

Roland®

DIGITAL STUDIO WORKSTATION

VS-840
VS-840S



QUICK START

Thank you for purchasing the Roland VS-840/VS-840S Digital Studio Workstation.

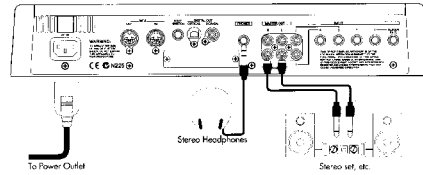
The VS-840/VS-840S is an all-in-one multi-track digital disk recorder which combines a digital disk recorder, digital mixer and digital effect unit into a single package. All processes from editing and effect processing to mixdown can be performed in the digital domain. It also makes possible various editing techniques which are not possible with conventional multitrack analog tape recorders. The documentation for the VS-840/VS-840S consists of two manuals: "Quick Start" and "Owner's Manual." Quick Start explains the sequence of operations from setting up the VS-840/VS-840S to recording/playback and mixdown.

Before using this unit, carefully read the sections entitled: "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" (Owner's manual page 2), "USING THE UNIT SAFELY" (Owner's manual page 3), and "IMPORTANT NOTES" (Owner's manual page 10). These sections provide important information concerning the proper operation of the unit. Additionally, in order to feel assured that you have gained a good grasp of every feature provided by your new unit, Quick start and Owner's manual should be read in its entirety. The manual should be saved and kept on hand as a convenient reference.

Preparations

■Connections with audio device

- * Before making connections, make sure that the volume controls of all devices are turned down, and that the power is turned off. If connections are made with the power turned on, the disk drive or your speakers may be damaged.



Connect the VS-840's MON/AUX jacks to the input jacks of your audio system. The MON/AUX jacks are RCA phono type jacks. Use cables with the appropriate type of jacks for your equipment. If you are using headphones, connect them to the PHONES jack located on the rear panel. The PHONES jack is set to output the same sound as the MON/AUX jacks. The volume of the headphones is adjusted by the PHONES knob.

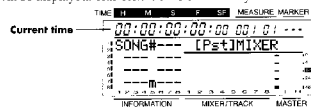
MEMO With the factory settings, the MON/AUX jack will output both the signal from the MASTER OUT jacks and the monitor signals from each track (mixed together).

■Turning the power on

When you have made connections correctly, use the following procedure to turn the power on. By turning on devices in the wrong order, you risk causing malfunction and/or damage to speakers and other devices.

1 Turn on the power of the VS-840.

When the VS-840 starts up correctly, the display will indicate "[Pst]MIXER," and the post-fader level for each channel will be displayed. This condition is called "Play mode."



NOTE When the power is turned on, the disk drive will be detected, and data required for operation will be read. For this reason, there will be a short interval before operation actually begins.

2 Turn on your audio equipment, and raise the volume of the audio devices to an appropriate level.

NOTE If the VS-840 ever fails to operate correctly, first refer to "Troubleshooting" (owner's manual page 164) and check the relevant points.

If an incorrect operation has been performed, or if an operation could not be processed as specified, the display will show an error message. Refer to the "Error message" (owner's manual page 166) and take the appropriate action.

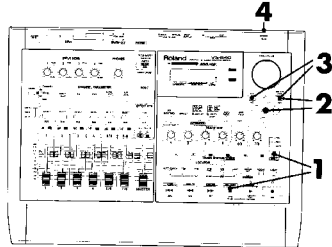
If this does not resolve the problem, contact Roland service or your dealer.

■ Turning the power off

Recorded data will be lost if you simply turn off the power. Before turning off the power, you must perform the shut-down process to ensure that song data is correctly saved to disk. When the shut-down process has been performed, the disk will be ejected. When you wish to turn off the power, use the following procedure.



When you perform the shut-down operation, you will be asked whether or not you wish to save the song data. Also, please be aware that it is not possible to remove the disk when the power is off. Be sure to perform the shut-down operation and remove the disk before turning off the power.

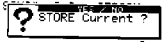


1 Hold down [SHIFT] and press [SHUT/EJECT(STOP)].

The display will ask "SHUT/EJECT ?"

2 Use [CURSOR] to select the "SHUT" icon, and press [ENTER(TAP)]. (To cancel the shut-down operation, press [EXIT] at left.)

