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### Precautions

**Location**  
Using the unit in the following locations can result in a malfunction.

- Direct sunlight
- Locations of extreme temperature or humidity
- Excessively dusty or dirty locations
- Locations of excessive vibration
- Close to magnetic fields

**Power supply**  
Please connect the designated AC adapter to an AC outlet of the correct voltage. Do not connect it to an AC outlet of voltage which your unit is intended.

**Interference with other electrical devices**  
Radios and televisions placed nearby may experience reception interference. Operate this unit at a suitable distance from radios and televisions.

**Handling**  
To avoid breakdown, do not apply excessive force to the switches or controls.

**Care**  
If the exterior becomes dirty, wipe it with a clean, dry cloth. Do not use liquid cleaners such as benzene or thinner, or cleaning compounds or flammable polishes.

**Keep this manual**  
After reading this manual, please keep it for later reference.  
**Keeping foreign matter out of your equipment**  
Never set any container with liquid in it near this equipment. If liquid gets into the equipment, it could cause a breakdown, fire, or electrical shock.

Be careful not to let metal objects get into the equipment. If something does slip into the equipment, unplug the AC adapter from the wall outlet. Then contact your nearest Korg dealer or the store where the equipment was purchased.

**THE FCC REGULATION WARNING (for USA)**  
NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

If items such as cables are included with this equipment, you may use those included items. Unauthorized changes or modification to this system can void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

**Notice regarding disposal (EU only)**  
If this symbol is shown on the product, manual, battery or package, you must dispose of it in the correct manner to avoid harm to human health or damage to the environment. Contact your local administrative body for details on the correct disposal method. If the battery contains heavy metals in excess of the regulated amount, a chemical symbol is displayed below the symbol on the battery or battery package.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CONSUMERS**  
This product has been manufactured according to strict specifications and voltage requirements that are applicable in the country in which it is intended that this product should be used. If you have purchased this product via the internet, through mail order, and/or via a telephone sale, you must verify that the country is intended to be used in the country to which you reside. **WARNING:** Use of this product in any country other than that for which it is intended could be dangerous and could invalidate the manufacturer's or distributor's warranty. Please also obtain your receipt as proof of purchase otherwise your product may be disqualified from the manufacturer's or distributor's warranty. Company names, product names, and names of formats etc. are the trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

\* All product names and company names are the trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

### Installing batteries

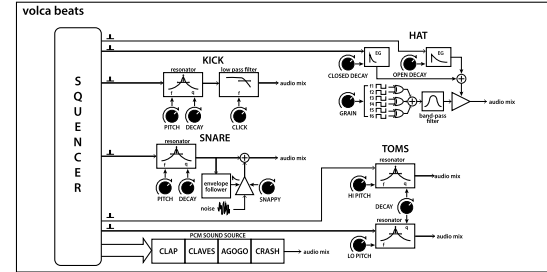
Slide off the battery cover from the rear panel and insert the batteries, making sure to observe the correct polarity (+/- orientation) and then reattach the battery cover.

- ▲ Turn off the volca beats before replacing the batteries.
- ▲ Depleted batteries should be immediately removed from the volca beats. Leaving depleted batteries in the battery compartment may cause malfunctions (the batteries may leak). In addition, remove the batteries if you do not expect to use the volca beats for an extended period of time.
- ▲ Do not mix partially used batteries with new ones, and do not mix batteries of differing types.

### About the MIDI implementation chart

An external MIDI device can be connected to the MIDI IN jack of the volca beats to control the audio source of the volca beats. The MIDI messages that can be received by the volca beats are listed in its MIDI implementation chart. You can download the MIDI implementation chart for the volca beats from the Korg Web site.

### Block diagram / Schéma de principe / Blockschaßbild / Diagrama de bloques / 结构图



### Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Korg volca beats. The volca beats is a rhythm sequencer with an analog sound source at the core. It achieves the classic tone essential to dance music with a thick sound that's distinctive of analog hardware, by further incorporating four 16-bit PCM's to control the playback speed. It can express the coarse graininess that transcends its intrinsic digital concept. The sequencer is constructed so that it emphasizes the spontaneity of adding and removing parts as well as pattern editing. In addition, it opens up possibilities for live performance with pattern effects, such as stutter.

