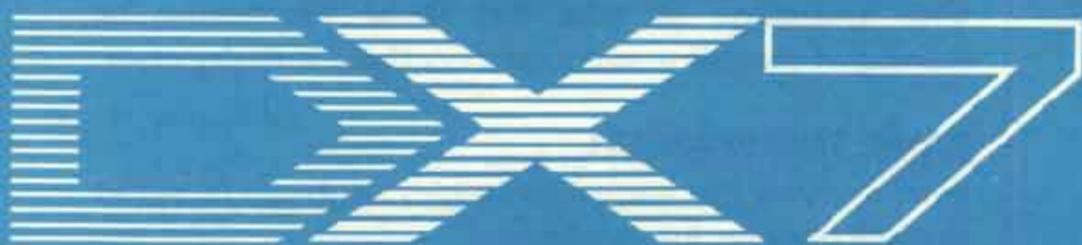


**YAMAHA**



DIGITAL PROGRAMMABLE ALGORITHM SYNTHESIZER

**Operating Manual**

# CONGRATULATIONS

Thank you for choosing the Yamaha DX7 Digital Programmable Algorithm Synthesizer. The DX7 employs unique and sophisticated FM digital tone generation technology combined with microcomputer control to permit creation of voices that are more "live" than voices available with any other system available.

We urge you to read this owner's manual thoroughly to ensure proper operation and maximum performance of the instrument.

## FEATURES

- The DX7 has a 32-voice internal memory, while external cartridges can be plugged in to provide an extra 96 voices, making a total of 128 voices available to the performer for instant selection.
- Extensive microcomputer programming control makes it possible to edit existing voices to change their character, or produce entirely new voices. New voices can also be created "from scratch."
- Edited or new voices can be stored either in the instrument's internal memory, or in an optional external memory cartridge, so sounds you create can be saved for future use.

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# PRECAUTIONS

## LOCATION

Avoid placing your synthesizer in direct sunlight or close to a source of heat. It is also important to avoid locations in which the instrument is likely to be subjected to vibration, excessive dust, cold or moisture.

## HANDLING

Avoid applying excessive force to the instruments's knobs and switches.

## POWER CORD

Always grip the power plug directly when unplugging. Removing the power plug from the wall socket by pulling on the power cord can result in damage to or shorting of the power cord.

Be sure to unplug your synthesizer if you will not be using it for an extended period of time.

## RELOCATION

When moving the synthesizer once it has been set up, be sure to disconnect all cords that connect to other equipment. This will help prevent accidental damage to or shorting of interconnection cables.

## CONNECTION

Carefully follow the "CONNECTION" instructions given in this manual when setting up your synthesizer.

Connection errors can lead to serious damage to the instrument, amplifier, and speakers.

## CLEANING

Do not use solvents such as benzine or thinner to clean your synthesizer as these may cause discoloration or staining of the instrument's exterior. Use a soft, dry cloth.

## SAVE THIS MANUAL

After studying this manual thoroughly, it should be stored in a safe place for future reference.

## LIGHTNING

In the event of an electrical storm, the instrument's power cord should be unplugged to eliminate the possibility of serious damage.

## OTHER APPLIANCES

Use your synthesizer where its digital circuitry cannot be influenced by electromagnetic radiation from appliances such as televisions, radios, etc.

# DX7 OUTLINE

As stated in the feature summary on page 1, the DX7 can be used to play pre-programmed voices, pre-programmed voices can be edited to alter their character, or completely new voices can be created from scratch. Newly created voices can be memorized for future use.

To accomplish all this, the DX7 has four main operating modes:

- **PLAY-MEMORY SELECT Mode**

This is the normal performance mode, and the mode in which pre-programmed voices can be selected.

- **FUNCTION Mode**

This mode permits setting parameters pertaining to the effect of the controllers (thumbwheel, foot controller, breath controller, key after touch) and is also used for loading and saving data.

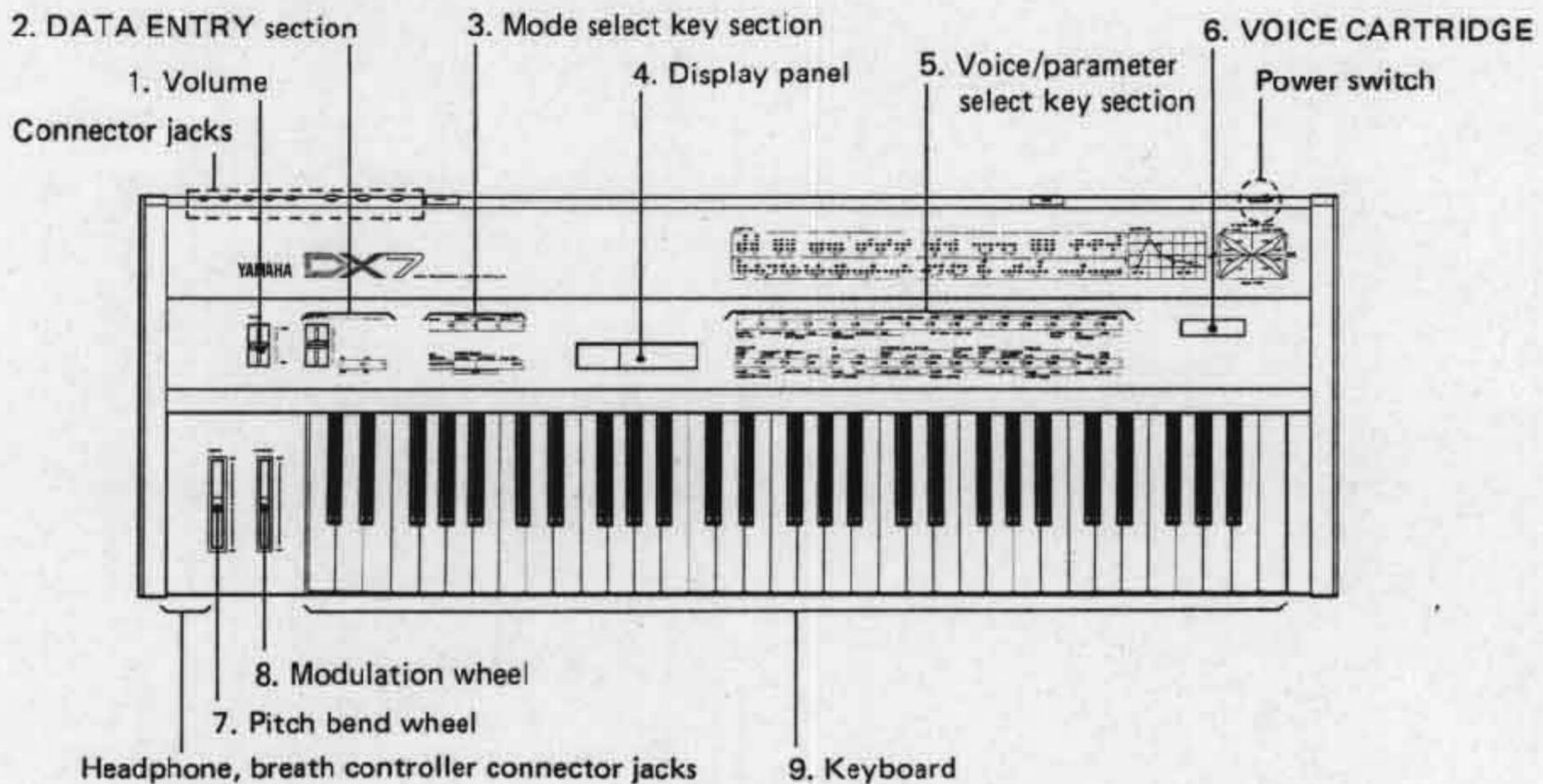
- **EDIT Mode**

This mode permits editing existing voice data to create new sounds as well as creation of entirely new voices.

- **STORE Mode**

Edited or newly created voices can be programmed into the memory in this mode.

All functions of the DX7 are performed in one of the above modes. Proper understanding of the functions of each mode is the key to successful operation of and performance with the DX7.

