

ALESIS

MELODY 61

User Guide

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(1.0) Introduction

(1.1) Box Contents

Melody 61 Portable Keyboard
 Power Adapter
 Music Rest
 Quickstart Guide
 Safety & Warranty Manual

(1.2) Support

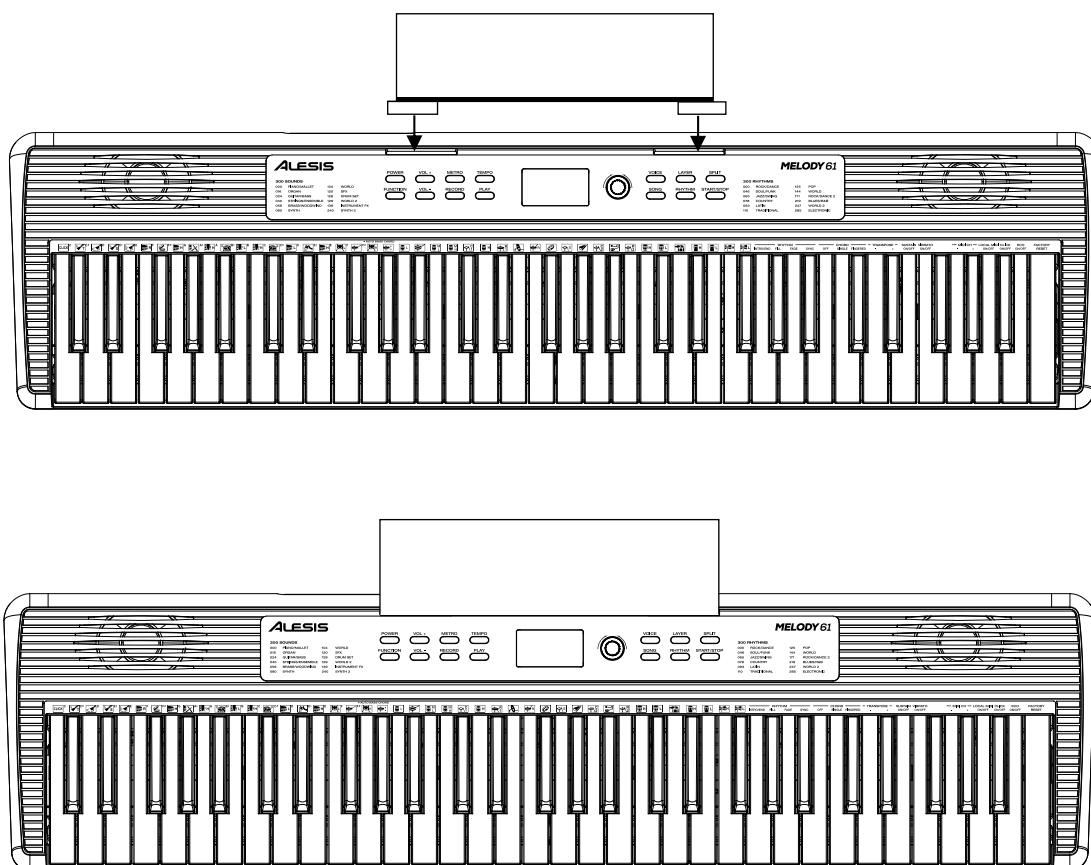
For the latest information about this product (system requirements, compatibility information, etc.) and product registration, visit alesis.com.

For additional product support, visit alesis.com/support.