**Power switch**  
This switch turns the power on/off. To turn the power off, press and hold the switch for approximately one second.

**Auto power-off**  
The volca beats has an auto power-off function. This function automatically turns off the volca beats after approximately four hours have passed since it last produced a sound. If desired, you can disable the auto power-off function. (See Specifying global parameter settings.)

**DC 9V jack**  
Connect the optional AC adapter here.  
▲ Only use the specified AC adapter. Using any AC adapter other than the specified model will cause malfunctions.

**STUTTER**  
This is a function that repeatedly hits the trigger for a selected part. The trigger will be hitting according to the settings on the TIME and DEPTH knobs.

**TIME knob:** This knob sets the hit timing interval. Reducing the value will create an effect like a drum roll, and by raising the value will create a delay-like effect.  
**DEPTH knob:** This knob sets the volume decay for each hit.

**Display**  
This displays the values selected by using the knobs and buttons.

**Step buttons 1 to 16**  
These function as part trigger buttons and as step buttons for the sequencer. Press the STEP MODE button to switch the function.

**Live performance mode (STEP MODE button unlit)**  
Press a step button between 1 and 10 to play the corresponding part in real-time. If a sequence is being recorded, the performance is recorded at the quantized step.  
Otherwise, use these buttons together with the FUNC button to specify settings for various functions.

**Step editing mode (STEP MODE button lit)**  
The buttons will function as step buttons for the sequencer. Pressing a button turns the step for the selected part on or off. Steps that have been turned on will be played.

**Specifying function settings with FUNC button**  
The setting for various functions can be specified by holding down the FUNC button and pressing a step button between 1 and 16. While a setting is being held, the FUNC button will blink and the LED below the step button corresponding to the function will light up.

**Selecting a part (FUNC button + step buttons 1 to 10)**  
While holding down the FUNC button, press a step button between 1 and 10 to select the part. The selected part can be edited.

**GLOBAL STUTTER SETTING (FUNC button + step button 13)**  
The stutter effect can be applied not only to the selected parts, but to all parts being played.

**Resetting active step mode (FUNC button + step button 14)**  
The settings for active step mode will return to the defaults (all steps turned on).

**Deleting the sequence pattern for a part (FUNC button 15)**  
While holding down the FUNC button, press step button 15 to delete the sequence pattern for the currently selected part.

**Deleting the sequence (FUNC button + step button 16)**  
While holding down the FUNC button, press step button 16 to delete the current sequence.

**Motion recording (FUNC button + step buttons 11, 12)**  
This function records adjustments made to the TIME and DEPTH knobs (below STUTTER) or the PCM SPEED knob. If a knob is used during a recording, the knob adjustment will be recorded into the sequence. Once the sequence has made a full cycle from the step where a knob was used, this function is automatically deactivated. While holding down the FUNC button, press step button 11 to record usage of the TIME and DEPTH knobs (below STUTTER). While holding down the FUNC button, press step button 12 to record usage of the PCM SPEED knob.

**MEMORY button**  
The volca beats is equipped with 8 memory locations that are used to save sequences. Press the MEMORY button, and then press a step button between 1 and 8 to load the saved sequence. Pressing the FUNC button and MEMORY button, then pressing a step button between 1 and 8 will save the current sequence into the memory.

**Returning all sequence data to the factory defaults**  
1. While holding down the FUNC and MEMORY buttons, turn on the volca beats.  
2. "LdPr" will appear on the display, and the (REC) and (PLAY) buttons will blink.  
3. Press the (REC) button to return the sequences to the factory defaults and start volca beats.  
2. Press the (PLAY) button to cancel the reset operation and simply start volca beats.

**KICK (kick drum)**  
**CLICK knob:** This knob sets the attack. The knob will light up with the timing of the sound from the kick drum.  
**PITCH knob:** This knob sets the pitch of the drum head sound.  
**DECAY knob:** This knob sets the length of the drum head sound.

