Fantom-G Workstation Keyboard

Power User Control

FGWS02

About the Workshop Booklets

Roland's Fantom G6, G7, and G8—the Fantom-G family—set a new standard for excellence in workstation keyboards, with spectacular sounds and incredible built-in effect-processing muscle. A beautiful full-color LCD display and innovative performance features make getting around a pleasure and make the G6, G7, and G8 a dream to play. For recording, the Fantom-G contains a powerful 128 MIDI/audio track sequencer. Each Fantom-G can also host two Roland ARX SuperNATURAL™ cards whose breakthrough modeling technology provides sounds with amazing sonic detail, expressive possibilities, and sound-design opportunities.

Each Fantom-G Workshop Series booklet focuses on one Fantom-G topic, and is intended as a companion to the *Fantom G6/G7/G8 Owner's Manual*.

This booklet requires Fantom-G Operating System v1.20 or higher. You can download the latest Fantom-G O.S. for free from *www.RolandUS.com*.

About This Booklet

With its front-panel controls and a connected mouse, there are lots of ways to get things done on the Fantom-G, no matter how you like to work. This booklet starts you down the road to becoming a Fantom-G power user. The next booklet, *Power User Control 2: The Pads*, finishes the trip with a discussion of the DYNAMIC PADS, a world unto themselves on the Fantom-G.

Understanding the Symbols in This Booklet

In this booklet, you'll come across information that deserves special attention—that's the reason it's labeled with one of the following symbols.

A note is something that adds information about the topic at hand.

A tip offers suggestions for using the feature being discussed.

Warnings contain important information that can help you avoid possible damage to your equipment, your data, or yourself.

Flexibility and Speed

In this booklet we'll present some of the less-obvious ways of operating the Fantom-G. As you'll see, there are often several ways to do the same thing. Roland's designed the Fantom-G this way to make it optimally adaptable to anyone's workflow. As we go along, we'll mention some interesting control combinations for you to consider using.

While changing sounds as you play is a form of control, that's not the kind of control we're talking about here—you'll find that kind of information in the *Manipulating Sounds in Realtime* Workshop booklet.

Using a Mouse with the Fantom-G

The Mouse You Want

The Fantom-G is designed to work with any USB mouse you might use with a computer. To get the most out of the Fantom-G's mouse support, you want a USB mouse with

- *two buttons*—since left-clicks and right-clicks do different things on the Fantom-G.

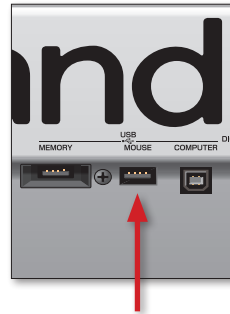- *a scroll wheel*—for moving quickly through a list.

Either a PC or Mac mouse is fine.

The Fantom-G works most reliably with a corded mouse, though some cordless mice will also work.

Connecting Your Mouse

Connect your mouse's USB cable to the USB MOUSE jack on the Fantom-G's rear panel—that's all the setup you need to do.

Mousing Basics

As with a mouse on a computer, an onscreen cursor shows the current position of your mouse.

We're going to assume you already possess mouse skills, and that you know how to click and drag with a mouse.
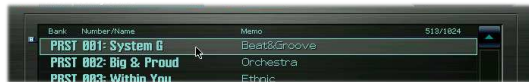
While we'll mention special cases throughout this booklet, your mouse basically performs as follows.

The Left Mouse Button

The left button acts as your main clicker—if we say "click your mouse" in a Workshop booklet, this is the button we mean.

Use the left button to interact with things onscreen, including:

- *parameters*—whose values you'd like to adjust. Click a parameter's value to highlight it, and click and drag it to the right or upward to increase its value, or to the left or down to lower it.

- *things appearing in lists*—such as live sets, studio sets, patches, songs, parameter values, and so on.

- *onscreen F-buttons*—instead of pressing their physical counterparts beneath the display.

- *scroll bar handles*—to navigate up and down through lists.

- *zoom bars*—to change the appearance of certain displays.
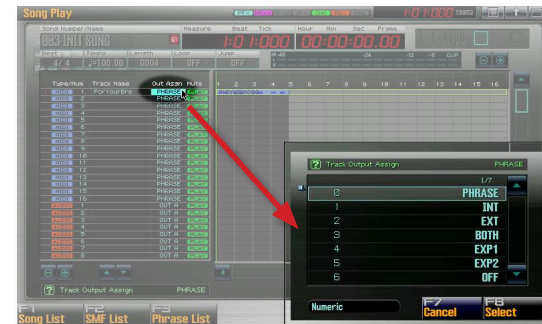
- *icons*—that do various things.

