert a microSD card here.

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#### 🎧 (Headphones 2-4) jacks

Connect your headphones here.

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**Micro (Channel) 1–4 jacks**

Use these jacks for audio input. Connect a mic, keyboard or analog audio equipment here.

**\* About phantom power**

You can supply phantom power (+48 V) from the Channel 1–4 jacks (XLR). Turn on phantom power when you're using a condenser microphone that requires phantom power.

Turn +48 V "ON" in the channel 1–4 settings screen.

**\* Pin arrangement for the Micro 1–4 connectors (XLR/TRS)**



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**FOOT SW jack**

You can control various functions with a footswitch (FS-5U/FS-6/FS-7), an expression pedal (FV-500H/FV-500L/EV-30 or Roland EV-5) or a foot controller (GA-FC) that's connected to this unit.

**\* Use only the specified expression pedal. By connecting any other expression pedals, you risk causing malfunction and/or damage to the unit.**

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**Speaker (MAIN OUT) L, R jacks**

Connect these jacks to your amp, monitor speakers or mixer.

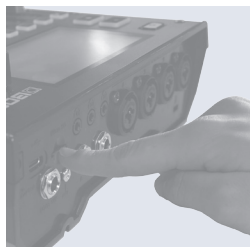
20

**Ground terminal**

Connect this to an external earth or ground if necessary.

**Inserting a microSD Card**

1. Insert the microSD card into the Micro SD card slot until you hear it click into place.



**NOTE**

When inserting an microSD card, take care that it is oriented correctly, and push it all the way in. Do not use excessive force.

**Removing a microSD card**

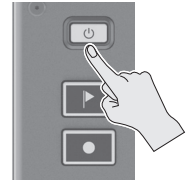
2. Press the microSD card inward.
3. Grasp the microSD card and pull it toward yourself.

**Turning the Power On/Off**

Before turning the unit on/off, always be sure to turn the volume down. Even with the volume turned down, you might hear some sound when switching the unit on/off. However, this is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.

**Turning the Power On**

1. Press the [⏻] button on this unit.  
The power turns on, and the home screen appears on the display.
2. Turn on the power of your equipment in this order: connected devices → amp.

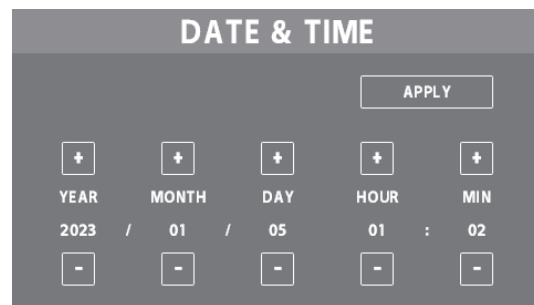


**Turning the Power Off**

1. Turn off the equipment in this order: amp → connected devices.
2. Long-press the [⏻] button on this unit (for two seconds).  
A confirmation message appears.
3. Touch <YES>.

**Setting the Date and Time**

The date and time settings screen appears the first time you turn on this unit after purchase.



1. Touch the <-> <+> for YEAR/MONTH/DAY to set the date.
2. Touch the <-> <+> for HOUR/MIN to set the time.
3. Touch <APPLY> to finish making the settings.  
The date and time that you set is now applied, and the home screen appears.

**MEMO**

From the menu screen, you can access <SETUP> → <GENERAL> and select "DATE & TIME" to change these settings.

# Screen (Touch Panel) Operations

## Home screen

The screen that appears after you turn on the power is called the "home screen". On the home screen, you check the input/output levels and recording status.

You can also touch the buttons shown on the screen to switch between input/output channels and settings screens for each function.

**Date/time display**  
Shows the date and time.

**Recording display**  
Shows the elapsed time when recording.

**SD CARD button**  
Shows the SD CARD screen. Use this to play back your recorded data or to back up data to a computer.