**SNARE (snare drum)**  
**SNAPPY knob:** This knob sets the volume of the snare drum wires. The knob will light up with the timing of the sound from the snare drum.  
**PITCH knob:** This knob sets the pitch of the snare drum.  
**DECAY knob:** This knob sets the length of the drum head sound.

**TOM (high tom and low tom)**  
**HI PITCH knob:** This knob sets the pitch of the high tom. The knob will light up with the timing of the sound from the high tom.  
**LO PITCH knob:** This knob sets the pitch of the low tom. The knob will light up with the timing of the sound from the low tom.  
**DECAY knob:** This knob sets the length of the sound from the high tom and low tom.

**HAT (hi-hat)**  
**CLOSED DECAY knob:** This knob sets the length of the sound from a closed hi-hat. The knob will light up with the timing of the sound from the closed hi-hat.

**OPEN DECAY knob:** This knob sets the length of the sound from an open hi-hat. The knob will light up with the timing of the sound from the open hi-hat.  
**GRAIN knob:** This knob sets the coarseness of the noise generating the metallic sound of the hi-hat. Reducing the value will produce a scratchy, coarse tone.

**PCM**  
The volca beats has 4PCM sounds (trash, clap, claps and agogo) built in.  
**PCM SPEED knob:** This knob sets the playback speed for the selected PCM sound. This knob has no effect on the analog sound sources.

**PART </> buttons**  
Press these buttons to select the part to be edited. In addition, these buttons can be used to move to other sequencer steps.

**MIDI IN jack**  
This jack is where you can connect an external MIDI device to control the sound generator of the volca beats.

**SYNC IN/OUT jacks**  
Use these jacks with the included cable to connect the volca beats to a monitor or other compatible equipment, such as an analog sequencer, and synchronize them. The SYNC OUT jack sends a 5V pulse of 15ms at the beginning of each step. If the SYNC IN jack is connected, the internal step clock will be ignored and the volca beats sequencer will proceed through its steps according to the pulses that are input to this jack. You can use this jack to synchronize the volca beats's steps with pulses that are being output from the audio output of a monitor, another analog sequencer or a DAW.

**Headphone jack**  
Connect your headphones (stereo mini-plug). If no thing is connected, the sound will be output from the internal speaker.

**TEMPO knob**  
This knob sets the tempo for the sequencer.  
**PART LEVEL knob**  
This knob sets the level for the selected part. If the selected part is switched, the setting is not applied until this knob is turned.

**VOLUME knob**  
This knob sets the output volume.

**STEP MODE button**  
This button switches the function of step buttons 1 to 16. Pressing this button will switch the function.

**MUTE button**  
This button mutes a part. Press this button to enter part muting mode (while the button is lit). With step buttons 1 to 10, specify the mute setting for each part.

**Cancelling muting for all parts (MUTE button + step button 16)**  
While holding down the MUTE button, press step button 16 to cancel muting for all parts.

**(PLAY) button**  
Press this button to play the sequence. The (PLAY) button will be lit up during playback. Pressing this button again stops playback.

**(REC) button**  
Sequences can be recorded. Press the (REC) button while stopped to enter record-only mode (the button will blink), and then press the (PLAY) button to start recording (the button will light up). The performance will be recorded with step buttons 1 to 16. Pressing the (REC) button during playback will begin recording from the point where the button was pressed.

**STEP REC (step recording) (FUNC button + (REC) button)**  
This is the mode for inputting a pattern for each step. While holding down the FUNC button, press the (REC) button to enter step recording mode; the LED below the first step button will blink. Press the button for the part to be played with the step will record the part, then move to the next step. To play multiple parts with a single step, simultaneously press the buttons for the parts to be played.

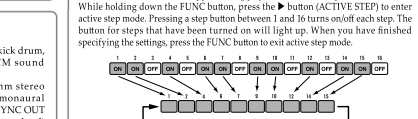
**PART button:** Pressing this button plays the sequence being recorded, then continues to the next step. (This is the same operation as when the (PLAY) button is pressed.)  
**PART </> button:** Pressing this button plays back the sequence being recorded, then returns to the previous step.  
**(REC) button:** Pressing this button deletes the current step being recorded, then continues to the next step.