(1.3) Setup

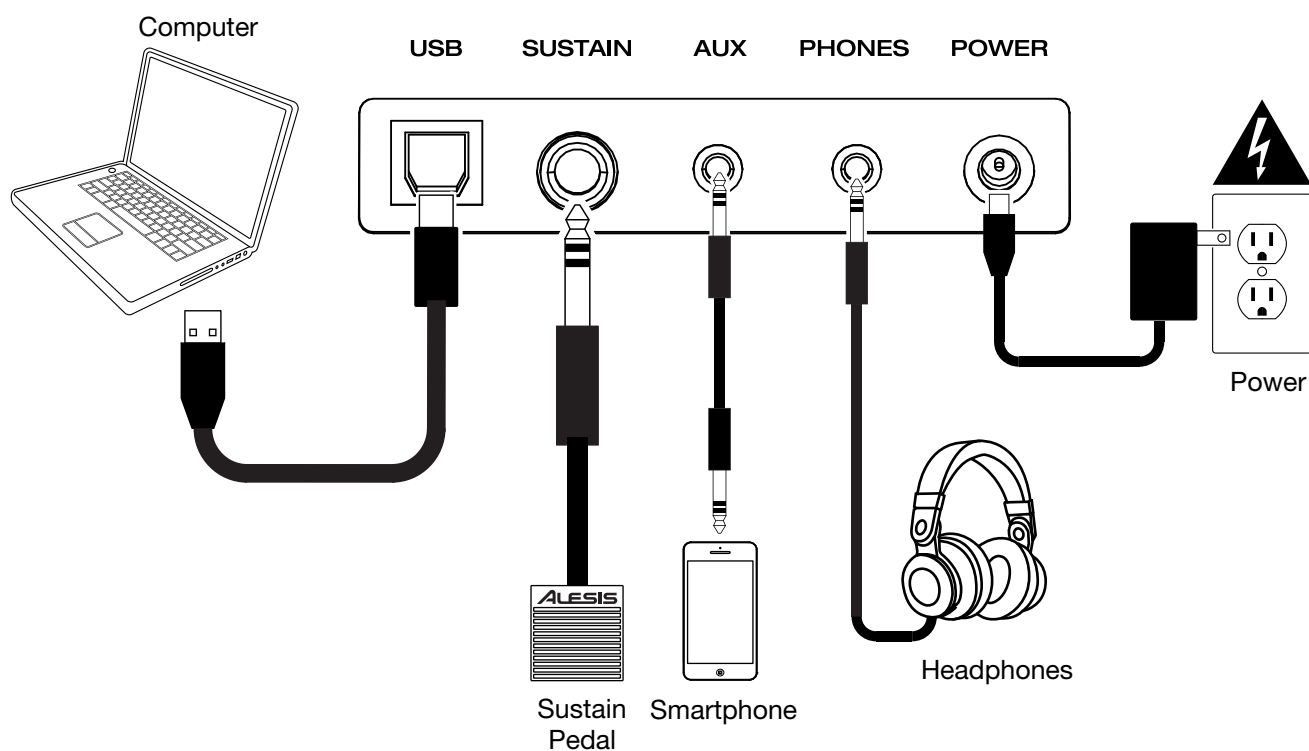
Music Rest:

Insert the music rest's tabs into the top of Melody 61 until they fit securely, as seen in the images below:



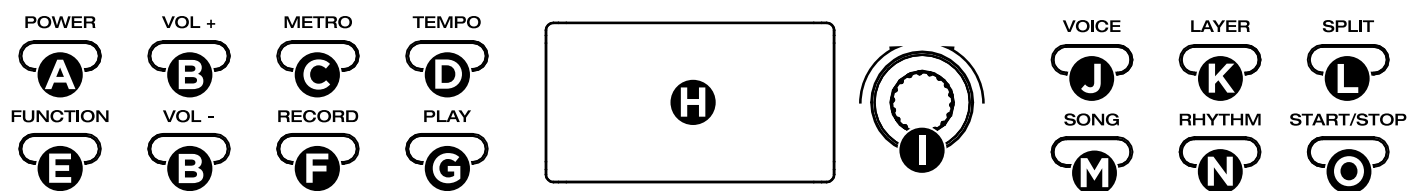
(1.3.1) Connection Diagram

Items not listed in [Introduction > Box Contents](#) are sold separately.



(2.0) Features

(2.1) Top Panel



A. Power Button

Press this button to turn the piano's power on or off.

B. Volume +/-

Press these buttons to increase or decrease the main volume, including the voices, songs, and rhythms (0-10).

Note: If the internal speakers do not produce any sound, check that the volume is not set too low. Also, if headphones are plugged into the **Phones** output, the speakers will be muted.

C. Metronome

Press this button to turn the metronome on or off. Press and hold this button, and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the metronome. See the [Metronome](#) section for more details.

D. Tempo

Press this button to show the current internal tempo setting on the display (040 - 280 BPM). Turn the **Encoder** to adjust the internal tempo used for the metronome, song, and accompaniment rhythm features. Press this button several times at a consistent pace to set the tempo via tap.

E. Function

Press and hold this button and then press a labeled key on the keyboard to perform a function, such as Transpose +/- . See the [Keybed Functions](#) section for more details.