The display will ask "STORE Current ?"



Selecting the "EJECT" icon will have the same result as pressing the eject button located on the side of the VS-840.

3 If you wish to save the current song, press [YES]. If you do not wish to save it, press [NO]. If you have selected a demo song, press [NO].

When shut-down is complete, the display will ask "Power OFF/RESTART," and the disk will be ejected.

4 Turn off the power of the VS-840.



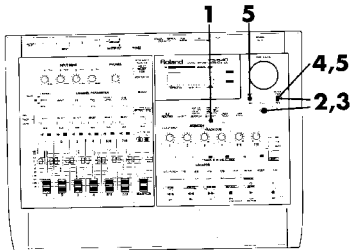
If you turn off the power before removing the disk and later need to remove the disk, be sure to turn the power on again and press the eject button to remove the disk. Attempting to remove the disk by force can damage the disk drive.

Your first recording

Here we will explain the basic operations for actually recording a performance.

■ Create a new song

Recording is not possible when the demo song is selected. In order to begin recording, use the following procedure to create a new song.



1 Press [UTILITY].

2 Use [CURSOR] to select the Song Edit icon, and press [ENTER(TAP)].



3 Use [CURSOR] to select the Song New icon, and press [ENTER(TAP)].



4 A page in which you can set the sample rate and recording mode will appear. For this example, we will use the default settings, so simply press [ENTER(TAP)].

MEMO

When creating a new song, you can specify the sample rate and recording mode of the song. If you need to make special settings, refer to "Creating a new song" (page 51) in the owner's manual.

5 The display will ask "STORE Current?" This message is asking you whether you wish to save the current song to disk. If you wish to save the current song (the currently selected song), press [YES]. If you do not wish to save it, press [NO]. If the demo song is selected, press [NO].

NOTE

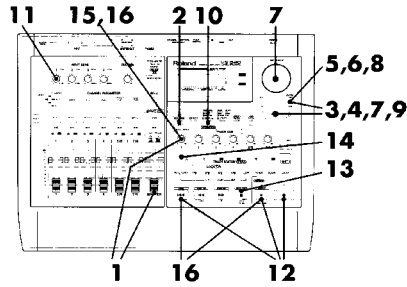
For the demo song, the Write Protect setting is turned on so that the contents cannot be rewritten (owner's manual page 26). This means that if you press [YES] with the demo song selected, the display will indicate "SONG Protected," and you will not be able to continue. When a new song has been created, you will automatically return to Play mode, and the newly created song will be selected.

■ Recording on track 1

Now you can connect your instrument, and record your playing. In this example, we will explain how the sound that is input to the INPUT 1 jack can be recorded on track 1.

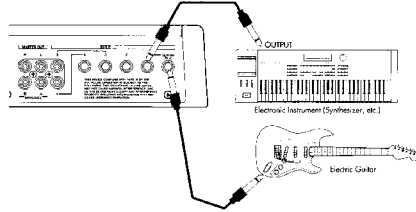
We will make use of the Easy Routing function to make mixer settings. The basic procedure is to use [CURSOR] to move the cursor to the item that you wish to modify, and use the TIME/VALUE dial to modify the value. To advance to the next page press [ENTER(TAP)]. To return to the previous page press [EXIT].

- * With the Easy Routing function, pressing [ENTER(TAP)] while the recorder is operating will automatically stop the recorder as necessary.
- * Howling could be produced depending on the location of microphones relative to speakers. This can be remedied by:
 1. Changing the orientation of the microphone(s).
 2. Relocating microphone(s) at a greater distance from speakers.
 3. Lowering volume levels.



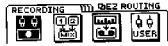
1 Turn down the VS-840's master fader, and the TRACK CUE 1 knob, and connect your instrument to the INPUT 1 jack.

- * If you are connecting a guitar, use the jack marked GUITAR (Hi-Z).



➤ Press [EZ ROUTING].

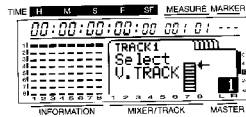
- 3** Use [CURSOR] to select the Recording icon and press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 4** In this page you can specify whether or not you wish to modify the parameter values (default values) that were set automatically by Easy Routing. Use [CURSOR] to select the "YES" icon. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER].