**TUNER button**  
Shows the TUNER screen. Use this feature to tune your instrument.

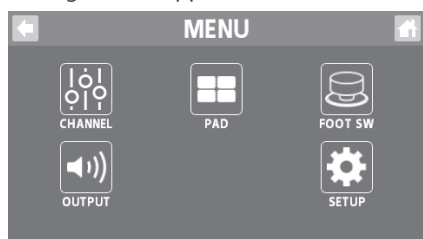
**MENU button**  
Accesses the MENU screen.

**Level meter**  
Shows the levels for each channel. These are the pre-mix levels before the signal passes through the input gain, EQ and effects. The OUTPUT level meters show the post-mix output levels.

**Phantom power: ON**  
Channels for which phantom power is being used are marked with a "●".

## MENU screen

Various settings on the MENU screen are shown here as a menu. To switch between screens, touch the menu item until the desired settings screen appears.



Menu	Explanation
CHANNEL	Configures the respective input channels.
OUTPUT	Configures the output-related settings, such as adjusting the output audio from the MAIN OUT jack and headphones jack.
PAD	Configures the sound pads/effect pads.

Menu	Explanation
FOOT SW	Specifies the function of the footswitch or expression pedal connected to the FOOT SW jack.
SETUP	Configures the overall system settings for the GCS-8.

## Main operations for each screen

**(Return) button**  
Returns to the previous screen.

**(Home) button**  
Returns to the home screen.

**Touch to select**  
Touch the channel name to select it.

**Touch to turn on/off**  
Touch the +48V toggle to turn phantom power on or off.

**Drag left/right to adjust**  
Tap the value to the right of a slider to switch between -/+ display.

**Drag up/down to scroll**  
Use the scroll bar to navigate through the menu items.

**Touch to switch between pages**  
Touch the page indicator dots to switch between different sound pad banks.

English

日本語

Deutsch

Français

Italiano

Español

Português

Nederlands

# Basic Operation

## Configuring the Channels


This shows you how to configure each channel, according to which devices you've connected.

The example below shows how to make the settings for the input gain, EQ and effects, assuming that you've connected a guitar to channel 1.

### MEMO

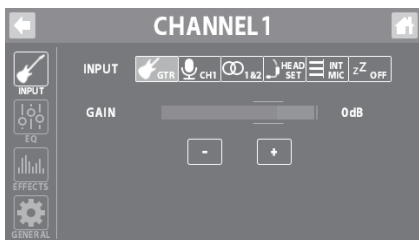
You can use the same operations to configure the other input channels as well. For details, refer to the "Reference Manual" (Roland website).

## What to do

1. Connect your guitar to the  (guitar) jack on the front panel.

2. Press the  button on the top panel.

The CHANNEL 1 screen appears.

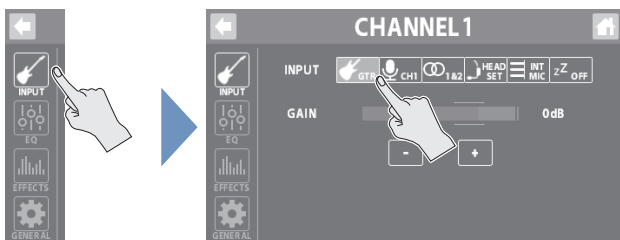


### Selecting an input source

3. Touch <INPUT>.

4. For the INPUT, touch <GTR>.

This sets the guitar as the input source for channel 1.



### Setting the input gain

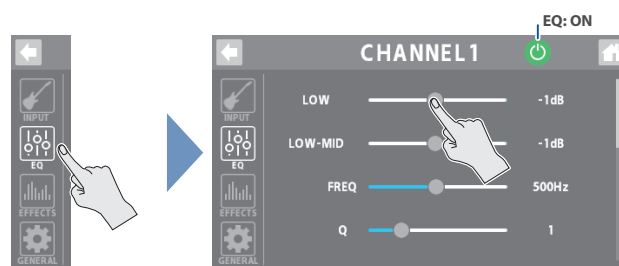
5. Use the GAIN control to adjust the input gain.