These three icons are always available in the top-right corner of the Fantom-G display. Click the left icon to display the Menu window. Click the center icon to exit the current screen, where applicable. Click the icon on the right to open the Shortcut Menu window.

The Right-Hand Mouse Button

As with a computer, the job of the right-hand mouse button on the Fantom-G is to provide quick access to useful options based on what you're doing. Therefore, when you right-click your mouse on

- *a live-set name in Live mode*—the Live Set List window opens.

- *a patch name in Single mode*—the Patch List window opens.

- *a parameter most anywhere*—a list of available values for the parameter appears.

Once a right-click has revealed a list of options, the right-hand mouse button operates temporarily as a left mouse button so you can quickly grab what you want from the displayed list without switching buttons. For this reason, the right-hand button is actually the only mouse button you need for most editing operations.

In general, the right-click gets you a list of related options for the item you've clicked on. The best workflow for one Fantom-G operation may not be the same as for another, so you'll find some exceptions to this as you operate the Fantom-G. Here are some key exceptions:

- *To invoke the Patch List window by right-clicking a part in the Live Play screen*—select the desired part first with a standard click.

- *To edit a track parameter in the Song Play or Song Edit window*—use the ◀ or ▶ button to highlight the parameter before right-clicking.

There are also a few cases—such as setting sample start, end, and loop parameters on the Sample Edit screen—where a right-click does nothing at all, since any list of values it opened would be unusably long.

The Mouse Scroll Wheel

The mouse scroll wheel's function is simple, as we said earlier: It scrolls through a displayed list.

All Together Now

As you become comfortable with your mouse, consider using its three elements together. For example, a right-ciick is always a fast way to get to a list of values, and there's nothing more immediate than clicking on the one you want it the list. On the other hand, the scroll wheel is helpful when you want to look through a range of options.

QWERTY Searching and Naming

One of the things a mouse connected to your Fantom-G allows you to do is to take advantage of the Fantom-G's pair of QWERTY features:

- *QWERTY searching*—allows you to locate patches/rhythm sets/sample sets, live sets, and studio sets by name.

- *QWERTY naming*—allows you to quickly name things you create and store in the Fantom-G's memory.

When a QWERTY feature is available for a task you're performing, you'll see the Fantom-G's QWERTY icon onscreen.

QWERTY icon

Whether you're searching for something or naming something, the QWERTY features work the same way. Here's how to use them:

1   Click the QWERTY icon to open the translucent QWERTY-keyboard window.

2   Click the keys in the onscreen keyboard to enter the desired characters—the characters you enter appear at the top of the onscreen keyboard and in the screen's Search field below the QWERTY icon.

Search field

Filtered list

As you enter characters, the list you're searching is filtered to hide any items whose names don't contain the string of characters you've entered so far.

4

You can also enter spaces using the spacebar, or go back by clicking the Back Space key. Click Shift to enter capital letters or alternate characters for the number keys, or click Clear all to start over. You can close the QWERTY keyboard at any time by clicking the "X" in its upper right-hand corner.

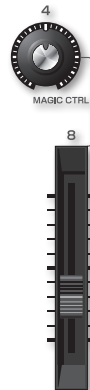3   When you're done, click OK in the onscreen keyboard to complete the process and close the QWERTY keyboard window.

To clear the Search field and cancel a search, click the Search field's "X."

4   Using the usual methods, select the desired item you've found or complete the storage or naming operation you're performing.

The Magic Controls

Typically, the Fantom-G's realtime control knobs and sliders allow you to manipulate sounds in realtime. The fourth knob and eighth fader, meanwhile, have a second identity as the Magic Controls. The Magic Controls help you navigate the Patch List screen:

- *Knob 4*—quickly selects patch categories.
- *Fader 8*—quickly selects patches from the current category.

Turning On the Magic Controls

1   Press the MENU button.

2   Press or click F2 (System).

3   Press F2 (↓) to display the Knob/Slider parameters.

4   Make sure that the Knob Assign Select and Slider Assign Select parameters are set to Screen, as shown here.

5   If they're not, set them to Screen, and then press or click F7 (Sys Write) to save your changes. (To turn off the Magic Controls, set the parameters to FIX.)

Reconfiguring the Magic Controls

To change the Magic Controls to operate the way you'd like them to:

1   Navigate to the System screen as described above.

2   Press F2 (↓) to display the Magic Control parameters.

3   Select the job you'd like the knob to perform by setting the Magic Control Knob parameter as desired. Set it to

- *OFF*—so Knob 4 doesn't operate as a magic control.
- *CATEGORY/BANK*—so Knob 4 select banks on the Patch List screen. (This is the default setting.)