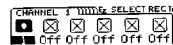
- 5** The V-track setting page will appear. The display will show the current settings. We want V-track 1 of track 1 to be the current track, but since this is already the default setting when a new song is created, simply press [ENTER(TAP)].



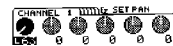
- 6** In this page you can specify the input for each channel. We want the INPUT 1 jack to be the input for channel 1, but since this is already the default setting, we do not need to change this. Press [ENTER(TAP)].



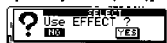
- 7** In this page you can set the recording destination track for each channel. For this example, use [CURSOR] and the TIME/VALUE dial to select "1" (track 1) as the recording destination track for channel 1. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER(TAP)].



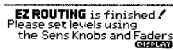
- 8** In this page you can set the pan for each channel. On each channel for which you specified a recording destination track, the pan will be set automatically. For this example, make sure that the channel 1 pan is set to full left (L63). Then press [ENTER(TAP)].



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- 9** In this page you can specify whether or not you wish to use effects. In this example we will not be using effects, so use [CURSOR] to select the "NO" icon. Then press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 10** The final page will appear. If you have finished making settings, press [DISPLAY] to return to Play mode.



- 11** Use the INPUT SENS 1 knob to adjust the input sensitivity.

Raise the volume of your instrument as high as possible to achieve a high input level. At this time, adjust the input sensitivity as high as possible without causing the PEAK indicator to light.

Normally you should adjust the input sensitivity so that the level meter moves in the range of 12.0 dB when the channel fader is at the 0dB position.

NOTE Since the post-fader sound will be recorded, leave the channel fader at the 0 dB position. If you wish to adjust the volume for listening, use the TRACK CUE 1 knob. Moving the TRACK CUE 1 knob will not affect the sound that will be recorded.

- 12** Settings are now complete. Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song, press [REC] to enter record-ready mode (the REC indicator will blink red), and press [PLAY] to begin recording.

- 13** When you finish recording, press [STOP] to stop.

- 14** Now let's listen to the performance that you recorded. First select playback for track 1. Press the track 1 TRACK STATUS/V.TRACK button to make the button indicator light green.

- 15** Turn down the TRACK CUE 1 knob.

- 16** Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song, and then press [PLAY] to playback the song. Use the TRACK CUE 1 knob to adjust the volume of track 1.

If you wish to monitor the output of TRACK CUE, listen to the headphones or the output of the MON/AUX jack. With the current settings, the TRACK CUE output will not be output from the MASTER OUT jack.

How was it? Was the recording satisfactory? If you are happy with the results, use the procedure explained in "Saving your recorded performance" (page 10) to save the song. If you would like to cancel the recording, refer to "Canceling a recording" (page 11). If you would like to re-record only a portion of the performance,

■ Saving your recorded performance

If you simply turn off the power, the performance which you recorded will be lost. The recorded performance will also be lost if the power goes off by accident. In such cases, it is not possible to restore the data to its original state.

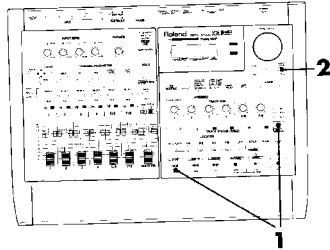
To avoid such accidents, use the following procedure to save your data to disk from time to time.

NOTE

When handling important song data, or when using the VS-840 for an extended period of time, we recommend that you save song data frequently.

MEMO

When you change songs or performance the shut-down operation, a message will ask "STORE Current?" This is asking you whether you wish to save the current song. For the response to this message, refer to "Turning the power off" (page 4).



1 Hold down [SHIFT] and press [STORE(ZERO)].

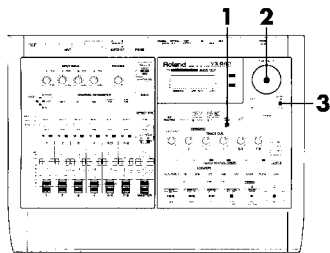
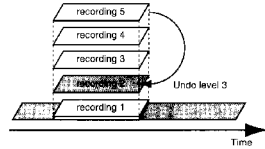
2 The display will ask "STORE OK ?" If you wish to store the song data, press [YES].

When the song has been saved, you will return to the previous condition.