F. Record

Press this button to record a user song, then press it again to stop recording. If a user song already exists, it will be deleted. When Melody 61 is recording a user song, the screen will show "rEC".

G. Play

Press this button to play back a user song. If this button is pressed during recording, recording will stop and the user song will start playback. When Melody 61 is playing a user song, the screen will show "PLY".

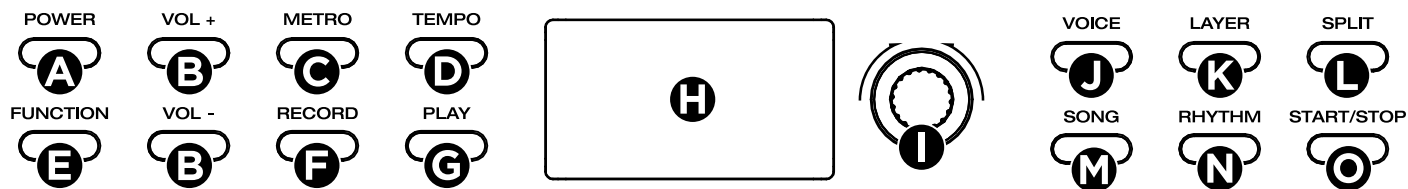
Note: The user song will be cleared after powering off Melody 61.

H. Display

This display screen shows relevant info for settings while they are being changed.

I. Encoder Knob

Turn this to adjust settings.



J. Voice

Press this button to show the currently selected Main Voice (sound) and turn the **Encoder** to select a new voice. Press and hold this button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the Main Voice (R1). See the [Voices](#) section for more information.

K. Layer

Press this button to enable Layer Mode and use the **Encoder** to select the Layer Voice. Press and hold this button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the Layer Voice (R2). Press the button again to disable Layer Mode. See the [Layer Mode](#) section for more information.

L. Split

Press this button to enable Split Mode and use the **Encoder** to select the Split Voice. Press and hold this button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the Split Voice (L1). Press the button again to disable Split Mode. See the [Split Mode](#) section for more information.

M. Song

Press this button to access Song Mode. Press and hold this button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the Demo Song. See the [Demo Song Mode](#) section for more details on this function.

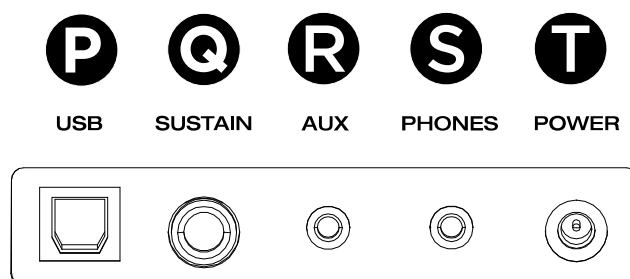
N. Rhythm

Press this button to enable the Rhythm Mode and then turn the **Encoder** to select an accompaniment rhythm for playback. Press and hold this button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the rhythm. See the [Rhythm Mode](#) section for more information.

O. Start/Stop

Press this button to start and stop an accompaniment rhythm in Rhythm Mode, or start and stop a song in Demo Song Mode. You can also press this button to stop a currently playing metronome or user song.

(2.2) Rear Panel



P. USB Port

Use a standard USB cable (not included) to connect this port to a computer to send and receive MIDI data or apply firmware updates.

Q. Sustain Pedal Input

Connect a standard 1/4" (6.35 mm) sustain pedal here (not included).

R. Aux

Connect an auxiliary device (such as a smartphone or MP3 player) to this 1/8" (3.5 mm) stereo input.

S. Phones

Connect headphones to this 1/8" stereo output.

Note: If headphones are plugged into the **Phones** output, the speakers will be muted.

T. Power

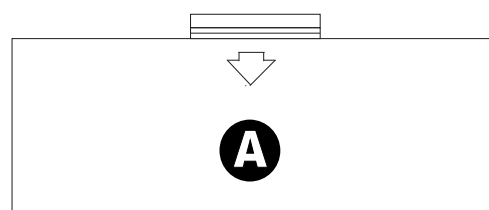
Use the included power adapter to connect this input to a power outlet.

(2.3) Bottom Panel

A. Battery Compartment

Install 6 "AA" batteries (not included) here to power Melody 61 if you are not using the power adapter.