- *SCROLL FINE*—so Knob 4 scrolls through the patch list in small steps.

- *SCROLL COARSE*— so Knob 4 scrolls through the patch list in larger steps.

4   Set the Magic Control Slider parameter as desired. Set it to

- *OFF*— so Fader 8 doesn't operate as a magic control.

- *CATEGORY/BANK*— so Fader 8 select banks on the Patch List screen.

- *SCROLL FINE*—so Fader 8 scrolls through the patch list by smaller increments.

- *SCROLL COARSE*—so Fader 8 scrolls through the patch list by larger increments. (This is the default setting.)

5   Press or click F7 (Sys Write) to save your changes.

Using the Knobs for Editing Parameters

When you're editing patches, effects, or samples on the Fantom-G, you can often save time by adjusting parameter values using the four control knobs, which are frequently pre-assigned to important parameters.

When you can use a control knob for editing, you'll see the knob's number next to the parameter whose value it adjusts.

In this patch editing example, we're editing an LFO, where the Rate,
Pitch, TVF, and TVA parameters can be set using Knobs 1-4, respectively.

The Shortcut Menu

At any time, you can press the DISPLAY button located at the display's lower-right-hand corner to show the Shortcut menu. The Shortcut menu allows you to jump to the current mode's Play screen, as well as to some important other screens you'll often want to visit.

While the Shortcut menu's items are determined by the Fantom-G's operating system software, you can use the DYNAMIC PADS' customizable Bookmark mode to jump to most any screen you want. We'll discuss bookmarks in the *Power User Control 2: The Pads* Workshop booklet.

Favorites and User Groups

Since this booklet's all about speed, the Fantom-G's Favorites and User Groups features certainly deserve a mention here. With a little setup, both features allow you to get instantaneously to what you need.

The basic idea is this:

1   You "register" something as a Favorite or in a User Group.

2   You "recall" the Favorite or User Group item, and the Fantom-G instantly grabs it for you.
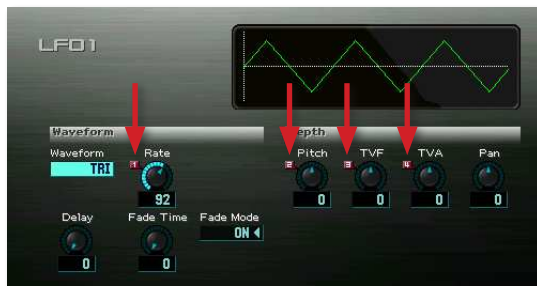
It's important to understand that when you register a Favorite or User Group item, you're not actually re-storing the item in a new memory location—you're just creating a shortcut that points to it.

The Difference Between Favorites and User Groups

While Favorites and user groups are similar in that they both allow you to collect your most-used items in one place for quick selection, they're also a bit different. Here's what we mean. With

- *Favorites*—you can instantly recall your most-used patches, rhythm sets, sample sets, live sets, studio sets, or even songs, regardless of whether you're currently in Single, Live, or Studio mode. When you select an item, the Fantom-G automatically jumps to the required mode.

- *User groups*—you can quickly recall items in your current mode. In

  - *Single mode*—you can instantly recall patches, rhythm sets, and sample sets.

  - *Live mode*—you can instantly recall live sets.

  - *Studio mode*—you can instantly recall studio sets.

Both Favorites and User Group items are organized into "banks," each of which contains 16 Favorite or User Group memory slots. There are 16 globally available Favorite banks. Single, Live, and Studio mode, each contain four User Group banks.

Why We're Not Really Getting Into User Groups Now

User Groups are set up and recalled in the DYNAMIC PADS' User Group pad mode. Since a full understanding of pad modes is required for an explanation of working with User Groups, we'll get to them when we discuss pad modes in detail in the next Workshop booklet, *Power User Control 2: The Pads*.

Using Favorites

The Two Favorite Screens

Pressing the FAVORITE button leads you to two screens on which you work with Favorites. On the:

- *Favorite Play screen*—you recall your Favorites.

