Selecting and Playing Voices

Your keyboard contains 100 vivid and realistic voices — instrument or percussion sounds — created by Yamaha's time-proven AWM tone generation technology. Select a voice you like and try playing.
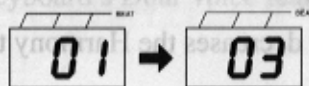
▼ **To select and play a voice:**

1. **If the VOICE indicator is not lit, press the VOICE/STYLE button so that it lights.**

   The number of the currently selected voice will appear on the MULTI DISPLAY when the VOICE indicator is lit.

2. **Choose one of the 100 voices from the VOICE list on the panel.**

3. **Enter the voice number using the NUMERIC SELECTION buttons.**

   To select voice number 03 (HARPSICHORD), for example, first press 0 then 3. The number "03" should then appear on the MULTI DISPLAY.

   The + and – SELECTION buttons can also be used to increase or decrease the current voice number. Holding down either button increases or decreases the voice number continuously.

4. **Play one or more keys on the keyboard to hear the selected voice.**

❏ *Voice number 01 (ACOUSTIC PIANO) is automatically selected as the default voice when the PortaTone is turned on.*

❏ *When using the + and – SELECTION buttons the voice numbers cycle in this way: 01 ⇄ 99 ⇄ 00 ⇄ 01 ⇄ 99...*

❏ *The optimum range is preset for each voice.*

Keyboard Percussion

The keyboard keys can be used to play the sounds of drum and percussion instruments. Voice numbers 97 (TIMPANI) and 98 (STEEL DRUM) can be played like normal voices. Voice number 99 (LATIN PERC), however, divides the keyboard into five different instruments, and voice number 00 (DRUM KIT) provides a different drum or percussion instrument for each key, 61 sounds in all.
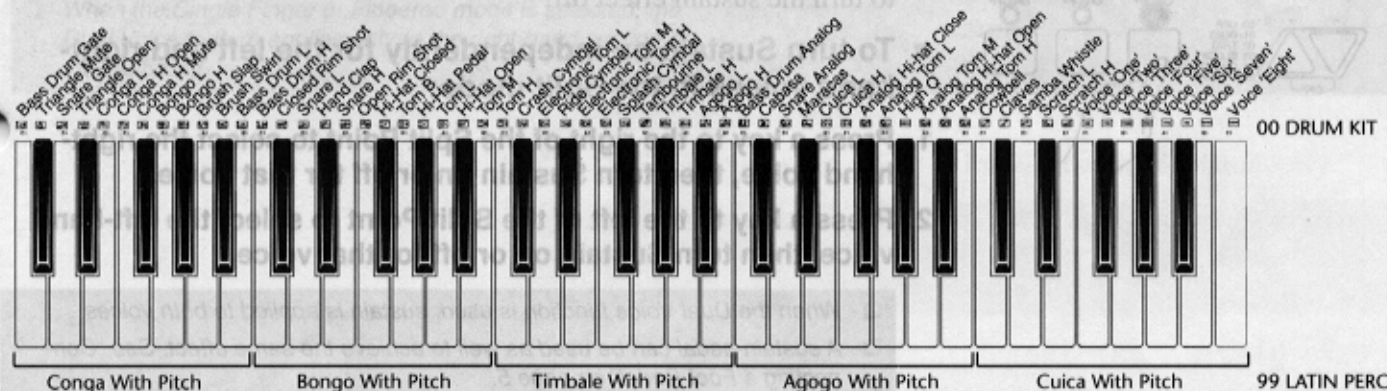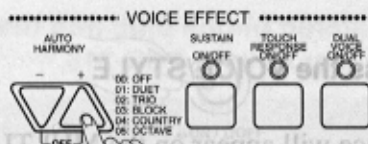
❏ *When voice number 00 (DRUM KIT) is selected the percussion voices correspond to the symbols above the keys of your PortaTone.*

Auto Harmony

This sophisticated feature automatically adds appropriate harmony notes to a melody you play on the keyboard. You can choose from 5 different types of harmony.

▼ **To select an Auto Harmony type:**

1. Press the AUTO HARMONY + or – button.

The first time the AUTO HARMONY + or – button is pressed the letter "H" together with the current Harmony type number will appear on the MULTI DISPLAY and remain for approximately 2 seconds afterwards.

2. Choose one of the five Harmony types from the list next to the HARMONY + and – buttons.

3. While the current Harmony type is still showing on the display, press the AUTO HARMONY + or – button to increase or decrease the Harmony type number.

Holding down either button increases or decreases the Harmony type number continuously.
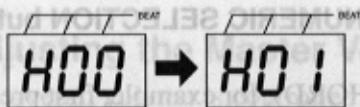
❏ Only a single note can be played at a time on the keyboard (or the right-hand section of the keyboard when in the Split mode) when the Auto Harmony feature is used.

❏ In the Single Finger, Fingered or split mode, the left-hand chords determine the harmony notes that will be applied to the right-hand melody. Also Auto Harmony is not applied to the left hand voice in the split mode and to the accompaniment sounds.

❏ If Auto Harmony is used at the same time as the Dual Voice feature (see page 9), harmony will not be applied to the second "dual" voice.