■Canceling a recording

When using the VS-840, there may be times when you would like to re-do an operation, such as if recording did not take place as you would like, or if the wrong editing settings were used. In such cases you can use the "Undo function." By using the Undo function, you can cancel the previous operation and return to the original state. To cancel the previously-executed Undo, use the "Redo function" (owner's manual page 99).

You can specify the number of previous steps that will be undone. For example, suppose that you used punch-in recording to re-record the same location five times. Then, if you wanted to go back to the data that you recorded on the second try (step 2), you would specify that the Undo operation restore the last three operations (Undo Level 3), and then execute.



1 Press [UNDO/REDO].

2 The display will indicate "UNDO Level." Use the TIME/VALUE dial to select the number of steps that you wish to undo.

3 To execute the Undo operation, press [ENTER(TAP)]. To cancel, press [EXIT].

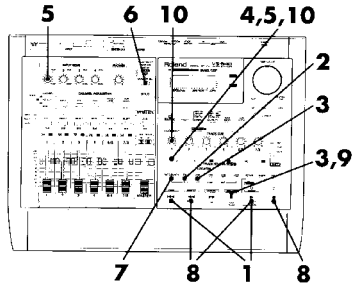
■ Re-recording a portion of your performance

When recording, there may be times when a wrong note was played, or when you are not happy with part of the recording. In such cases, you can use the Punch-in Recording operation to re-record only a specified portion of your performance.

"Punch-in" refers to the act of switching from playback to recording status. Conversely, "punch-out" is when you return from recording to playback status. In other words, you punch-in at the location where you wish to begin re-recording, and punch-out when you finish recording.

Here we will explain the procedure for Auto Punch-in Recording. Auto Punch-in Recording will automatically punch-in/out at the locations that you have specified ahead of time.

This explanation will assume that the mixer settings are in the condition of having completed steps 1–13 of "Recording to track 1" (page 7). When you perform punch-in recording, listen to the headphones or to the output of the MON/AUX jacks.



- 1** Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song, and then press [PLAY] to playback the song.
- 2** When you arrive at the location where you wish to punch-in, press LOCATOR button [IN(1/5)]. The punch-in location will be stored.
- 3** When you arrive at the location where you wish to punch-out, press LOCATOR button [OUT(2/6)]. The punch-out location will be stored. When you have finished setting the times, press [STOP] to stop the song.
- 4** Press the track 1 TRACK STATUS/V.TRACK button to set the track status to REC (the TRACK STATUS indicator will blink red).

-
- 5** Use the **INPUT SENS 1** knob to adjust the level of the input source. While the song is playing back, you can press the **TRACK STATUS/V.TRACK** button to switch between monitoring the input source and monitoring the track. Listen to the track being re-recorded and to the input source, and make adjustments so that there is no volume difference between them.

When the **TRACK STATUS** indicator blinks red, the input source is being monitored. When it blinks alternately red / green, the track playback is being monitored.

- 6** After you have adjusted the level of the input source, press **[MONITOR SEL]** several times to set Monitor Select to **TRACK CUE+MASTER** (the button indicator will light orange).

- 7** With the song stopped, press **[AUTO PUNCH]**, and the **AUTO PUNCH** indicator will light and you will be ready to perform auto punch-in recording.

- 8** Press **[REW]** to move to a location earlier than the time where you will begin re-recording, press **[REC]** to enter record-ready mode, and then press **[PLAY]**.

When you come to the location to be re-recorded, punch-in will automatically occur. Play your instrument or sing, and your performance will be re-recorded. When you come to the punch-out location, the track will automatically return to playback mode.

- 9** When you finish recording, press **[STOP]**.

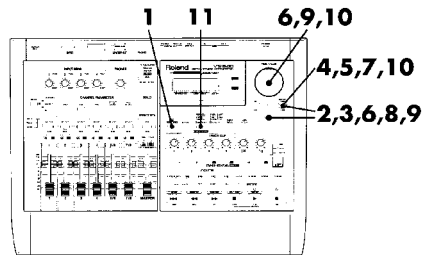
- 10** Now let's listen to the re-recorded performance. Press the track 1 **TRACK STATUS/V.TRACK** button to switch the track status to **PLAY** (the **TRACK STATUS** indicator will light green), and playback the song from the beginning. Use the **TRACK CUE 1** knob to adjust the volume of track 1.