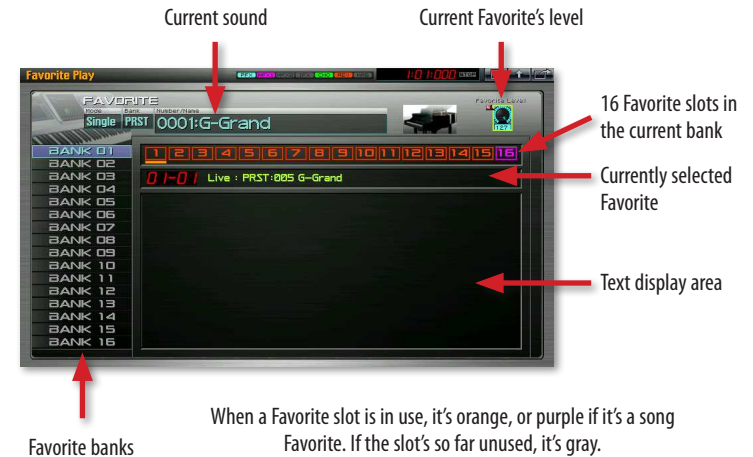- *Favorite Edit screen*—you register and set up your Favorites.

The Favorite Play and Edit screens look a lot alike. The main difference is the F buttons. On the Favorite Play screen, the F buttons recall your Favorites. On the Favorite Edit screen they're devoted to setup operations.

> The FAVORITE button itself helps you know which Favorite screen you're on—it lights solidly when you're on the Favorite Play screen and flashes when you're on the Favorite Edit screen.

Other than their F buttons, the screens have the same basic layout:

Current sound

Current Favorite's level

16 Favorite slots in the current bank

Currently selected Favorite

Text display area

Favorite banks

When a Favorite slot is in use, it's orange, or purple if it's a song Favorite. If the slot's so far unused, it's gray.

Setting Up Favorites

Registering a Favorite

Here's how to register a patch, rhythm set, sample set, live set, or studio set as a Favorite. The process for registering a song as a Favorite's a bit different. We'll explain it in the "Registering a Song Favorite" section later.

1 In

- *Single mode*—select the desired patch, rhythm set, or sample set as your keyboard sound.

- *Live mode*—select the desired live set.

- *Studio mode*—select the desired studio set.

2 Press the FAVORITE button twice so it blinks and the Fantom-G displays the Favorite Edit screen.

3 To select the Favorite bank in which you want to register your selection, press F1 (Bank/Up) or F2 (Bank/Down), or click the desired bank's name with your mouse.

4 Selected the location in which you want to register your Favorite using F3 (←) and/or F3 (→). The currently selected Favorite location has an orange underline—in the illustration above, it's the first location.

5 Press or click F8 (Regist) to complete the registration procedure.

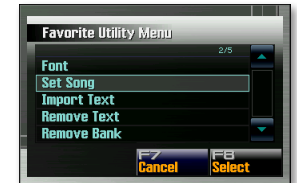To un-register, or "remove," a Favorite, select its location as described above and press or click F7 (Remove).

To clear the entire current bank of Favorites, press or click F6 (Util Menu), select Remove Bank, and then press or click F8 (Select.)

To quickly switch the Fantom-G's pads to the Favorite pad mode—where they can be used for quickly recalling your Favorites—press or click F5 (Dynamic Pad) on the Favorite Edit screen. We'll explain the various pad modes in the *Power User Control 2: The Pads* Workshop booklet.

Registering a Song Favorite

1 Press FAVORITE twice to display the Favorite Edit screen.

2 To select the Favorite bank in which you want to register your song, press F1 (Bank/Up) or F2 (Bank/Down), or click the desired bank's name with your mouse.

3 Selected the location in which you want to register the song using F3 (←) and/or F3 (→).

4 Press or click F6 (Util Menu).

5 Select Set Song from the Utility menu and press or click F8 (Select) to open the Select Song song list.

6 Choose the song you want to register, and then press or click (F8 (Select).

Recalling Favorites

The fastest way to recall Favorites is by using the pads as explained in the *Power User Control 2: The Pads* Workshop booklet. However, you can also recall them from the Favorite Play screen. Here's the best way to do this:

1 Press the FAVORITE button once to light the FAVORITE button and to display the Favorite Play screen.

2 To select the Favorite bank in which the item you want is registered, press ▼ or ▲, or click the desired bank's name with your mouse.

At the bottom of the screen, you can see the names of the first eight Favorites registered in the current bank. Each of these eight Favorites is assigned to one of the Fantom-G's eight F buttons.

3   To recall:

   • *one of the first eight Favorites*—press or click its F button.

   • *one of the next set of eight Favorites*—hold down SHIFT to display Favorites 9-16, and press or click the desired Favorite's F button.

