

MV-8800 Production Studio



Using Patterns In a Song

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MV8800WS16

About the Workshop Booklets

Roland's MV-8800 Production Studio is packed with features for making music. It's a heavy-duty sampler that can do all sorts of things with sounds you sample or import. Its sequencer has 136 tracks for MIDI sequencing and playing back audio, and its set of editing tools is deep. It's a great box for performing—using its pads or an attached MIDI keyboard—and, of course, it can even burn a CD of your final master mix.

Each MV-8800 Workshop Series booklet focuses on one MV-8800 topic, and is intended as a companion to your *MV-8800 Owner's Manual*.

About This Booklet

After you've recorded a bunch of beats as patterns in Pattern mode, you can bring them over to Song mode and string them together to build a new song, or lay the patterns in against song tracks you've already recorded. This booklet explains how to use patterns in a song.

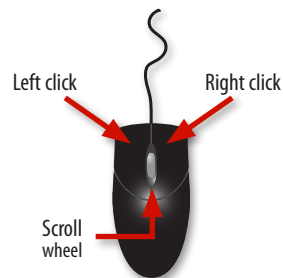
The Buttons, the LCD, or a VGA?

On the MV-8800, you can work on the built-in LCD or on an optional color VGA monitor. You can use the MV-8800's front-panel controls, or a mouse on your VGA screen. No matter how you like to work, there's an easy way to get things done.

Probably the best idea is to work primarily with a mouse on a VGA, using the MV-8800's buttons to quickly get in and out of MV-8800 screens. The procedures in this booklet typically assume you'll be working this way.

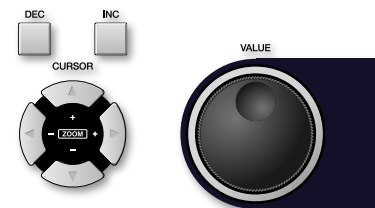
If you're not, don't worry, because the VGA windows and LCD screens are essentially the same. There are clickable VGA icons for all of the MV-8800's buttons. You can also press an onscreen button by clicking your mouse or by pressing an F button on the MV-8800. The main difference has to do with how you deal with settings—or "parameters"—and how you select objects.

If you're using a mouse:



You select parameters and objects with a left click. You change the selected parameter's value by turning the scroll wheel. You can display an object's menu by right-clicking the object.

If you're using the MV-8800's buttons:



You select parameters and objects with the ◀, ▶, ▲, and ▼ CURSOR buttons. Change a selected parameter's value by turning the VALUE dial or by pressing DEC and INC.

Understanding the Symbols in This Booklet

Throughout 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.

Patterns in Song Mode

If a beat appears in different sections of a song, why re-record the beat over and over each time you need it in a song? Patterns make it easy to use the same chunk of music as many times as you like. Just record a beat as a pattern and play the pattern in the song each time you want to hear the beat.

There are basically two ways to use patterns in a song:

- *You can build a new song from patterns*—by chaining the patterns together to build the song's skeleton or structure. Once you've got the patterns in place, you can record other tracks over them to fill out the song's arrangement. When you want to put together a song from patterns, the fastest way to work is by using "step-time" pattern recording.
- *You can add patterns to tracks you've already recorded*—by laying them into the song wherever you want them. Using "realtime" pattern recording, you can perform your patterns into the song by playing them from the pads. Record them so they play back normally from beginning to end, or make them start and stop, or stutter, or even switch between pieces of patterns to make new beats.



In this booklet, we'll use step-time pattern recording for building a song, and realtime pattern recording for adding patterns to recorded song tracks. Really, you can use either method for either purpose.

The Pattern Track

When you add patterns to a song, you record them into a special "pattern track." This is true whether you're using step or realtime recording.

Here's how to create a pattern track in a song:

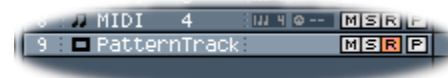
- 1 Press the SONG button to make sure you're in Song mode.
- 2 Use the ▼ or ▲ CURSOR buttons to select the last track in your song, or just click the track with your mouse. The pattern track you're going to create will appear beneath this track when we're done.

SONG



- 3 Press the MENU button, and then select Add Pattern Track from the menu—the MV-8800 creates a new pattern track in your song.

