

ROLAND FR-4X – SHAKING IT UP WITH YOUR V-ACCORDION!

Bellows Shakes - Secrets Revealed! Theory, Settings & Technique

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As a digital accordion aficionado, belonging to a unique subset of accordionists that is not satisfied with merely "playing the notes", you strive to create a multi-timbral musical meme that will showcase your musical abilities in the widest variety of ways – regardless of your level as an accordionist. There are certain techniques available (and, in fact, unique) to the accordionist that can be learned by most and, with a degree of practice, can be incorporated into numerous playing situations to “snazz up” your performance with

musical milestones, memorable moments, and virtual virtuosity – regardless of whether your content is classical, jazz, folk or hybrid. They can be employed effectively whether you are a single finger melody maker, or a five fingered penta-chordionist.

This performance enhancing intoxicating “*accordion-only*” effect is both legal and has no age limit. It is, in fact, the very well-known but rarely implemented **Bellows Shake!**

In this short session, we will review what makes a bellows shake, what makes it different (and more difficult to execute) on a V-Accordion, ponder its origins, and briefly answer the age-old question of whether it was discovered by an extremely nervous accordionist just prior to playing “Lady of Spain” at a competition. We will then unlock the key points to successfully preparing the V-Accordion for bellows shaking, including why the FR-4x is actually the best V-Accordion for successful low-effort bellows shaking – emphasizing that it is only if you have it set up in a particular manner. Some accordionists have much better “luck” at bellows shaking a V-Accordion than others – even though they all claim to be good acoustic accordion shakers. You will understand why this is so. Bellows technique is the crowning key to success. Air has most everything to do with the sounding of an acoustic accordion’s reeds during a bellows shake; but it is actually the lack of a normal amount of air in the bellows that is at least half responsible for what makes a V-Accordion bellows shake sound like it should.

Having attended this session, you will be less “shaky” about honing your bellows shaking skills.

Time and the new virtual technology allowing – if possible – we will try to end the session with a few volunteers demonstrating what they learned regarding bellows shaking technique, at which time they will receive a couple of pointers from the instructor based on further improving their technique.

A fun time for all - a whole lot of shaking goin'on !!