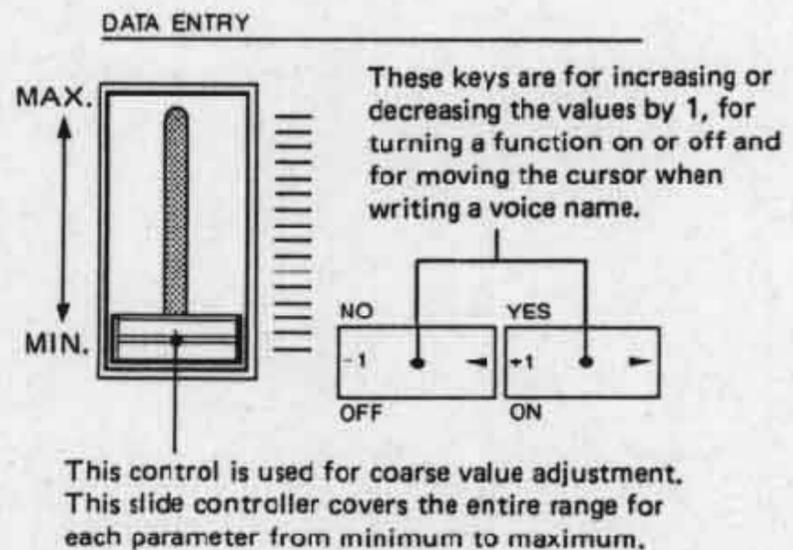


## 1 VOLUME

This controls the output level of the DX7 and at the same time controls the volume of the headphones.

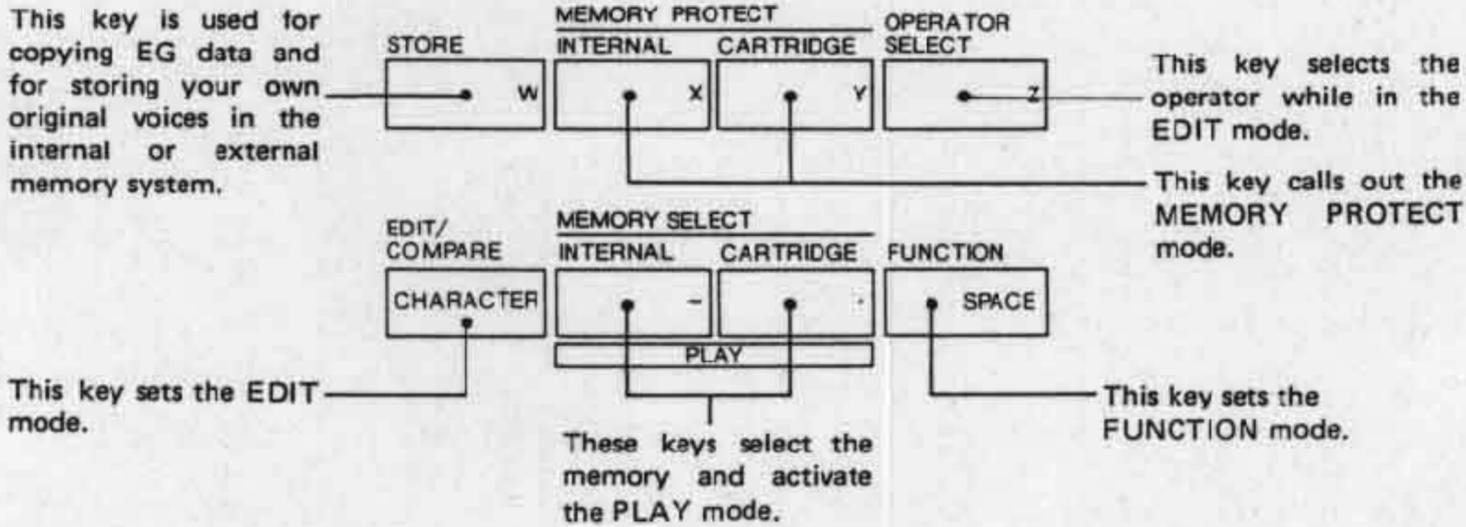
## 2 DATA ENTRY

This combination of keys and linear control is used to enter and modify data.



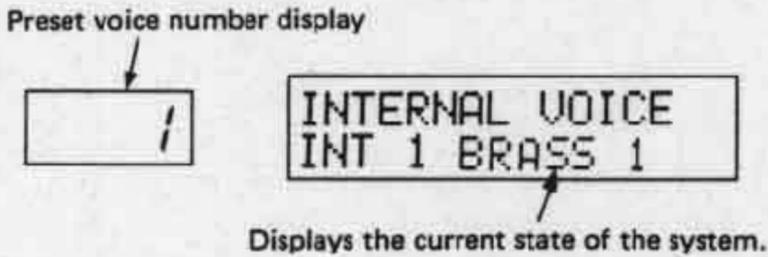
### 3 MODE SELECT KEY

Selects the operating mode, "operators" (these will be explained later) and memory protect functions.



### 4 DISPLAY PANEL

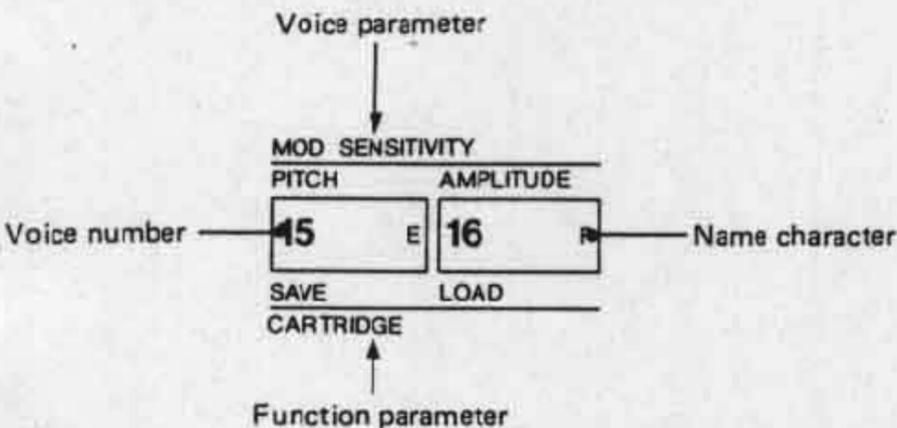
This Liquid Crystal Display panel displays the parameters in each mode and the name of the selected pre-programmed voice.



### 5 VOICE/PARAMETER SELECT KEY

These keys select either the voices in the instrument's internal memory or those in an external voice cartridge. The same keys are also used to select parameters in the FUNCTION or EDIT modes. One key can have a maximum of four different functions.

The function of these keys is determined by the MODE SELECT key.



### 6 VOICE CARTRIDGE

External voice cartridges can be plugged into the receptacle in the DX7 panel. The DX7 is supplied with two ROM (pre-programmed) voice cartridges, each containing 64 voices.

An optional RAM (user-programmable) voice cartridge can contain 32 voices.

### 7 PITCH BEND WHEEL

The pitch bend range is set in the FUNCTION mode. The pitch bend wheel then permits upward and downward pitch bend throughout the set range.

### 8 MODULATION WHEEL

The modulation depth range is set in the function mode. The modulation wheel then permits variation of modulation depth throughout the set range.

### 9 KEYBOARD

The DX7 has a 61-key keyboard with 16-voice polyphonic capability (a monophonic mode is also selectable).