MENU

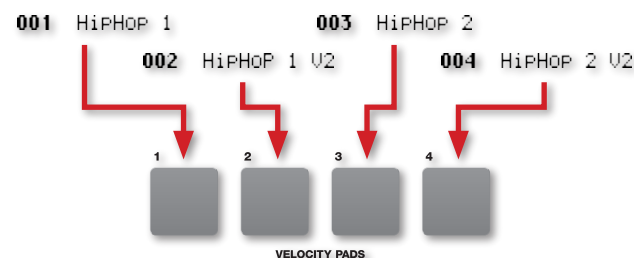


Playing Patterns on the Pads

In both of the pattern-recording methods we're going to talk about, you play a pattern you want by hitting the pad that plays it.

Each pattern in your project is automatically assigned to a pad. The patterns are laid out on the pads in the same order they appear in Pattern mode's pattern list, with Pattern 001 being mapped to Pad 1 in Pad Bank 1.

For example, in the *8800_Basics demo project, here's what the first four pads in Bank 1 play.

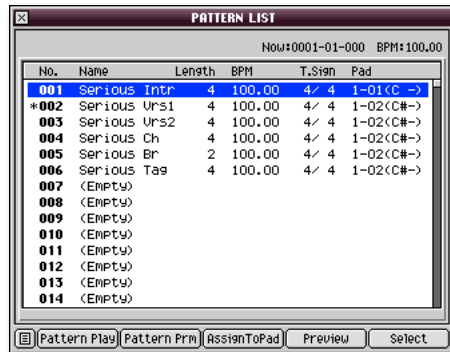


No.	Name	Length	BPM	T.Sig	Row
001	HiPHoP 1	4	87.00	4/4	1-01(C#->)
002	HiPHoP 1 U2	4	87.00	4/4	1-02(C#->)
003	HiPHoP 2	4	94.00	4/4	1-03(D->)
004	HiPHoP 2 U2	4	94.00	4/4	1-04(D#->)

Figuring Out Which Pads Play Your Patterns

Before you begin recording your pattern track in Song mode, you'll want to figure out which pad plays which pattern. Here's the easiest way to do this:

- 1 In Song mode, select your pattern track.
- 2 Press the PATTERN button to go to Pattern mode.
- 3 Click Pattern List—or press F1 on the MV-8800—to display the project's patterns.



- 4 Play the pads and watch the pattern list—each time you hit a pad, you'll hear the pattern it plays and see the pattern highlighted in the list.



If a pattern you want to use is in another pad bank, press the PAD BANKS button and select the bank you want. Any pad that plays a pattern is shown in pink in the PAD BANKS window.

- 5 Once you know what's where, press SONG to return to Song mode and get to work.



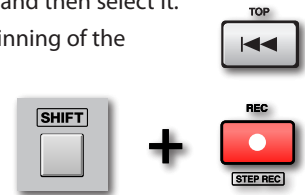
When you play patterns from the pads, they always play at full velocity, so you don't have to be concerned with how hard you're whacking the pads.

Building a New Song from Patterns



Before you start, you may want to write down a list of the patterns you plan to use, in the order you want them in the song. You can use this as a “map” when you step-record them into the pattern track.

- 1 In Song mode, create your pattern track, and then select it.
- 2 Press the TOP button to move to the beginning of the song.
- 3 Hold down SHIFT and press the REC button—the REC button lights, and the PATTERN STEP REC window opens.



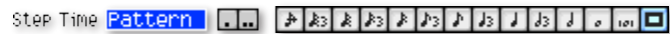
In step-time recording, you move forward through a song in steps. At each step, you place the pattern you want, and then the MV-8800 automatically moves you on to the next step.

You can set the size of each step with the Step Time parameter. You can set it to Pattern, or to a variety of note values. When you set it to:

- *Pattern*—the current step is the size of the pattern you place there. After you place a pattern, you step forward to the end of that pattern, which is exactly where you'll want to place the next one. This is the setting you'll normally use for building a song from patterns, so that's what we'll do here.
- *a note value*—the step is the length of the selected note. After you place a pattern, you step forward by that amount of time, where you can place the next pattern. You can use this for using portions of patterns, or for stutters or for breaks.

You can set the Step Time parameter in either of two ways. You can:

- select the desired note value or Pattern by clicking its button(s). The button with the rectangle gets you the Pattern setting.



- select the desired note value using the VALUE dial.