Tip: To help save battery life, use the Eco Mode feature (auto-power off) by holding the **Function** button and pressing the key labeled "**Eco**". Continue to hold the **Function** button and press "**Eco**" to toggle between off ("OFF"), 30 minutes ("030") and 60 minutes ("060").



(3.0) Basic Operation

(3.1) Voices

To select and play a Main Voice (r1):

1. Press the **Voice** button. "r1" will be shown on the screen.
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select a voice (t00 - 299).
3. Play the keys to hear the voice.
4. Press and hold this button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the Main Voice.



(3.2) Metronome

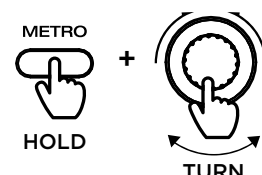
The metronome feature provides a steady beat to aid in practicing at a consistent tempo.

To use the metronome:

1. Press the **Metronome** button to turn the metronome on. The time signature (beat) will be shown on the display screen (ex. "be0").
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select the time signature to be played (0, 2-9).
3. Press and hold the **Metronome** button and turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the metronome.

Note: The metronome cannot be used during Rhythm, Demo Song, or User Song playback.

4. To turn off the metronome, press the **Metronome** button again, or press the **Start/Stop** button.



(3.3) Split Mode

Split Mode allows you to separate the 61 keys into two zones so that you can have two different voices for each of your hands. For example, you may want the Piano voice for your right hand, and the Bass voice for your left hand. When Split Mode is enabled, the left-hand voice is referred to as the Split voice. The left-hand voice will be heard when playing the lowest 2 octaves of the keyboard.

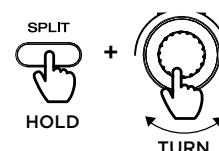
To split the keyboard into 2 zones:

1. Press the **Split** button. "l1" will be shown on the screen.
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select the split voice (t00 - 299) to be played.
3. Press and hold the **Split** button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the split voice.

To enable/disable Split Mode, press the **Split** button.

Note: Split Mode cannot be enabled at the same time as Layer Mode.

SPLIT
PRESS



(3.4) Layer Mode

Layer Mode allows for two different voices to be mixed together for a more full and rich sound.

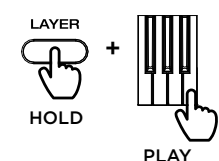
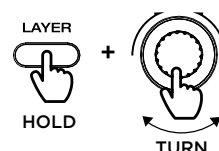
To layer two voices:

1. Press the **Layer** button. "r2" will be shown on the screen.
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select the layer voice (t00 - 299) to be played.
3. Press and hold the **Layer** button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the layer voice.

To enable/disable Layer Mode, press the **Layer** button.

Note: Layer Mode cannot be enabled at the same time as Split Mode.

LAYER
PRESS



(3.5) Rhythm Mode

Melody 61 features 300 accompaniment rhythms that you can play along with and create your own songs.

To enable Rhythm Mode and select an accompaniment rhythm (r00-299), press **Rhythm** and then turn the **Encoder**. “rhY” will be shown on the screen.

To start or stop an accompaniment rhythm, press the **Start/Stop** button while in Rhythm Mode.

To have the rhythm play a short fill, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Fill”.

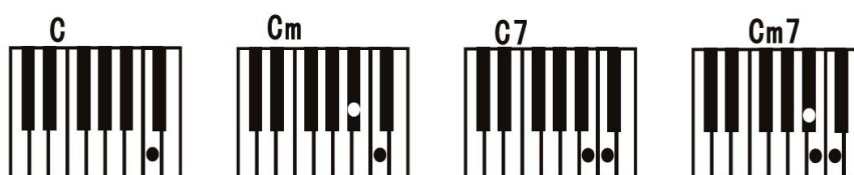
To start the rhythm with an intro or end a currently playing rhythm ending, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Intro/End”.

To start the rhythm with a fade-in or end a currently playing rhythm with a fade-out, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Fade”.

The Rhythm Mode feature also features auto-chord accompaniment that can be triggered by playing keys in the lower range (the second lowest F# key or lower) of the keyboard. There are two different settings for this feature, **Single Chord** and **Fingered Chord**.

Single Chord:

When using the Single Chord feature you can use the abbreviated chord shapes shown below starting on any note to play major, minor, seventh, or minor seventh chords.