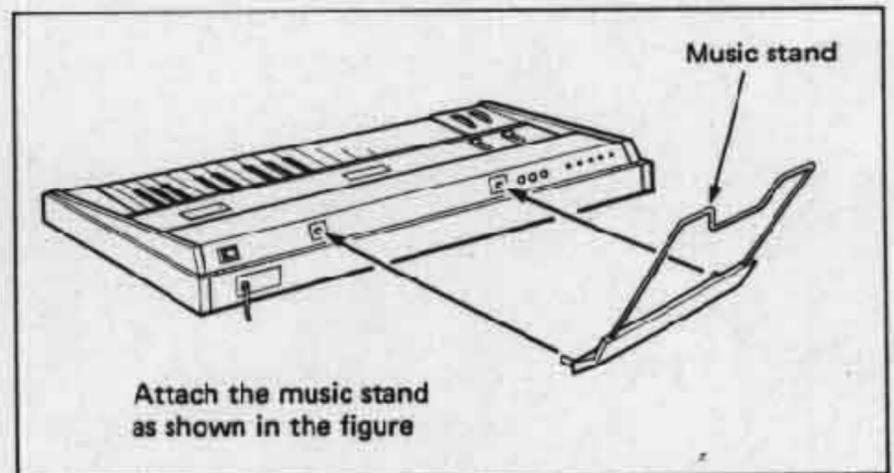
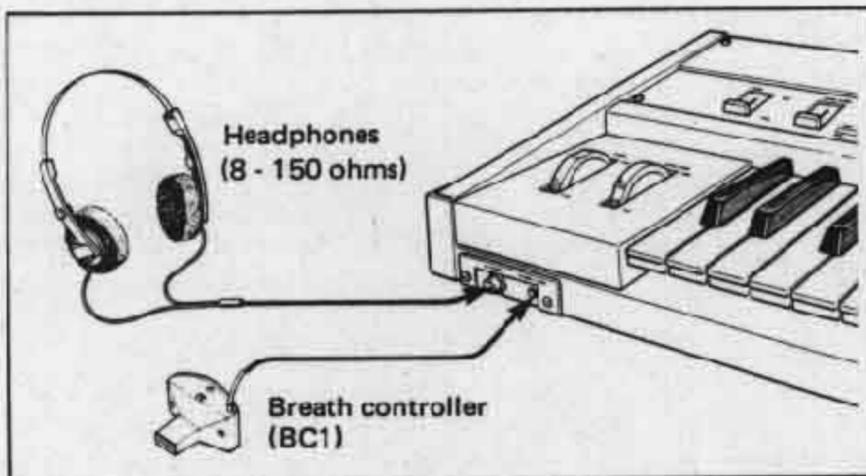
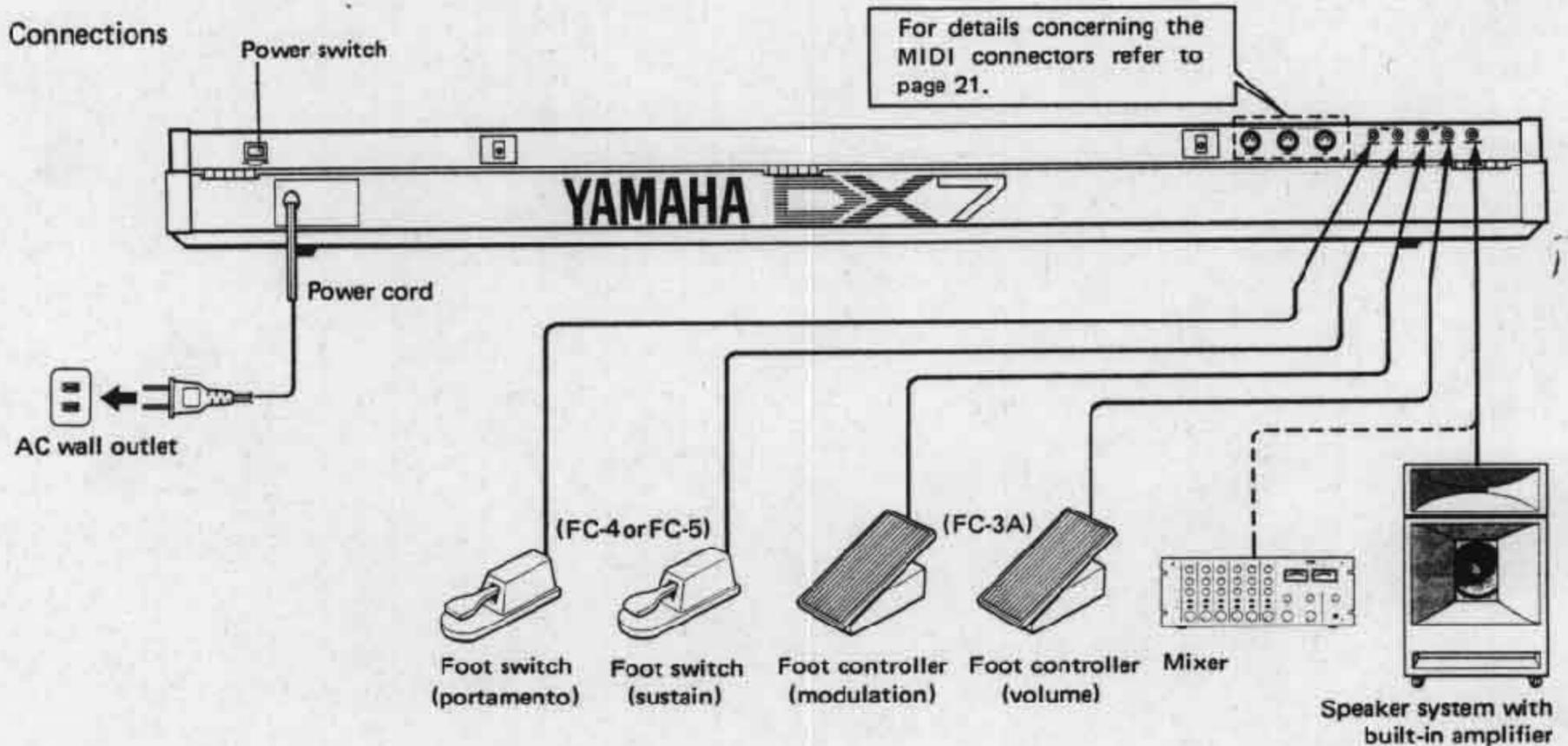
- Initial/After Touch response provided.

# CONNECTIONS

## ● Setting Up and Applying Power

The DX7 does not have an internal power amplifier, therefore either headphones or an external amplifier/speaker system are required. A high-quality keyboard amplifier system is recommended.

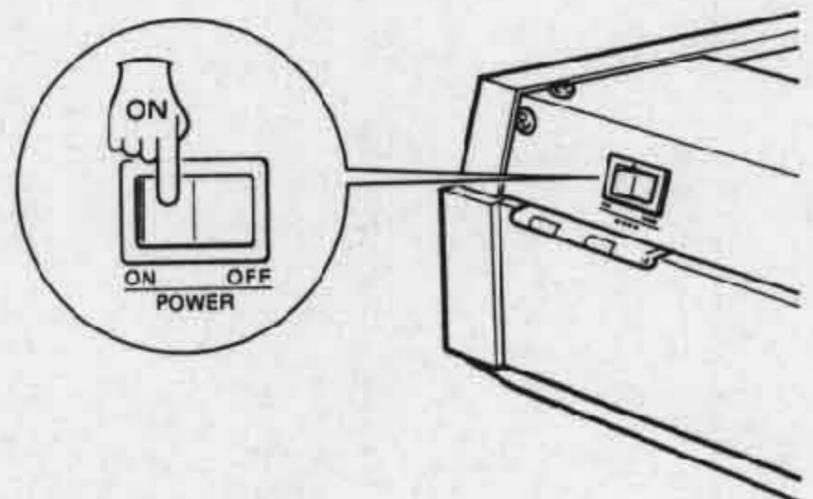
Hook up your DX7 as shown in the diagram below.



## ● Turn POWER ON

The DX7 power switch is located to the right of the rear panel (viewed from keyboard side). Turn the power switch ON only after all connections to other equipment (and to the AC supply) have been properly made. The display panel will appear as in the illustration below immediately after power is switched on.

After a few seconds, the same mode that was engaged before power was turned off is re-engaged. For example, if the PLAY mode was previously engaged, the PLAY mode will be re-engaged and the previously selected voice will be ready for performance. The same applies to the EDIT and FUNCTION modes.



\* YAMAHA DX7 \*  
\* SYNTHESIZER \*

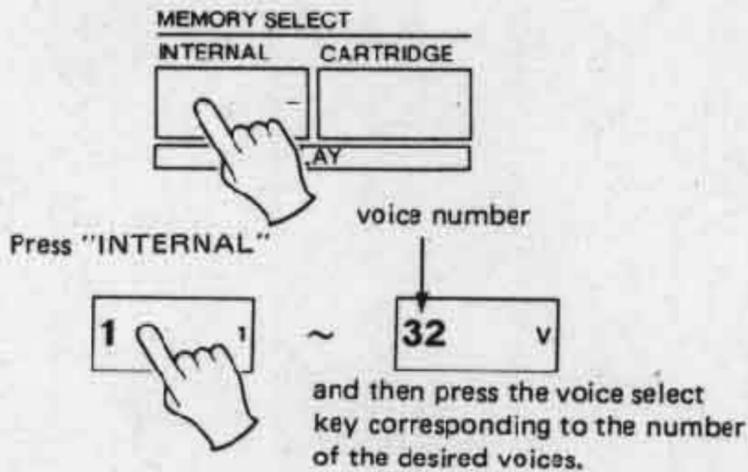
# PLAY MODE

## ● Playing the Internal Voices

The DX7 has 32 internal voices, any one of which can be selected simply by pressing the **INTERNAL** key in the MEMORY SELECT group, and then by pressing the appropriate VOICE SELECT key.

Each VOICE SELECT key has a large numeral that corresponds to the voice number at its left edge.