### Setting the EQ

6. Touch <EQ>.

7. With the EQ button enabled, adjust the tonal character of each frequency band.

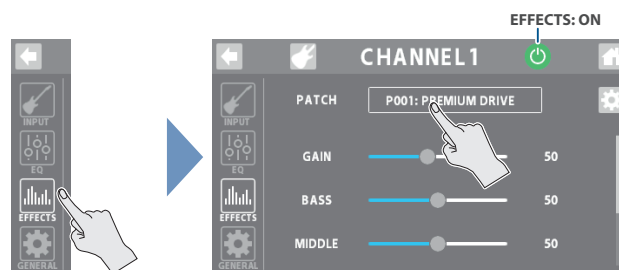


### Setting the effects

8. Touch <EFFECTS>.

9. With the EFFECTS button enabled, use the PATCH control to select the effect you want to use.

This unit comes with preset effect settings to match each input source.



10. Adjusts the effect parameters.



For details on the parameters for each input channel, refer to the "Parameter Guide" (Roland website).

## Operating the Sound Pads/Effect Pads

You can use pads 1–8 as either sound pads or effect pads.

### Sound pads

In this mode, the pads play the audio assigned to each pad.

This lets you play background music, jingles, sound effects and so on at the optimum timing.

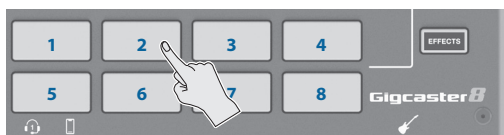
#### 1. Press the [EFFECTS] button to make it light up.

This switches the pads to sound pad mode.



#### 2. Press sound pads 1–8 to play back their respective sounds.

- You can assign up to 64 sounds (8 banks × 8) to the sound pads overall.
- Bank 1 is selected when you turn on this unit.



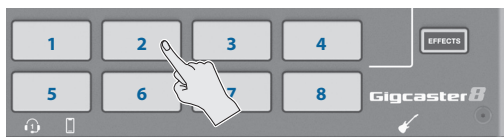
#### Switching between banks

#### 3. Long-press the [EFFECTS] button.

The sound pads 1–8 now switch between banks.



#### 4. Press sound pads 1–8 to switch the bank.



- You can set how the sounds play back, either as one-shot or as looped sounds.
- You can use the footswitch to switch between banks.
- Configure the sound assignments and pad functions from the MENU screen.  
On the MENU screen (p. 5) touch <PAD> → <SOUND>.

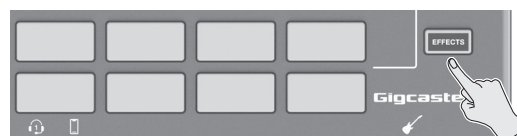
For details, refer to the “Reference Manual” and “Parameter Guide” (Roland website).

### Effect pads

In this mode, you can use the settings for the effects assigned to each pad.

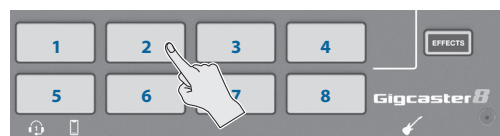
#### 1. Press the [EFFECTS] button to make it light up.

This switches the pads to effect pad mode.



#### 2. Press effect pads 1–8 to turn the effects on.

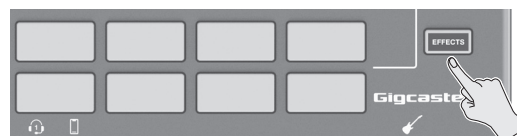
- You can assign up to 64 effect settings (8 banks × 8) to the effect pads overall.
- Bank 1 is selected when you turn on this unit.



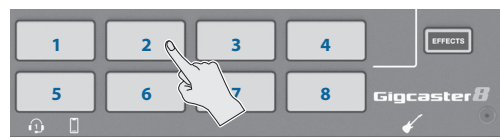
#### Switching between banks

#### 3. Long-press the [EFFECTS] button.

The effect pads 1–8 now switch between banks.



#### 4. Press effect pads 1–8 to switch the bank.



- You can assign four effect settings to each effect pad, for simultaneous control of four effect settings when you press the pads.
- You can use the footswitch to switch between banks.
- Configure the effect assignments and pad functions from the MENU screen.  
On the MENU screen (p. 5), touch <PAD> → <EFFECTS>.