Fingered Chord:

When using the Fingered Chord feature you can use the full chord shapes shown below starting on any note to play major, minor, seventh, or minor seventh chords.



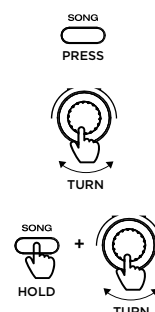
To add or remove auto-chord accompaniment for the rhythm, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the keys labeled “Single”, “Fingered”, or “Off” accordingly.

To configure whether the rhythm’s playback should start when a key is played in the chord range, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Sync”.

(3.6) Demo Song Mode

To play a demo song:

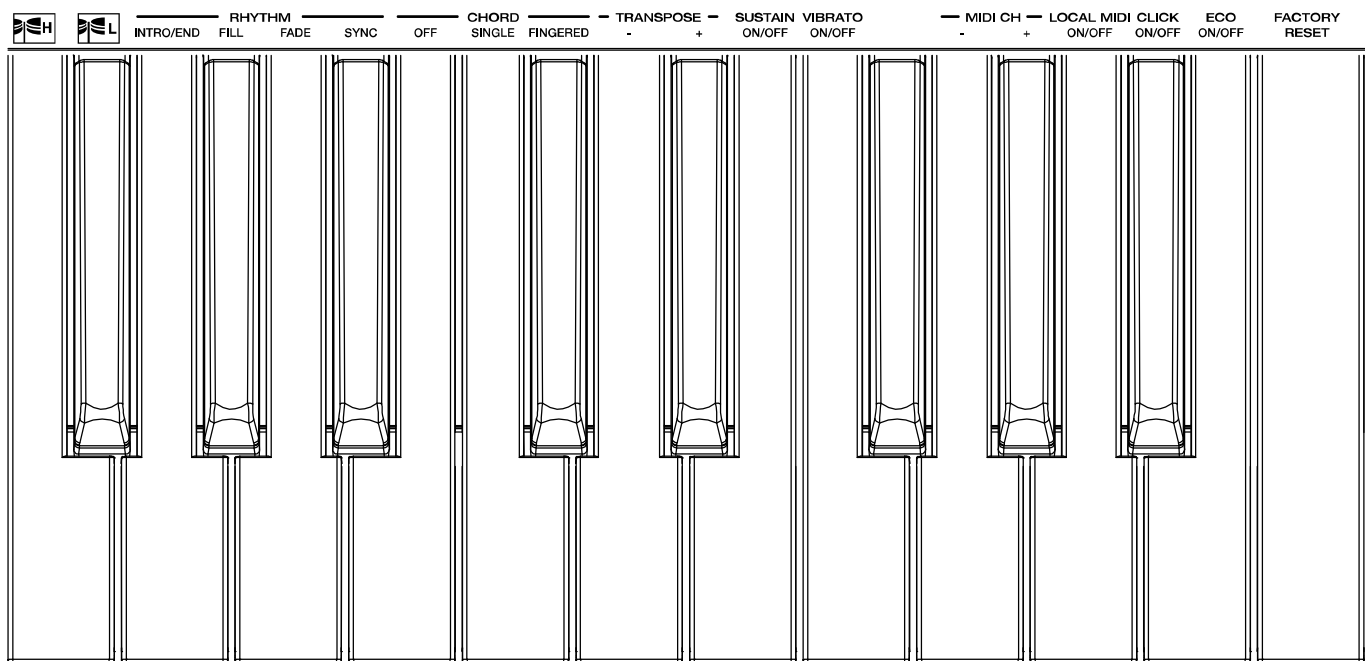
1. Press the **Song** button. “Son” will be shown on the screen.
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select a demo song for playback (d00-d29).
3. Press the **Start/Stop** button to start the song.
4. Press and hold the **Song** button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the demo song.
5. Press the **Start/Stop** button to again to stop the song.



(4.0) Advanced Operation

(4.1) Keybed Functions

You can change more advanced settings by pressing and holding the **Function** button and then press a key that corresponds to the graphic below to change your desired setting.



(4.1.1) Transpose

This function allows the overall pitch of the piano to be transposed up or down by a maximum of six semitones.