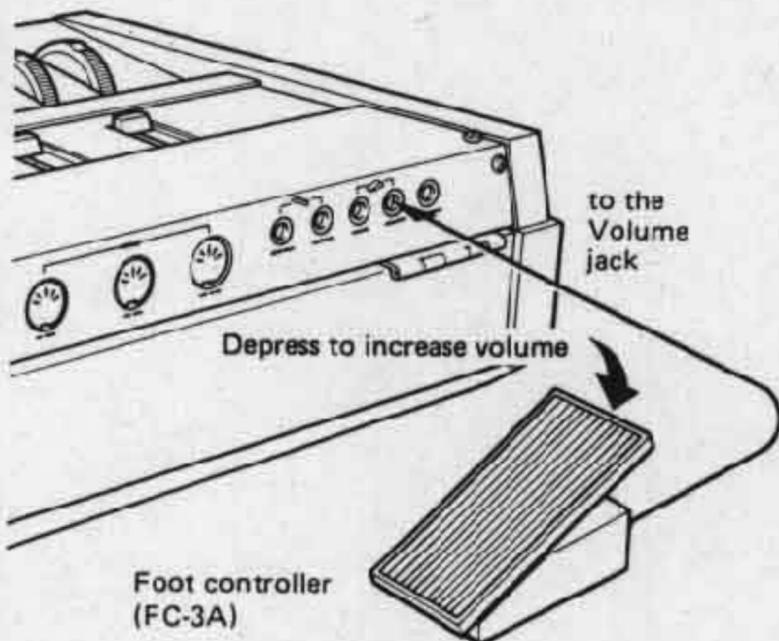
Select the internal voices



## ● Set the desired VOLUME level

With power to the DX7 and your amplifier system ON, gradually raise the volume control while playing a note on the keyboard until the desired volume level is reached. Set the volume control on your amplifier so the optimum volume is attained with the DX7 volume control set about "8".

Fine adjustment of volume while playing can be achieved using an optional FC-3A foot controller plugged into the VOLUME jack on the DX7 rear panel. Remember that the DX7 and amplifier volume controls should be set high enough that adequate volume control range is available using the foot controller.



## ● Playing the Cartridge Voices

An extra 64 voices can be added to the available selection simply by plugging in one of the supplied external voice cartridges.

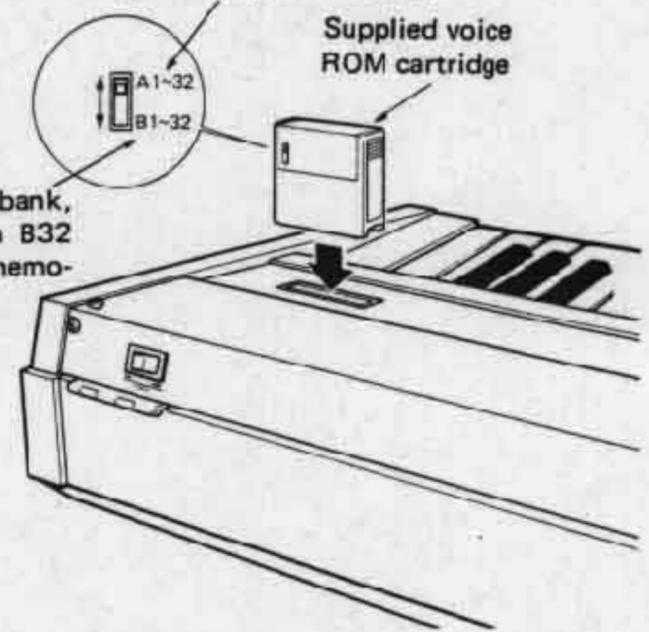
Insert a cartridge as shown in the figure.

Select the cartridge voices by first pressing the **CARTRIDGE** key in the MEMORY SELECT group, and then select the desired voice by pressing the appropriate VOICE SELECT key, just as in internal voice selection.

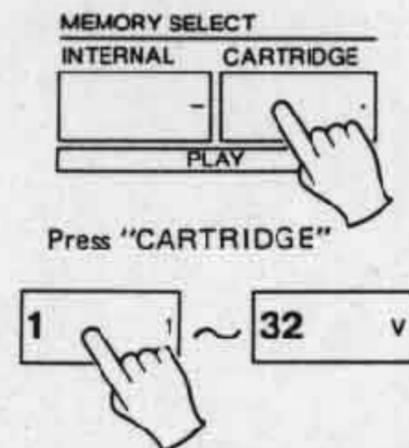
Selection of cartridge voice groups A1 – A32 and B1 – B32 is accomplished using the selector switch on the cartridge.

The A voice bank, voices A1 through A32 of the cartridge memory can be used.

The B voice bank, voices B1 through B32 of the cartridge memory can be used.



Select the cartridge voices



When data entry is initiated while in the PLAY mode, the parameter selected at the end of the FUNCTION mode can be controlled.

# FUNCTION MODE

## ● FUNCTION Mode . . . . Applying Effects

The FUNCTION mode permits tuning, pitch bend, modulation, and application of other effects while playing, as well as voice data load/save operations.

Press the **FUNCTION** key to enter the FUNCTION mode. Setting controller range parameters, etc., is carried out using the DATA ENTRY controls.

- Function parameters are memorized and maintained even when power to the DX is cut off. Unlike voice data, however, function parameters cannot be saved in internal or external memory.

| OPERATOR ON-OFF/EG COPY   |                     |                     |             |                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1                         | 2                   | 3                   | 4           | 5               |
| <b>1</b>                  | <b>2</b>            | <b>3</b>            | <b>4</b>    | <b>5</b>        |
| MASTER TUNE ADJ           | POLY/MONO           | RANGE<br>PITCH BEND | STEP        | MODE<br>PORTAM  |
| OSCILLATOR                |                     |                     |             | EG              |
| MODE/<br>SYNC             | FREQUENCY<br>COARSE | FREQUENCY<br>FINE   | DETUNE      | RATE            |
| <b>17</b> G               | <b>18</b> H         | <b>19</b> I         | <b>20</b> J | <b>21</b>       |
| RANGE<br>MODULATION WHEEL | PITCH               | AMPLITUDE           | EG BIAS     | RANGE<br>FOOT C |

FUNCTION Mode Parameter

## ● MASTER TUNE

**1**

MASTER TUNE ADJ

MASTER TUNE adjusts the overall tuning of the DX7 to match its pitch with other instruments. Pitch is variable over a 150 cent range. Press **MASTER TUNE** and then use the liner DATA ENTRY control for tuning.

## ● POLY/MONO

**2**

POLY/MONO

Determines whether the DX7 will function in the polyphonic or monophonic mode. Press the DATA ENTRY **-1** key for polyphonic operation, and the **+1** key for monophonic operation.

- The range of the portamento effect is different in the polyphonic and monophonic modes. Refer to the PORTAMENTO section below.

## ● PITCH BEND

**3** **4**

RANGE STEP  
PITCH BEND

Two keys are used to determine the effect of the PITCH BEND thumbwheel.

## RANGE:

The range of pitch bend can be set from 0 to 12. 0 range is equivalent to no pitch bend. A setting of 12 permits pitch bend over a  $\pm 1200$  cent (2 octave) range. If the range is set at 7, then pitch bend will be possible over a  $\pm 700$  cent range (i.e. plus or minus one fifth).

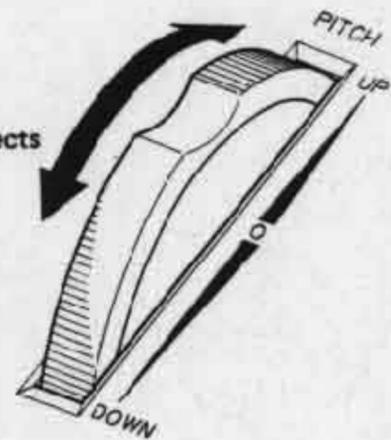
## STEP:

The step parameter can be set from 0 to 12. A setting of 0 corresponds to 0-cent steps, and a setting of 12 corresponds to 1200-cent (1 octave) steps. If STEP is set to 0, then a perfectly smooth pitch bend will result. If STEP is set to 1, the pitch will bend in 100-cent (semitone) steps.

- Pitch bend will not function if RANGE is set to 0.

Pitch bend wheel

Add pitch bend effects



## ● PORTAMENTO

**5** **6** **7**

MODE GLISSANDO TIME  
PORTAMENTO

The portamento effect varies according to whether the DX7 is in the polyphonic or monophonic mode.

### MONOPHONIC MODE:

In this mode press the DATA ENTRY **-1** key to activate "FINGERED PORTA." In this mode portamento is applied only to legato notes.

Press the DATA ENTRY **+1** key to activate "FULL TIME PORTA." In this mode portamento is always applied.