For details, refer to the “Reference Manual” and “Parameter Guide” (Roland website).

## Recording

Now, let's record your guitar performance or conversations.

### NOTE

- A microSD card (commercially available) is required for recording.
- Depending on the manufacturer or type of microSD card, some cards might not work correctly for recording or playback on the GCS-8.
- Never turn off the power or remove the microSD card during recording or playback.

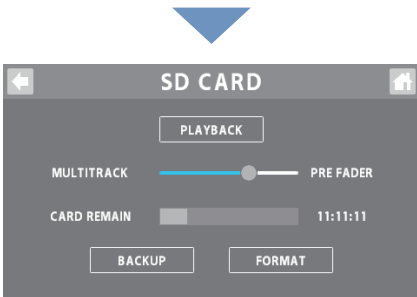
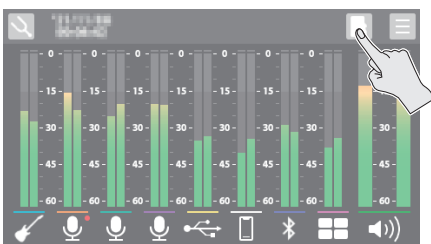
## Formatting a microSD Card

Before using a microSD card on the GCS-8, you must format the microSD card.

\* When you insert an unformatted microSD card, the message "UNFORMATTED CARD" appears. Follow the onscreen instructions to format the media.

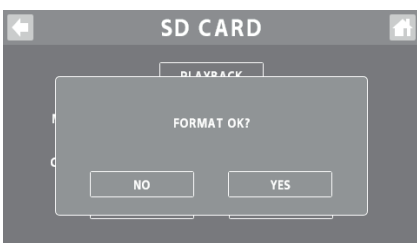
### 1. On the home screen, touch (SD card button).

The SD CARD screen is shown.



### 2. Touch <FORMAT>.

A confirmation message appears.



### 3. Touch <YES>.

When formatting is complete, the message "Completed!" appears.

### NOTE

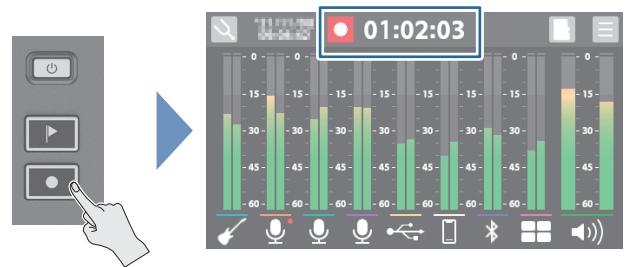
- Formatting the microSD card erases all data on the media.
- Never remove the microSD card while it is being formatted.



## Recording

### 1. Press the button.

The button lights up red, and recording begins.



The elapsed recording time is shown on the home screen.

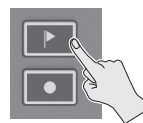


- When you press the  button while recording, the recording is paused.
- When paused, press the  button to resume recording (the button lights up red).

### 2. To finish recording, long-press the button.

The button's LED lights up dimly, and recording ends.

- When recording, you can either record the same two-channel mix (stereo) that's output from the  (MAIN OUT) jack, or record each channel's audio before the two-channel mix (multitrack).
- You can add a "mark" to the recorded data by pressing the  button while recording. You can use marks when editing the recorded data on your DAW or other software.



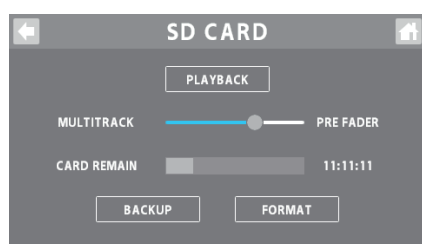
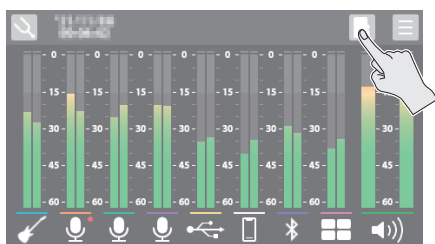
For details, refer to the "Reference Manual" and "Parameter Guide" (Roland website).