If you wish to monitor the **TRACK CUE** output, use headphones or listen to the output of the **MON/AUX** jacks. With the current settings, the **TRACK CUE** output is not output from the **MASTER OUT** jacks.

■Applying effects while you record

Here we will explain how you can apply an effect to the input source of INPUT 1, and record the sound on track 3.

We will use the Easy Routing function to make mixer settings. The basic procedure is to use [CURSOR] to move the cursor to the item that you wish to modify, and use the TIME/VALUE dial to modify the value. To advance to the next page press [ENTER(TAP)]. To return to the previous page press [EXIT].



1 Press [EZ ROUTING].

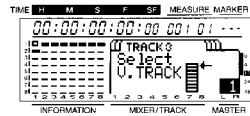
2 Use [CURSOR] to select the Recording icon and press [ENTER(TAP)].



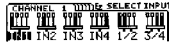
3 In this page you can specify whether or not you wish to modify the parameter values (default values) that were set automatically by Easy Routing. In order to modify the settings, use [CURSOR] to select the "YES" icon. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER].



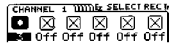
4 The V-track setting page will appear. The display will show the current settings. We want V-track 1 of track 3 to be the current track, but since this is already the setting that was made when a new song was created, you can simply press [ENTER(TAP)].



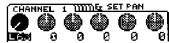
- 5** In this page you can specify the input for each channel. We want to select the INPUT 1 jack as the input for channel 1, but since this is the default setting, we do not need to change it. Simply press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 6** In this page you can specify the recording destination track for each channel. In this example, use [CURSOR] and the TIME/VALUE dial to select "3" (track 3) as the recording destination track for channel 1. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 7** In this page you can specify the pan for each channel. Pan has been automatically set for each channel for which a recording destination track was selected in step 6. For this example, make sure that the channel 1 pan is set to full left (L63). Then press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 8** In this page you can specify whether or not you wish to use effects. In this example we will use effects, so use [CURSOR] to select the "YES" icon. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER(TAP)].

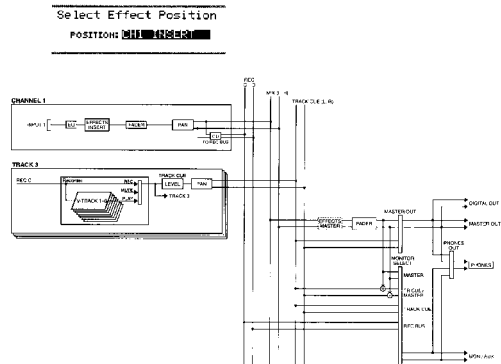


- 9** In this page you can select the effect patch that will be used. First move the cursor to "TYPE," and select the algorithm (Guitar Multi 1) type that you wish to use. Next, move the cursor to "PATCH" and select the patch. Press [ENTER(TAP)], and the specified patch will be selected. Press [ENTER(TAP)] once again to move to the next page.

For this example, select the INSERT type patch "A-80:Rock Lead."



- 10** In this page, you can specify the location at which the effect will be connected. For this example, we will insert the effect between the EQ and fader of channel 1. Use the TIME/VALUE dial to select "CH1 INSERT" as the connection location. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER(TAP)].



For details on effect connections, refer to "Effect connections" (owner's manual page 72).

- 11** The final page will appear. If you have finished making settings, press [DISPLAY] to return to Play mode.

FX ROUTING is finished!
Please set levels using
the Sens Knobs and Faders
000000

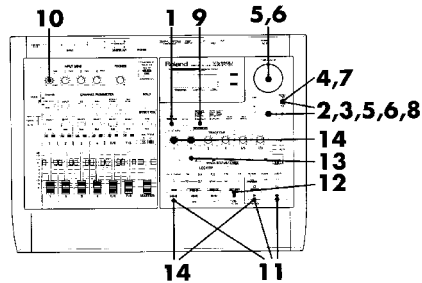
- 12** Record using the same procedure as steps 11-16 of "Recording on track 1" (page 7).

■ Multi-track recording

To create a multi-track recording, you will listen to previously-recorded tracks while you record additional new tracks. This process is called "overdubbing."