**FUNC button:** Pressing this button exits step recording mode.

**FUNC (function) button**  
The setting for various functions can be specified by holding down the FUNC button and pressing another button. The FUNC button will be lit up while a setting is being specified.

**Jump step mode (FUNC button + STEP MODE button)**  
While holding down the FUNC button, press the STEP MODE button (STEP/JUMP) to enter jump step mode. Pressing a step button between 1 and 16 turns on/off each step. The button for steps that have been turned on will light up. When you have finished specifying the settings, press the FUNC button to exit active step mode.

**Active step mode (FUNC button + button)**  
Each step of the currently loaded sequence can be turned on/off. Steps that are turned off are disabled and will be skipped during playback and recording.  
While holding down the FUNC button, press the (ACTIVE STEP) to enter active step mode. Pressing a step button between 1 and 16 turns on/off each step. The button for steps that have been turned on will light up. When you have finished specifying the settings, press the FUNC button to exit active step mode.



### Specifying global parameter settings

**Setting the MIDI channel**  
1. While holding down the MEMORY button, turn on the volca beats.

2. Step buttons 1 to 16 correspond to the MIDI channels 1 to 16. Press the button that corresponds to the desired channel, and the LED below the step button will light up.

**Other parameters**  
1. While holding down the FUNC button, turn on the volca beats.  
2. Press a step button to specify the setting for the global parameter. (Refer to the table)

Button	Parameter	LED unlit			
		Status	Display indication	Status	Display indication
Step 1	Auto power-off function	*Enabled	AP on	Disabled	AP off
Step 2	Battery type selection	Ni/Mn/Ni/Alk/lyb	bL nH	*Alkaline	bL aL
Step 3	Sync out polarity	Fall	SoLo	*Rise	SoHi
Step 4	Sync in polarity	Fall	SlLo	*Rise	SlHi
Step 5	Tempo range settings	Full (10...600)	TJPL	*Narrow (6...24)	TPnR
Step 6	MIDI Clock Src	*Auto	CL aI	Internal	CL iN
Step 7	MIDI RX ShortMessage	*On	St on	Off	St of

\*: Factory default setting

When you have finished specifying the settings, press the (REC) button. The settings will be saved, and the volca beats will be restarted. If you decide to cancel the settings, press the (PLAY) button.

### Battery level indication

When the volca beats is turned on, the LEDs below the step buttons indicate the remaining amount of battery power. If all LEDs are lit, the batteries are completely full. Fewer LEDs mean that the battery level is correspondingly lower.

▲ If an AC adapter is connected, the remaining battery level will not be indicated correctly.

Either alkaline or nickel-metal hydride batteries can be used. In order for the remaining battery level to be detected and indicated correctly, the type of batteries being used must be specified in the global parameters of the volca beats. If the batteries are running low during usage of the volca beats, it warns you by blinking "bL nH" in the display. If the batteries run completely, the volca beats automatically turns off.

NOTE: It's not possible to stop the low battery warning; however, you will be able to continue using the volca beats until the batteries have run down completely.

### Main Specifications

- **Keyboard:** Multi-touch keyboard
- **Sound generators:** Analog sound sources (kick drum, snare, high tom, low tom and hi-hat), PCM sound sources (trash, clap, claps and agogo)
- **Connectors:** HEADPHONES jack (ø3.5mm stereo mini-phone jack), SYNC IN jack (ø3.5mm monoaural mini-phone jack, 20V maximum input level), SYNC OUT jack (ø3.5mm monoaural mini-phone jack, 5V output level)
- **Power supply:** AA/LR6 alkaline battery \*4 or AA nickel-metal hydride battery \*4, DC 9V AC adapter (☉☉)
- **Battery life:** Approximately 10 hours (when using alkaline batteries)
- **Dimensions (W×D×H):** 193×154×55 mm/7.60"× 4.53"× 1.77"
- **Weight:** 372 g/13.12 oz. (excluding batteries)
- **Included items:** Six AA alkaline batteries, Cable, Owner's manual
- **Options:** AC adapter (DC 9V☉☉)

\*Specifications and appearance are subject to change without notice for improvement.