

Roland BK7m Arranger

Training videos and sessions for the Symposium 3.0

BK-7M

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General

The following curriculum outlines the training sessions for the BK7m for the Gr8ideas Symposium 3.0 I will provide several video recordings which you should watch prior to the actual Symposium sessions. Be aware that I cannot spend individual times during the live sessions with major issues if you haven't watched the videos and followed the instructions. Though you can reach out to me with individual questions via email at markus.baggio@gmail.com. Within the videos I often refer to the Roland FR-8x as this is my instrument, but for the most part this applies also to the FR-4x or other digital / MIDI accordions.

Video recordings

The following recordings will be shared via the Gr8ideas member site for those attending the Symposium. Supporting documents and files will be provided at the release of the recordings.

Video #1: Connections - Connect your Roland / Midi Accordion and peripherals to your BK7m and to your speaker system.

Video #2: Basic Controls - Although you may have used the BK7m before I will explain all the basic controls on the BK7m unit.

Video #3: Settings – Verify that you have the latest firmware version of the BK7m. Once you have run the Wizard you need to update several MIDI and Global settings on your BK7m to make it work properly. After the configuration you can run a basic test that your setup is working. You need to watch the recording, get familiar and verify the settings – if your set doesn't work as expected, this is most likely where you made a mistake.

Video #4: Settings Accordion – Review and verify your MIDI parameter and other settings on your digital accordion. This really depends on your instrument. I will show the setup of my FR-8x. You have to adapt to your instrument.

Video #5: Playing your Arranger module - After you have configured your instrument it is time to get a basic understanding of how to play with an arranger module. It may require some changes in your current playstyle.

Video #6: Music Assistant Performance list - The BK7m comes with a predefined performance list. This is a great starting point for new users and helps experienced once to find examples for styles and sounds for 999 songs.

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Video #7: Working with performance lists – Now that you learned how to use the Music Assistant it is time to create and manage your own performance list. A performance list can be compared to a playlist of songs on your computer or phone.

Video #8: iPad and BK Manager – Roland had released many years ago an app for iOS which allows you some control over the BK7m. I will show you how this app can be used to find sounds and styles and how you can use this for data entry of test instead of the “wheel”.

Live sessions

We will have two distinct live sessions. They will be repeated once to cater to different time zones. Within each session I will play a recording to showcase the individual capabilities. Followed by an interactive discussion between all attendees for questions and answers, but more importantly to share experience related to the topic.

Using Styles

Styles are the main feature of any arranger. They are basically your “band-in-a-box” accompanying your music. I will showcase examples of how to use the different variations, intros, endings and fill-ins. A performance list with songs and corresponding sheet music will be provided separately to practice.

Using Sounds

Why stop with the sounds and voices from your Accordion? The BK7m provides a wide range of additional sounds, which can elevate your performance. The recording will provide examples how to enrich your existing sounds and voices and will cover also a specific feature called Melody Intelligent. A performance list with songs and corresponding sheet music will be provided separately to practice.