To lower/raise the keyed transposition by a semitone (-6 to 0 to +6), press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Transpose +” or “Transpose -” respectively. To reset the transposition to default (0), hold the **Function** button and then press both “Transpose +” and “Transpose -” buttons at the same time.

(4.1.2) Sustain

To enable/disable the **Sustain effect**, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Sustain”. The display screen will display “ON” or “OFF” accordingly.

(4.1.3) Vibrato

To enable/disable the **Vibrato effect**, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Vibrato”. The display screen will display “ON” or “OFF” accordingly.

(4.1.4) MIDI Channel

To change the MIDI channel (1-16) of the keyboard for the USB-MIDI output, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “MIDI Channel +” or “MIDI Channel -”, repeatedly if needed.

(4.1.5) Local MIDI

To turn Local MIDI on/off, press and hold **Function**, and then press the key labeled “Local MIDI”. The display screen will display “ON” or “OFF” accordingly.

When Local MIDI is on (default), sound will be generated and heard through the speaker, and MIDI messages will be sent to the USB-MIDI output when keys are played.

When Local MIDI is off, sound will not be generated, however MIDI messages will still be sent to the USB-MIDI output when keys are played.

(4.1.6) Click

To enable/disable the click sound that is heard when the Function key settings are changed, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Click”. The display screen will display “ON” or “OFF” accordingly.

Note: The “click” sound will not play when pressing the Rhythm Intro/End or Fade keys, regardless of this setting.

(4.1.7) Eco Mode

To adjust the Eco Mode feature (auto-power off), press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Eco Mode” repeatedly to toggle between off (“OFF”), 30 minutes (“030”) and 60 minutes (“060”).

(4.1.8) Factory Reset

To return the keyboard to factory default settings (including the default volume settings), press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled “Factory Reset”. When the keyboard is being reset, the display screen will flash “888” five times to show that the reset has happened.

(5.0) Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause and Solution
The LED screen is intermittent or not turning on and/or the speakers are making a humming noise.	The batteries may be low or depleted. Change to a new set of batteries or use the power adapter connected to a power outlet.
The speakers produce a pop sound whenever the power is turned on/off.	This is normal and is no cause for alarm.
The speakers do not produce sound when the keys are played.	Check if the main volume is set too low or if headphones are plugged into the Phones . The speakers will be muted if there are headphones plugged into the Phones .
The speakers are producing noise or interference.	Using a mobile phone in close proximity to Melody 61 may produce interference. To prevent this, turn off the mobile phone or keep it away from the piano.
Certain notes produce the wrong pitch.	Make sure that the transpose value is set to 0 . If that does not work, then hold the Function button and press the Factory Reset key (C7) to restore the factory default settings.

(6.0) Appendix

(6.1) Voices

000-015 Piano/Mallet	104-119 World
016-023 Organ	120-127 SFX
024-039 Guitar/Bass	128 Drumset
040-055 Strings/Ensemble	129-138 World 2
056-079 Brass/Woodwind	139-239 Instrument FX
080-103 Synth	240-299 Synth FX

(6.2) Rhythms

000-045 Rock/Dance	125-143 Pop
046-064 Soul/Funk	144-170 World
065-077 Jazz/Swing	171-218 Rock/Dance 2
078-092 Country	219-246 Blues/R&B
093-109 Latin	247-284 World 2
110-124 Traditional	285-299 Electronic

(6.3) Technical Specifications

Number of Keys	61
Touch Sensitivity	No
Display	LED
Max Polyphony	24
Voices (Sounds)	300
Rhythms	300
Demos	30
User Song	1
Keyboard Modes	Record Mode, Demo Song Mode, Split Mode, Layer Mode, Rhythm Mode, Eco Mode
Transpose Feature	-6 to +6
Metronome Tempo Range	40–280 BPM
Maximum Recording Time	294 notes
Speakers	5W (2 x 2.5W)
Phones	1/8" (3.5 mm) stereo output
Aux In	1/8" (3.5 mm) stereo input
Sustain Input	1/4" (6.35 mm) input
USB-MIDI Port	USB-B port
Power Input	12V 0.5A (adapter included)
Battery Power (optional)	6 AA batteries (not included)
Keyboard Dimensions (width x depth x height)	36.0" x 9.12" x 2.88" / 91.44 x 23.16 x 7.32 cm
Keyboard Weight	6.61 lbs. / 3 kg

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

(6.4) Trademarks & Licenses

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