Here we will explain how you can listen to a performance that was recorded on track 1 while you record an additional performance on track 2. Connections between the VS-840 and your instrument can be left just as they are described in "Recording on track 1" (page 7).

We will use the Easy Routing function to make mixer settings. The basic procedure is to use [CURSOR] to move the cursor to the item that you wish to modify, and use the TIME/VALUE dial to modify the value. To advance to the next page press [ENTER(TAP)]. To return to the previous page press [EXIT].



1 Press [EZ ROUTING].

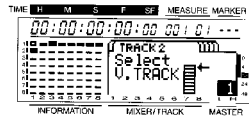
2 Use [CURSOR] to select the Recording icon and press [ENTER(TAP)].



3 In this page you can specify whether or not you wish to modify the parameter values (default values) that were set automatically by Easy Routing. In order to modify the settings, use [CURSOR] to select the "YES" icon. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER].



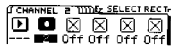
- 4** The V-track setting page will appear. The display will show the current settings. We want to make settings so that V-track 1 of track 2 will be the current track, but since this is the setting when the new song was created, we will simply press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 5** In this page you can specify the input for each channel. Use [CURSOR] and the TIME/VALUE dial to select "1" (track 1) as the input for channel 1, and "INT" (the INPUT 1 jack) as the input for channel 2. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 6** In this page you can specify the recording destination track for each channel. For this example, use [CURSOR] and the TIME/VALUE dial to select "2" (track 2) as the recording destination track for channel 2. After making the setting, press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 7** In this page you can set the pan for each channel. Pan has been set automatically for each channel for which a recording destination track was specified in step 6. For this example, make sure that channel 2 pan is set to full right (R63). Then press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 8** In this page you can specify whether or not effects will be used. Since we will not be using effects in this example, use [CURSOR] to select the "NO" icon. Then press [ENTER(TAP)].



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- 9** The final page will appear. If you are finished making settings, press [DISPLAY] to return to Play mode.

FX ROUTING is finished ✓
Please set levels using
the Sens Knobs and Faders
created

-
- 10** Use the INPUT SENS 1 knob to adjust the input sensitivity.

Raise the volume of your instrument as high as possible to achieve a high input level. At this time, adjust the input sensitivity as high as possible without causing the PEAK indicator to light. Normally you should adjust the input sensitivity so that the level meter moves in the range of -12-0 dB when the channel fader is at the 0dB position.

NOTE Since the post-fader sound will be recorded, leave the channel fader at the 0 dB position. If you wish to adjust the volume for listening, use the TRACK CUE 2 knob. Moving the TRACK CUE 2 knob will not affect the sound that will be recorded.

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- 11** Settings are now complete. Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song, press [REC] to enter record-ready mode (the REC indicator will blink red), and press [PLAY] to begin recording.

When you begin recording, the performance that is recorded on track 1 will playback. Listen to this playback, and play along to record your additional performance on track 2. Use the TRACK CUE 1 knob to adjust the volume of track 1.

-
- 12** When you finish recording, press [STOP] to stop.

-
- 13** Now let's listen to the performance that was recorded. First set track 2 to playback mode. Press the track 2 TRACK STATUS/V.TRACK button to make the button indicator light green.

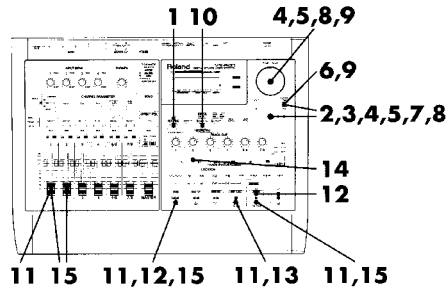
-
- 14** Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song, and then press [PLAY] to playback the song. Use the TRACK CUE 1 knob to adjust the volume of track 1, and the TRACK CUE 2 knob to adjust the volume of track 2.

How did it go? Are you happy with the recorded result? If so, follow the procedure of "Saving your recorded performance" (page 10) to save the song. If you would like to cancel the performance you just recorded, refer to "Canceling a recording" (page 11). If you would like to re-record just a portion of your performance, refer to "Re-recording a portion of your performance" (page 12).