### POLYPHONIC MODE:

Press the DATA ENTRY **-1** key to activate "SUS-KEY P RETAIN." In this mode the pitch of keys released while the sustain pedal is on or of notes that have a long sustain time does not change. However, portamento is effected between two subsequently pressed keys.

Press the DATA ENTRY **+1** key to activate "SUS-KEY P FOLLOW." In this mode the pitch of a key released while the sustain pedal is held slides (portamento) to a previously pressed key. There is no change with continuously pressed keys.

### GLISSANDO:

The glissando function is turned either ON or OFF. When it is OFF a normal portamento effect is produced.

### TIME:

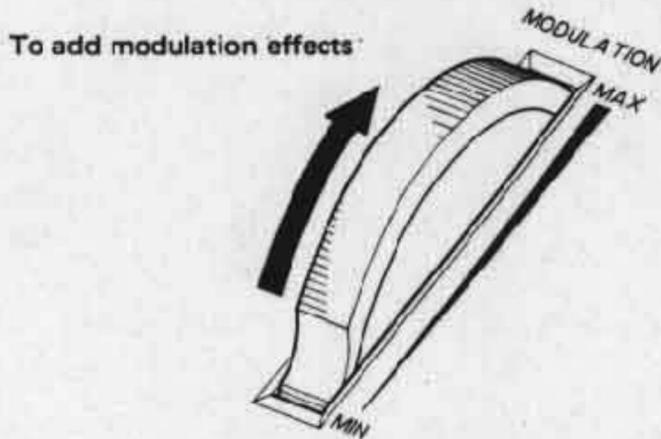
Adjusts the speed of the portamento/glissando effect from 0 to 99. A 0 setting results in no effect, while a setting of 99 produces the longest (slowest) portamento or glissando.



## 1. MODULATION WHEEL

### RANGE:

Range can be set from 0 to 99. No effect is produced with a 0 setting, and a setting of 99 produces maximum effect.



FUNCTION CONTROL  
WHEEL RANGE=99

This value will change as follows for different controllers (same for PITCH, AMPLITUDE and EG BIAS).

This value will change

- FOOT (Foot controller)
- BREATH (Breath controller)
- AFTER (After touch)

### PITCH:

Determines whether LFO modulation is applied to pitch. Pitch is modulated if ON, and not modulated if OFF.

### AMPLITUDE:

Determines whether LFO modulation is applied to amplitude. Amplitude is modulated if ON, and not modulated if OFF.

### EG (ENVELOPE GENERATOR) BIAS:

When EG BIAS is ON, volume or brilliance (wow) variation effects can be added with the controllers by varying the level of each operator's envelope generator. MOD. SENSITIVITY (AMPLITUDE) is used to set the sensitivity (refer to page 14).

Applying EG BIAS to a modulator results in brilliance effects, while applied to a carrier it results in volume variation effects. In some cases, if the carrier sensitivity is maximum and the controller is set to its minimum, no sound will be produced.

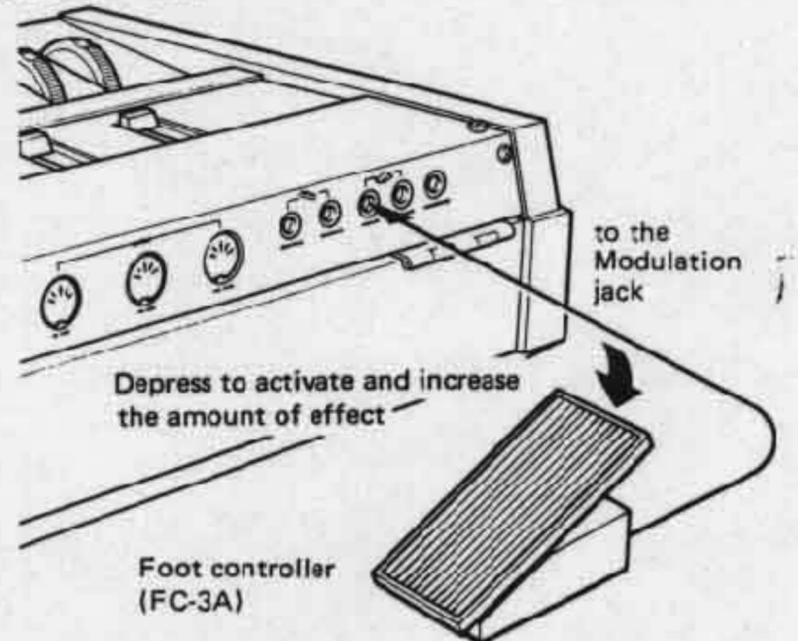
- These parameters will have no effect if the PITCH MODULATION SENSITIVITY or the AMPLITUDE MODULATION SENSITIVITY of the voice used are zero.

Refer to the MODULATION SENSITIVITY section on page 14 for details.

## 2. FOOT CONTROLLER

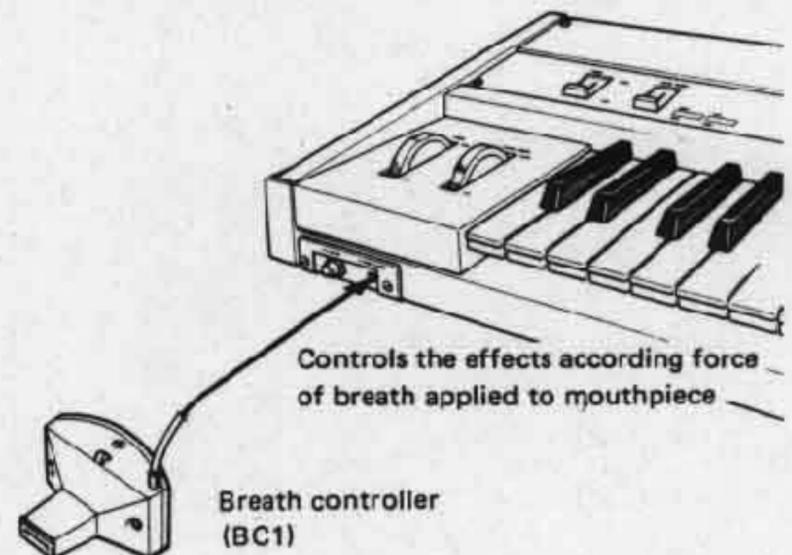
The LFO modulation effect programmed can be controlled using an optional FC-3A foot controller.

Maximum effect is produced by pressing the foot controller all the way down, while raising the controller fully eliminates the effect.



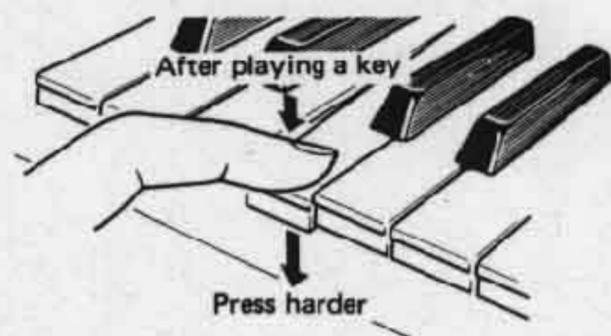
## 3. BREATH CONTROLLER

The LFO modulation effect programmed can be controlled using an optional BC1 breath controller. The effect is controlled by blowing into the BC1 mouthpiece. The effect will not be audible unless breath is applied to the controller.



## 4. AFTER TOUCH

This feature makes it possible to vary the degree of modulation by varying pressure on the keys. No effect is produced with normal key pressure, but the effect can be introduced by pressing harder on the key(s). The amount of pressure applied determines the depth of the effect.



# FM TONE GENERATION

## FM Tone Generation . . . Understanding the Basics

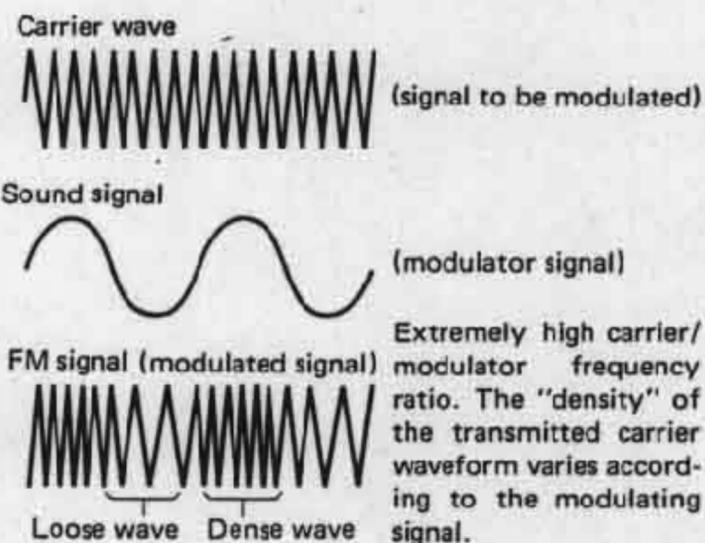
The DX7 is an entirely new type of synthesizer employing an entirely new FM digital tone generation system. This unique Yamaha system permits finer control over subtle musical nuances and vastly expanded voice creation potential compared to conventional synthesizers.