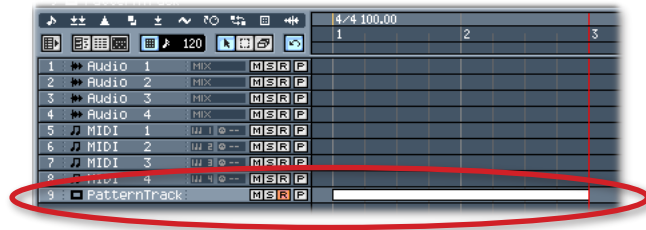
4 Set the Step Time parameter to Pattern for now.

We're ready to record. There are two ways you can do this. You can:

- play the patterns*—you want by hitting their pads.
- enter each pattern*—in the PATTERN STEP REC window by clicking Put Pattern, dialing in the pattern and the number of times you want it to play, and then clicking Execute to move to the next step. (You can also click Preview to hear what you've got without recording it yet.)

In this booklet, we'll go for speed, and show how to play in your patterns from the pads.

5 Hit the pad that plays the pattern you want at the beginning of the song—the MV-8800 records it and moves you to the next step.



If you want to try out different pads to find the pattern you're looking for without recording, press the REC button so it flashes—this puts you in Rehearsal mode. When you've figured out what you want to do next, press REC again so it lights solidly to show you're recording again.



If you hit the wrong pad, or make a mistake, you can move backwards through your steps—clearing what you've recorded at each step you pass through—by clicking Back Step in the PATTERN STEP REC window.

- Enter the rest of the patterns you want by hitting their pads in the desired order.
- When you get to the end of the song, hit the STOP button.



You can start step-time recording from any location within a song, so if you want to add more patterns to the end of patterns you've already recorded, move to the place you want to start in the song, and then begin step-time recording from there.

About Step Time Recording with Rhythm Values

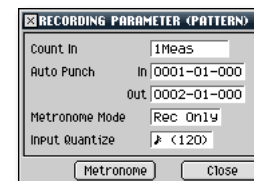
When you select a note value as your step size, a couple of buttons become active in the PATTERN STEP REC window:

- Tie*—Click Tie to extend the length of the last step by the current Step Time value.
- Rest*—Click Rest to add a pause that's the length of the current Step Time value.

Adding Patterns to Already-Recorded Tracks

Adding patterns to a song in realtime is easy—if you already know how to record MIDI and audio tracks, you pretty much know how to record patterns into songs.

- In Song mode, create your pattern track, and then select it.
- Press the TOP button to move to the beginning of the song.
- Press the REC button so it begins to flash—the metronome starts and the RECORDING PARAMETER (PATTERN) window opens.



4 Set:

- **Count In**—to 1Meas. Count In sets the number of beats you hear before recording actually begins once you press the PLAY button, as we will in Step 5 below. We like 1Meas, since it gives us the classic “1-2-3-4-go!” countoff.
- **Metronome Mode**—to Rec Only, so you’ll only hear it during recording.
- **Input Quantize**—to a note value that works with your song. In most cases, ♪ 120 is a good choice. Input quantizing fixes any timing mistakes you make as you place your patterns in the song. With the ♪ 120 setting, each pattern starts exactly at the nearest 16th note.



As you can see from the Auto Punch parameters, after you’ve recorded a pattern track, you can punch in different patterns into the middle of the song later on when the AUTO PUNCH button is lit. Auto Punch In sets the place where the new recording starts. Auto Punch Out sets the places where recording stops.

Once we go to the next step, you’ll hear the four-click “1-2-3-4” countoff, and then the MV-8800 will start recording the patterns you play on the pads. At the beginning of each song measure, you’ll hear a higher-pitched click to help you know where you are if you get confused.

- 5 Hit the PLAY button—on the fifth click, start playing your patterns from the pads.
- 6 When you’re done, press the STOP button.



To toss your recording, you can hit the lit UNDO button. To get it back, hit the flashing UNDO button again before you do anything else.



Once you’ve recorded your pattern track, you can move, copy, paste, erase, and/or cut the data you’ve recorded. To learn more about editing track data, see the *MV-8800 Owner’s Manual*.

The End

We hope you’ve found this workshop helpful. Keep an eye out for other MV-8800 Workshop booklets available for downloading at www.RolandUS.com.



For the latest MV-8800 updates and support tools, visit the Roland U.S. Web site at www.RolandUS.com. If you need personal assistance, call our amazing Product Support team at 323-890-3745.