Setting a Favorite's Level

The Fantom-G lets you set the volume at which a Favorite sound plays. To do this:

1   Recall the Favorite.

2   Navigate to the Favorite Edit screen, and then select the desired Favorite's slot using F3 (←) and/or F4 (→).

3   Using Control Knob 4, set the sound's level as desired.

4   Press or click F8 (Regist) to re-register the Favorite at its new volume.

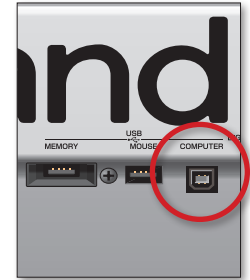## Displaying Text Onscreen

You can display text in the text area of the Favorite Play and Edit screens. This can be any kind of text at all, including:

   • *lyrics*   • *set lists*

   • *things you need to remember as you play the Fantom-G*—such as chord progressions, song structures, and so on.

   • *club-owner or wait-staff/bartender names*

To do this, you import the text you want from a plain-text file (with a ".txt" file extension) created a computer. Once the text is displayed, you can scroll up and down within the text using the Value dial or ▲ and/or ▼ buttons.

Here's how to import text into the Favorite screens:

1   Turn off the Fantom-G.

2   Start your computer and create or locate the text file you want to import into the Fantom-G.

3   Connect a USB cable from the Fantom-G's USB COMPUTER jack to an unused USB port on your computer.

4   Power up the Fantom-G.

5   On the Fantom-G, press MENU, and then F3 (USB Storage).

6   If the currently loaded Fantom-G project is stored

   • *in the Fantom-G's internal memory*— press or click F1 (Internal)

   • *on a USB stick*—press or click F2 (USB Memory).

We'll discuss projects and internal vs. USB memory in depth in the *Saving Your Work on the Fantom-G* Workshop booklet. If you're not sure where your current project resides, press or click F1 (Internal) now.

The storage area you selected in Step 6 appears on your computer as "FANTOM-G." If your computer is running

   • *Windows Vista or XP*—FANTOM G appears as a removable hard disk in your My Computer area.

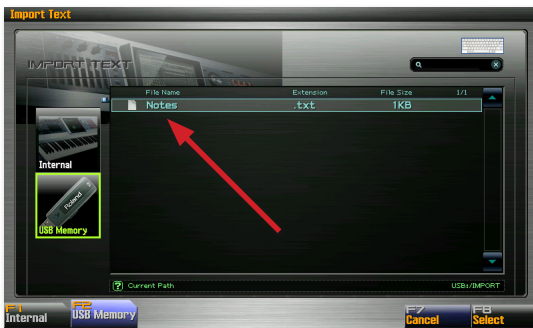   • *Mac OS X*—FANTOM G appears as an external drive on your desktop.

Once the Fantom-G and your computer are communicating, it's critical that you don't turn off either device—or exit the USB Storage screen on the Fantom-G—until you've un-mounted the Fantom-G from your computer. Failing to do so can damage your data or your USB memory device. We'll explain how to safely disconnect everything in a moment.

7   Double-click the FANTOM G drive on your computer and open the IMPORT folder.

8   Drag the text file from Step 1 into the IMPORT folder.

9   In

    • *Windows*—right-click the FANTOM G icon in My Computer, and select Remove.

    • *Mac OS X*—drag the FANTOM G icon to your Trash.

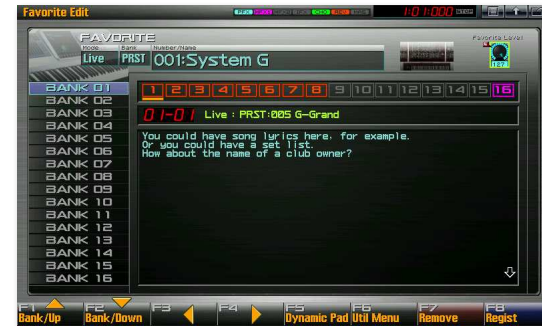10 On the Fantom-G, press or click F8 (Exit) twice to leave USB Storage mode.

Your computer and Fantom-G are now no longer communicating via USB, so you could turn either on off if you needed to.

11 Press or click the FAVORITES button twice to display the Favorite Edit screen.

12 Press or click F6 (Util Menu), and select Import Text.

13 Press or click the F button you hit back in Step 6 to display your text file.

14 Select the file and press or click F8 (Select)—the Fantom-G previews the text in the file for you to make sure it's the text you want.

15 Press or click F8 (Execute) to import the file.

Once the text is imported, it appears in the text area of the two Favorite screens.

You can switch between two text typefaces, or "fonts," by pressing or clicking F6 (Util Menu), selecting Font, and then pressing or clicking F8 (Select).

The End

We hope you've found this workshop helpful. Keep an eye out for other Fantom-G Workshop booklets available for downloading at *www.RolandUS. com*.