### 1. The Meaning of FM

FM stands for Frequency Modulation. FM radio broadcasts use the same principle. One signal—the modulator—modulates a second signal—the carrier.

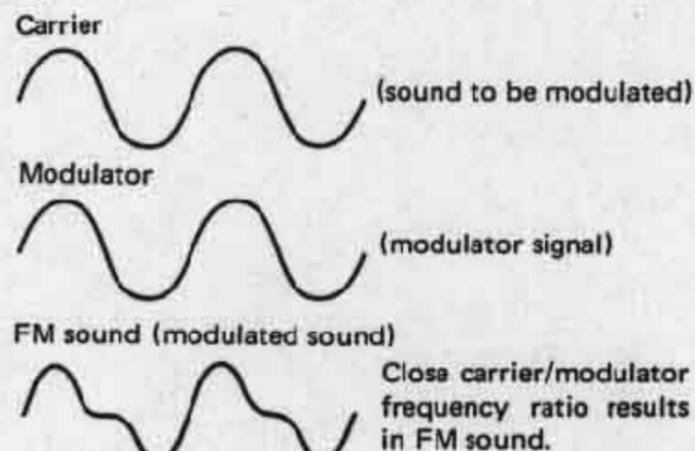
In FM radio the carrier is an extremely high “ratio” frequency and the modulator is the music signal to be broadcast. In effect, the carrier “carries” the modulator signal through the atmosphere to your receiving antenna.

#### FM broadcasting



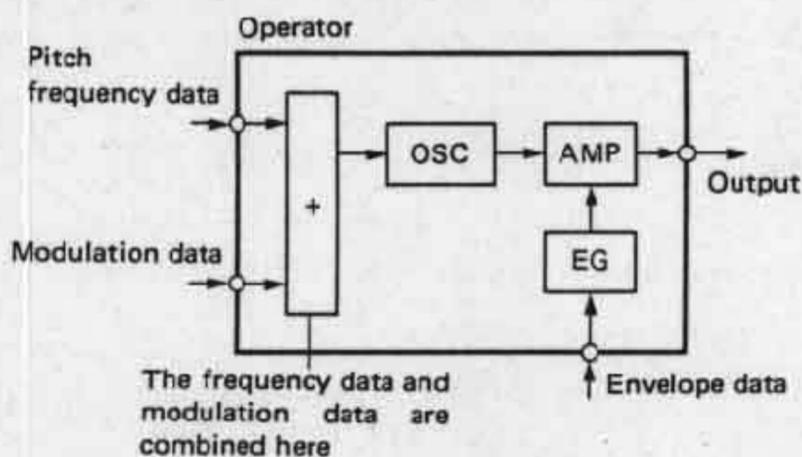
The FM tone generator system is similar in principle, but in this case both the carrier and modulator are audible signals, and their frequencies can be almost equal.

#### FM tone generation



## 2. FM Tone Generation In the DX7

In the DX7, the carrier signal determines the pitch of the note produced and modulator determines the shape of the waveform produced and therefore its timbre. This explanation may make it look like the carrier and modulator are two entirely separate things. In fact, they are one and the same. A special oscillator unit called an “operator” can be used as either a carrier or modulator in the DX7.



### 1) Pitch Frequency Data

Pitch frequency data from the DX7's microcomputer system determines the operator's oscillation frequency. When the operator is used as a carrier, this frequency is equivalent to the pitch of the note produced. When the operator is being used as a modulator, the ratio of its frequency to that of the carrier determines the timbre of the note produced.

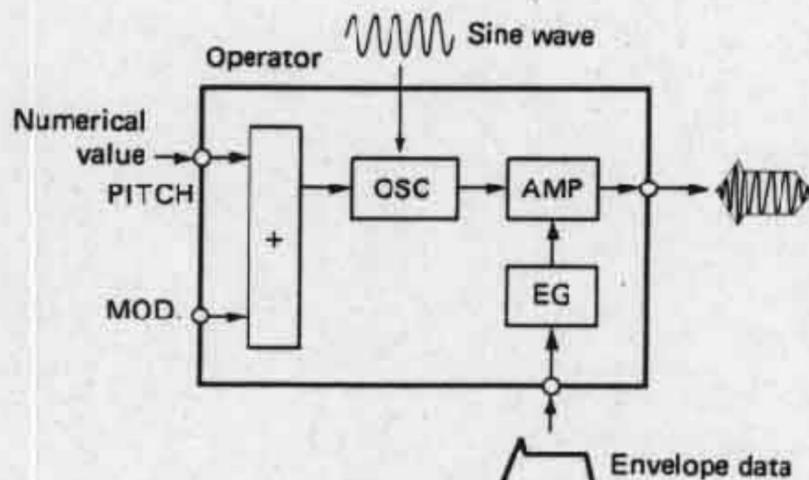
### 2) Modulation Data

This is the modulation data received from the previous operator's (modulator) output.

### 3) Envelope Data

When the operator is used as a carrier the envelope data determines the volume envelope of the note produced. When the operator is used as a modulator the envelope data determines the timbre envelope of the note produced.

For example, the pitch frequency data applied to an operator used as a carrier determines the frequency of the sine wave output from the operator. Inputting envelope data results in an output waveform similar to that shown in the figure.

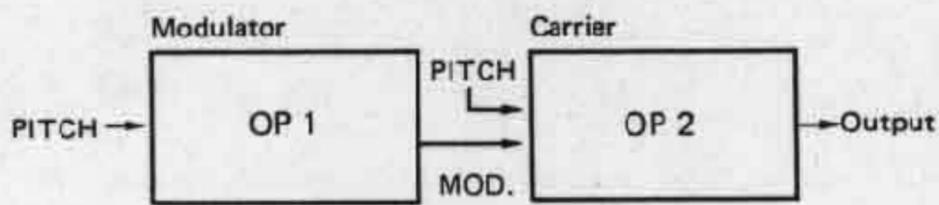


● **Basic Operator Functions**

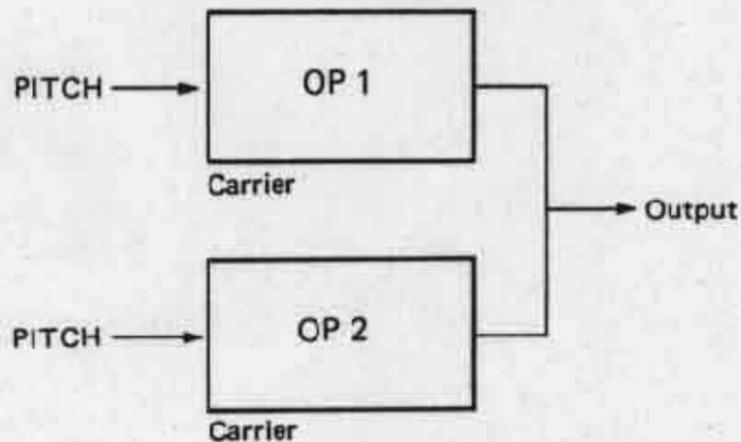
1) **Relationship of Carrier to Modulator**

An operator can be used as either a carrier or modulator. These two basic operator functions are the basis for the FM tone generation system. Two operators can be combined in two different ways.