## Checking the recorded audio

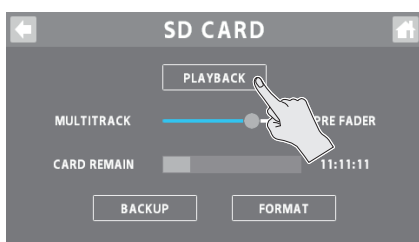
### 1. On the home screen, touch <SD CARD> (SD card button).

The SD CARD screen is shown.



### 2. Touch <PLAYBACK>.

The PLAYBACK screen appears.

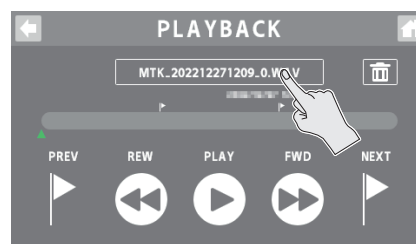


### 3. Touch <PLAY>.

The recorded audio is played back.

You can check the two-channel mix of the recorded audio from the PLAYBACK screen.

- To listen to what you've previously recorded, touch file name and then select the recorded data (audio file).



For details, refer to the "Reference Manual" and "Parameter Guide" (Roland website).

# USING THE UNIT SAFELY

## WARNING

### Use only the supplied AC adaptor and the correct voltage

Be sure to use only the AC adaptor supplied with the unit. Also, make sure the line voltage at the installation matches the input voltage specified on the AC adaptor's body. Other AC adaptors may use a different polarity, or be designed for a different voltage, so their use could result in damage, malfunction, or electric shock.



## CAUTION

### Handle the ground terminal carefully

If you remove the screw from the ground terminal, be sure to replace it; don't leave it lying around where it could accidentally be swallowed by small children. When refastening the screw, make that it is firmly fastened, so it won't come loose.



## CAUTION

### Precautions concerning use of phantom power supply

Always turn the phantom power off when connecting any device other than condenser microphones that require phantom power. You risk causing damage if you mistakenly supply phantom power to dynamic microphones, audio playback devices, or other devices that don't require such power. Be sure to check the specifications of any microphone you intend to use by referring to the manual that came with it.



(This instrument's phantom power: 48 V DC, 10 mA Max)

# IMPORTANT NOTES

## Placement

- Depending on the material and temperature of the surface on which you place the unit, its rubber feet may discolor or mar the surface.

## Repairs and Data

- Before sending the unit away for repairs, be sure to make a backup of the data stored within it; or you may prefer to write down the needed information. Although we will do our utmost to preserve the data stored in your unit when we carry out repairs, in some cases, such as when the memory section is physically damaged, restoration of the stored content may be impossible. Roland assumes no liability concerning the restoration of any stored content that has been lost.

## Additional Precautions

- Any data stored within the unit can be lost as the result of equipment failure, incorrect operation, etc. To protect yourself against the irretrievable loss of data, be sure to make a backup of the data stored within it; or you may prefer to write down the needed information.
- Roland assumes no liability concerning the restoration of any stored content that has been lost.
- Never strike or apply strong pressure to the display.
- Do not use connection cables that contain a built-in resistor.




## Using External Memories

- Please observe the following precautions when handling external memory devices. Also, make sure to carefully observe all the precautions that were supplied with the external memory device.
  - Do not remove the device while reading/writing is in progress.
  - To prevent damage from static electricity, discharge all static electricity from your person before handling the device.

## Caution Regarding Radio Frequency Emissions

- The following actions may subject you to penalty of law.
  - Disassembling or modifying this device.
  - Removing the certification label affixed to the back of this device.
  - Using this device in a country other than where it was purchased

## Intellectual Property Right

- It is forbidden by law to make an audio recording, video recording, copy or revision of a third party's copyrighted work (musical work, video work, broadcast, live performance, or other work), whether in whole or in part, and distribute, sell, lease, perform or broadcast it without the permission of the copyright owner.
- Do not use this product for purposes that could infringe on a copyright held by a third party. We assume no responsibility whatsoever with regard to any infringements of third-party copyrights arising through your use of this product.
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