■Apply an effect to the track playback and record the result

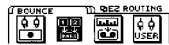
In this section, we will explain how to apply an effect to the guitar sound that has been recorded in track 1/V-track 1, and record the result on track 2/V-track 2.

We will use the Easy Routing function to make mixer settings. The basic procedure is to use [CURSOR] to move the cursor to the item that you wish to modify, and use the TIME/VALUE dial to modify the value. To advance to the next page press [ENTER(TAP)]. To return to the previous page press [EXIT].

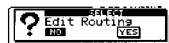


1 Press [EZ ROUTING].

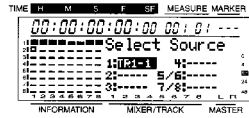
2 Use [CURSOR] to select the Track Bouncing icon and press [ENTER(TAP)].



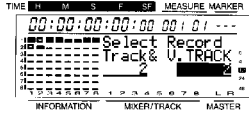
3 In this page you can specify whether or not you wish to modify the parameter values (default values) that were set automatically by Easy Routing. In order to modify the settings, use [CURSOR] to select the "YES" icon. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER].



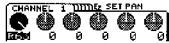
- 4** In this page you can specify the input for each channel. Use [CURSOR] and the TIME/VALUE dial to select "TR1-1"(track 1/V-track 1) as the input for channel 1. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 5** In this page you can specify the recording destination track. For this example, we want to select track 2/V-track 2 as the recording destination. Use [CURSOR] and the TIME/VALUE dial to make settings as shown in the following screen page. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 6** In this page you can set the pan for each channel. Pan has been set automatically for each channel for which a recording destination track was specified in step 5. For this example, make sure that the channel 1 pan is set to full right (R63). Then press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 7** In this page you can specify whether you wish to use an effect or not. Since we will use an effect in this example, use [CURSOR] to select the "YES" icon. Then press [ENTER(TAP)].



- 8** In this page you can select the effect patch that will be used. For this example, select a guitar-multi algorithm. First, move the cursor to "TYPE" and select "Guitar Multi 1" as the algorithm type. Next, move the cursor to "PATCH" and select the patch. For this example, select a patch such as "A-81:Smokin' GTR". Press [ENTER(TAP)] and that patch will be selected. Press [ENTER(TAP)] once again to advance to the next page.

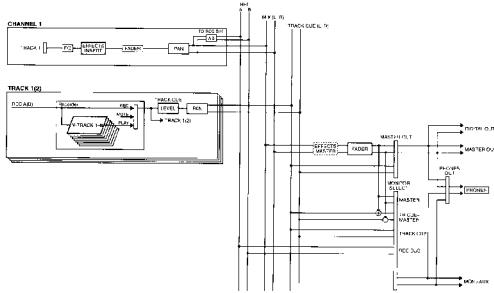
```

Select Effect
TYPE: Guitar Multi 1
PATCH: A-81:Smokin' GTR
CHANGE OK?
  
```

- 9** In this page you can choose where the effect will be connected. For this example, we will insert the effect between the EQ and fader of channel 1. Use the TIME/VALUE dial to select "CH1 INSERT" as the connection destination. When you finish making settings, press [ENTER(TAP)].

```

Select Effect Position
POSITION: CH1 INSERT
  
```



For details on effect connections, refer to "Effect connections" (owner's manual page 72).

- 10** The final page will appear. If you have finished making settings, press [DISPLAY] to return to Play mode.

```

EZ ROUTING is finished.
Please set levels using
the Sens Knobs and Faders.
  
```

11 Adjust the recording level. Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song, and then press [PLAY] to playback the song. Use the channel 1 fader to adjust the recording level. When you have finished making the adjustment, press [STOP].

12 Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song, then press [REC] to make the button indicator blink red, and then press [PLAY] to begin recording.

13 When you finish recording, press [STOP] to stop.

14 Now let's listen to the performance that you just recorded. First, set track 2 to playback status. Press the track 2 TRACK STATUS/V.TRACK button to make the button indicator light green.

15 Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song, and then press [PLAY] to playback the song. Turn down the channel 1 fader, and use the channel 2 fader to adjust the volume of track 2.

How is the recording? If you are happy with the recorded result, use the procedure explained in "Saving your recorded performance" (page 10) to save the song. If you would like to cancel the recording that you just made, refer to "Canceling a recording" (page 11).