1. **Modulator and carrier combinations**



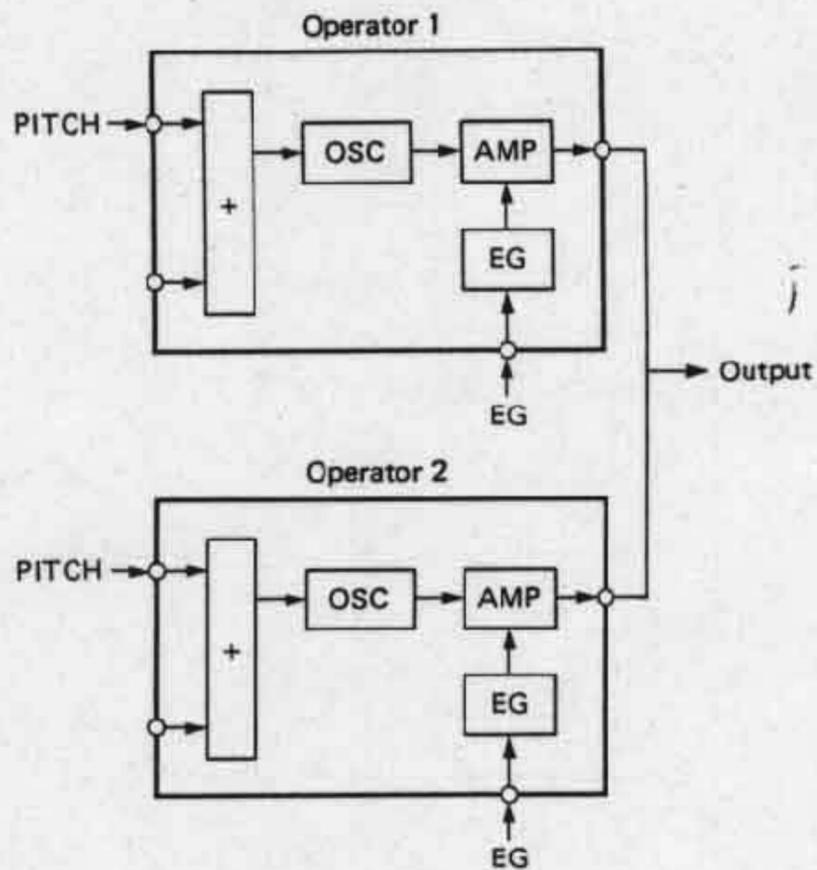
2. **Carrier and carrier combinations**



2) **Carrier and Carrier**

This configuration results in a pure sine wave output from both operators. The combination of these waveforms can sound much like a conventional organ.

● **Carrier and carrier combinations**

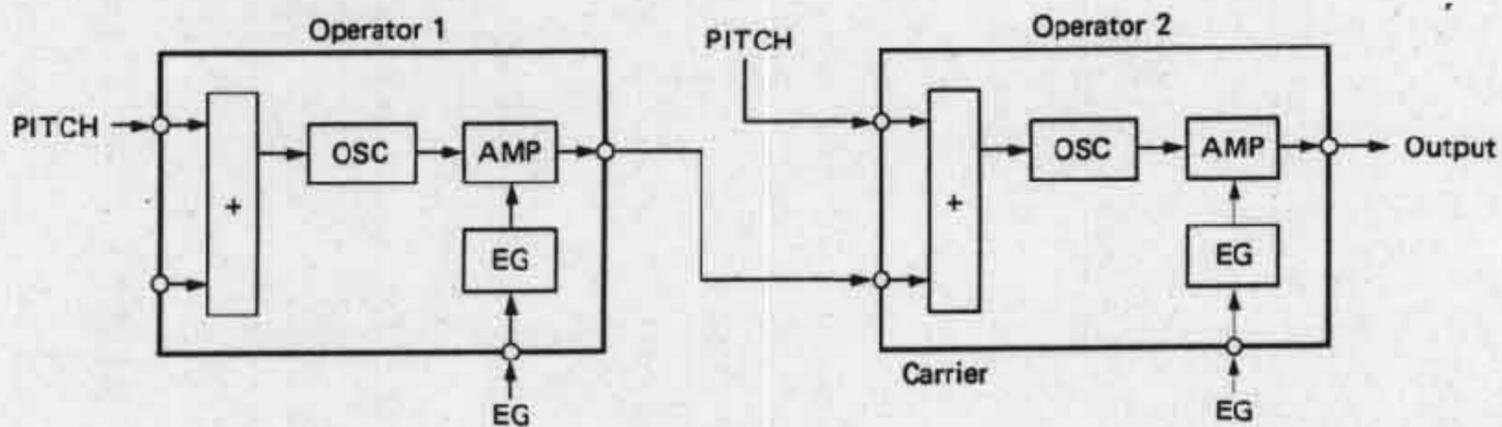


3) **Modulator and Carrier**

In the modulator/carrier configuration using two operators, shown in the figure, the operator on the left is the modulator and the operator on the right is the carrier. In the FM system, the last operator in a chain of two or more oper-

ators is the carrier. By varying the ratio of the modulator and carrier frequencies, and by varying the envelope of the modulator, an extremely broad range of highly complex waveforms (complex harmonic structure) can be created.

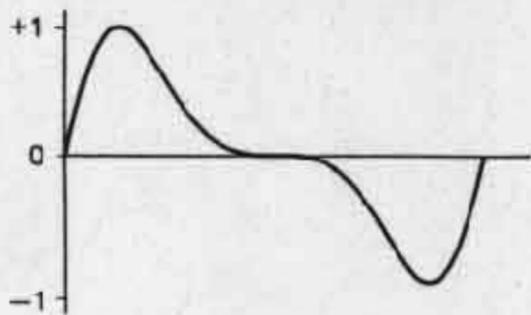
● **Modulator and carrier combinations**



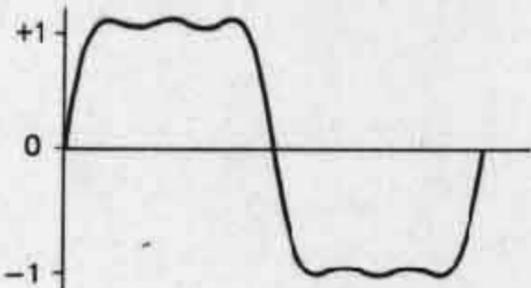
### Examples of output waveforms

#### • Modulator and carrier combinations

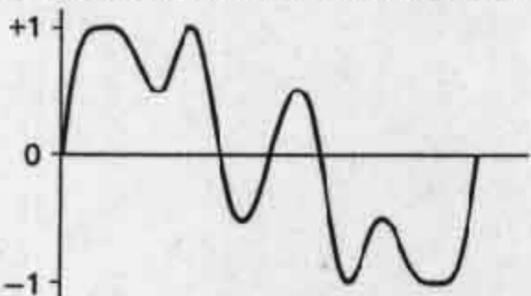
Frequency ratio of modulator to carrier equals 1:1



Frequency of modulator to carrier equals 2:1

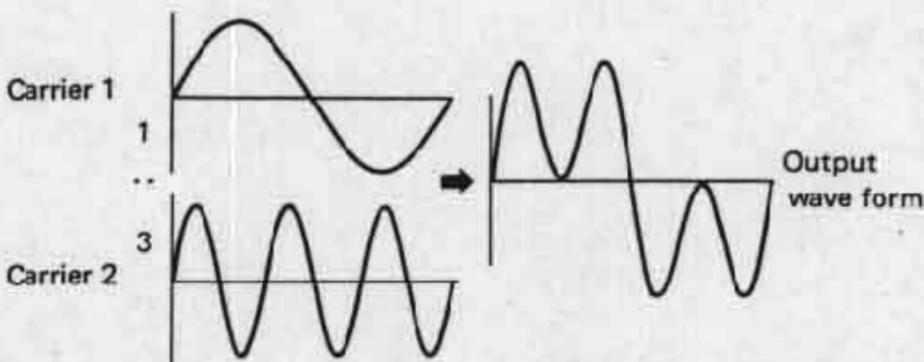
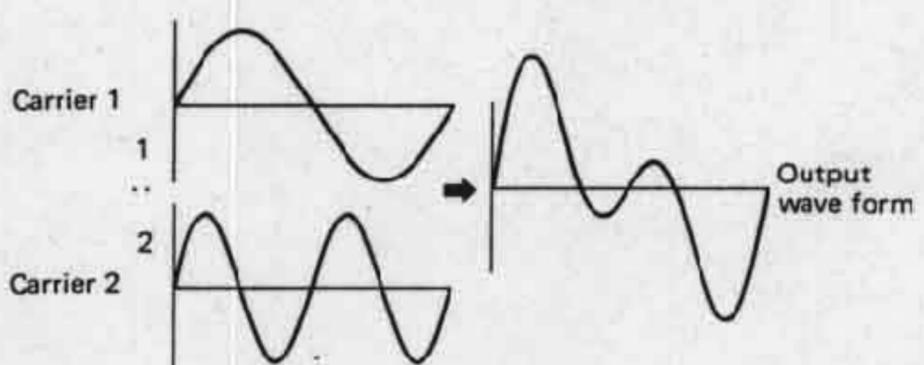
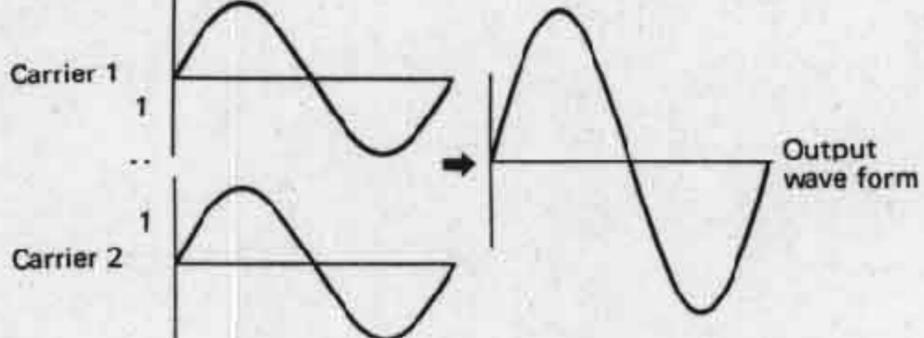


Frequency of modulator to carrier equals 3:1



#### • Carrier and carrier combinations

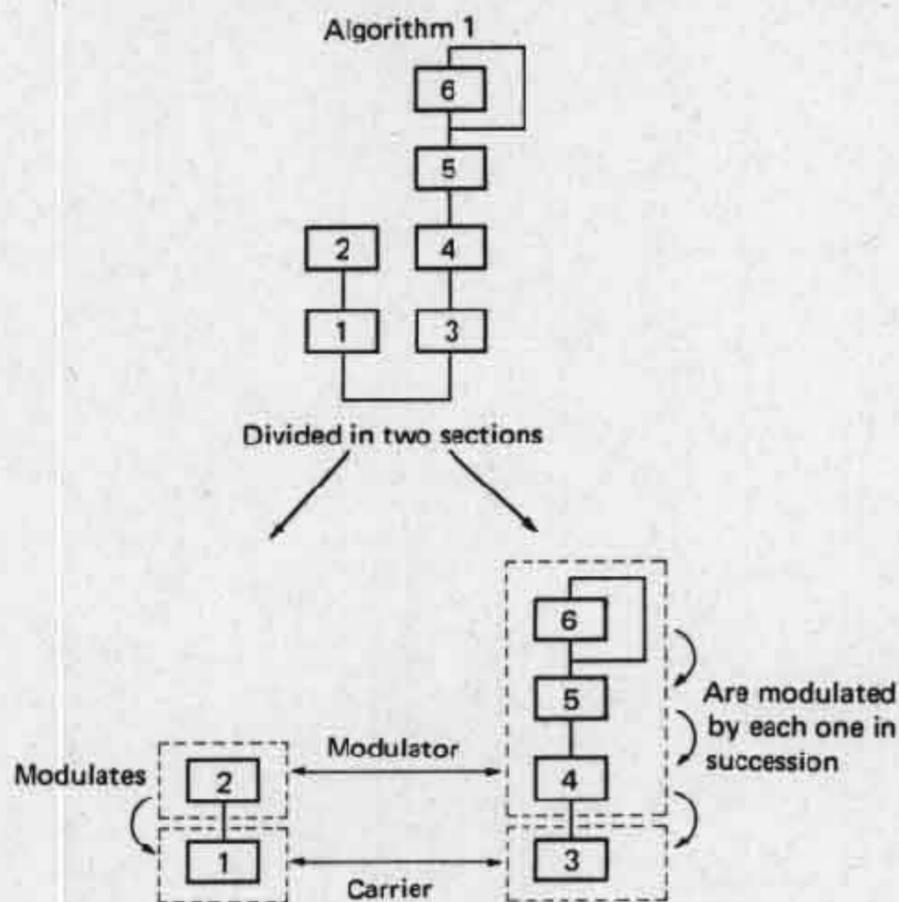
Frequency ratio



### 3. Algorithms . . . . Combining Several Operators

The DX7 has a total of six operators. The way in which these operators are combined is known as an "algorithm." The DX7 has 32 different pre-programmed algorithms. The 32 algorithms are displayed graphically along the top of the control panel above the selector keys. Taking algorithm number one as an example, the lowest two operators—1 and 3—are carriers. The four operators above the carriers will function as modulators. The output of operator 6 is fed back (feedback) to its input.

The above is a brief description of the internal workings of the FM tone generator system. By varying the pitch frequency, modulation and envelope data it is possible to edit pre-programmed voices or to create entirely new voices.









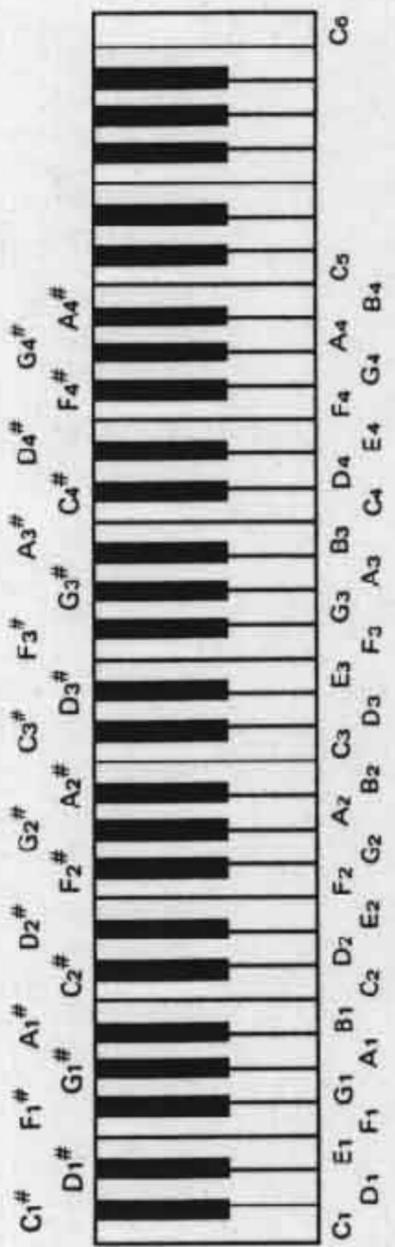






# KEY TRANSPOSE

● KEY TRANSPOSE

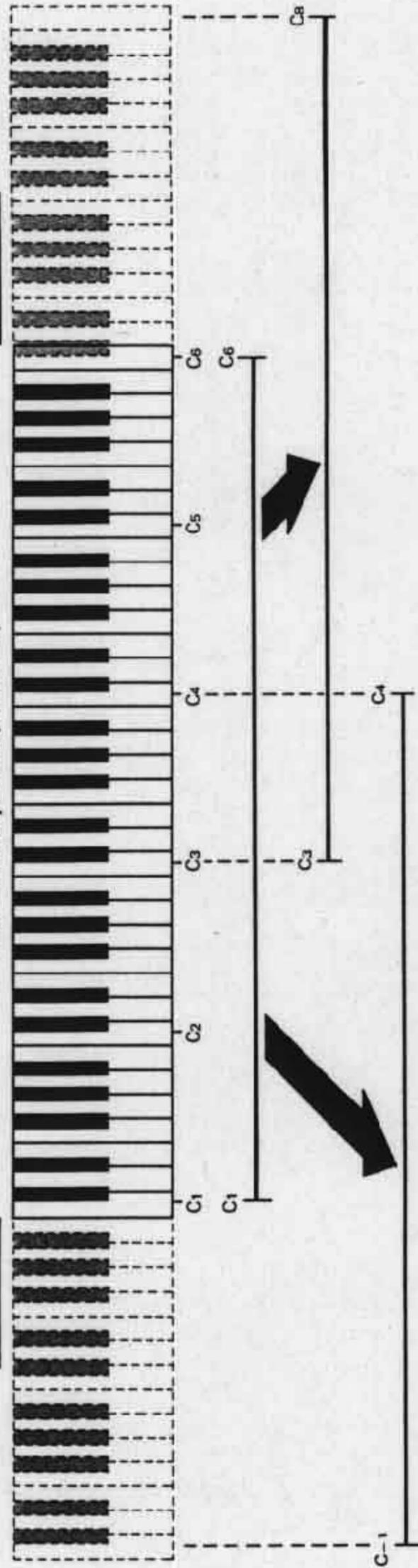


Press the key that you wish to transpose.

You can transpose in semitones for -2 octaves

You can transpose in semitones for +2 octaves

The DX7's keyboard (C1 to C6)



\* For example, when transposing up 1 octave

KEY TRANSPOSE

31

After pressing



The display when transposing up 1 octave

ALG 4 111111  
MIDDLE C = C 4





























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**PERFORMANCE NOTES**

You are encouraged to experiment with each voice in order to achieve the best sound. We have left many standard voices without performance recommendations, due to the possibility of your editing or changing to suit your own taste. Where necessary though, we have included some performance suggestions to enhance the sound as programmed by Yamaha Programmers.









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