❏ The default Auto Harmony type (00 : OFF) can be recalled at any time by pressing both the AUTO HARMONY + and – buttons at the same time.
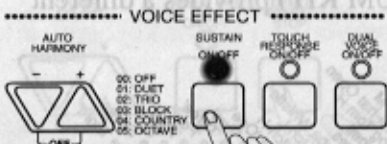
Sustain

Sustain causes notes played on the keyboard to fade gradually after you lift your fingers from the keys.

▼ **To turn Sustain on:**

**Press the SUSTAIN button once (the indicator will light).**

Press the SUSTAIN button a second time (the indicator light will go out) to turn the sustain effect off.

▼ **To turn Sustain on independently for the left and right-hand voices in the Split mode:**

1. Press a key to the right of the Split Point to select the right-hand voice, then turn Sustain on or off for that voice.

2. Press a key to the left of the Split Point to select the left-hand voice, then turn Sustain on or off for that voice.

❏ When the Dual Voice function is used, sustain is applied to both voices.

❏ A sustain pedal can be used as well to achieve the same effect. See "Connecting a Foot Pedal" on page 5.

❏ Sustain cannot be applied to some of the voices.
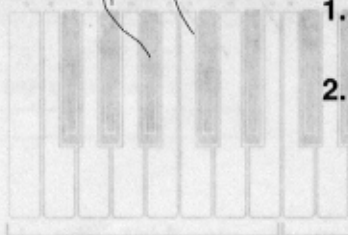
Touch Response

Your keyboard is touch responsive. This means that you can control the loudness of the sound to a certain degree according to how hard you play the keys.
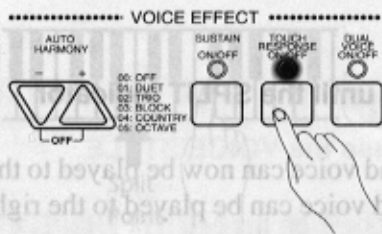

▼ **To switch Touch Response on:**

Press the TOUCH RESPONSE ON/OFF button once (the indicator will light).

When on, the notes played on the keyboard will correspond to how hard or soft you play the keys.

Turn the Touch Response feature off by pressing the TOUCH RESPONSE ON/OFF button again (the indicator light will go out).

Dual Voice

The keyboard's Dual Voice feature makes it possible to select and play two voices at the same time.
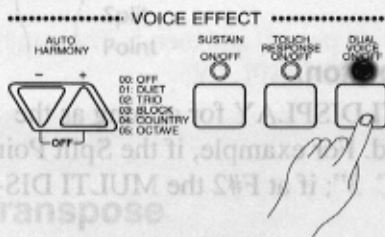
▼ **To activate Dual Voice:**

Press the DUAL VOICE button (the indicator will light).

When on, the voice selected prior to turning the Dual Voice on will sound simultaneously with a second "Dual" Voice. Any voice can be selected as the Dual Voice while the DUAL VOICE is on.

Dual Voice can be turned off by pressing the DUAL VOICE button again.

When the Dual Voice function is used in the Split mode (see page 10) different dual voices can be assigned to the left- and right-hand sections of the keyboard. Press a key to the right of the Split Point to select the right-hand voice, then turn Dual Voice on and select the right-hand dual voice. Press a key to the left of the Split Point to select the left-hand voice, then turn Dual Voice on and select the left-hand dual voice.

❑ *The default Dual Voice that is automatically selected when the PortaTone is switched ON, is voice number 39 (STRINGS 2 SLOW).*

❑ *When the Single Finger or Fingered mode is selected, the Dual Voice feature applies only to the right-hand section of the keyboard.*

❑ *The maximum polyphony of 28 notes is reduced when using Dual Voice. See "Polyphony" on page 19 for more details.*

Split

The Split mode on the PSR-215 allows you to play two voices at once — one with the left hand and one with the right.

Entering the Split Mode

Changing the Split Point

▼ **To enter the Split mode:**

Press the MODE button repeatedly until the SPLIT indicator lights up.

This selects the Split mode. The left-hand voice can now be played to the left of the Split Point, and the right-hand voice can be played to the right of the Split Point.

> ❏ The default Split Point in Split mode is C3 (note name). Note names are shown above each white key.

▼ **To change the Split Point:**

1. Press the SPLIT POINT CHANGE button.

The Split Point is shown on the MULTI DISPLAY for as long as the SPLIT POINT CHANGE button is held. For example, if the Split Point is C3, the MULTI DISPLAY shows "C 3"; if at F#2 the MULTI DISPLAY shows "F⁻2".

2. While holding down the SPLIT POINT CHANGE button, press a keyboard key to select the new Split Point.

> ❏ The Split Point can be changed as well in the Single Finger mode and in the Fingered mode; this affects the physical playing range of the Accompaniment. You can assign separate Split Points in the Single Finger mode and in the Fingered mode.
>
> ❏ The Split Point cannot be changed in Normal mode.
>
> ❏ Note that the Split Point key is included in the right-hand section of the keyboard.
>
> ❏ Split Points for the Split, Single Finger, and Fingered modes are separately retained in memory, and will be recalled separately whenever a certain mode is selected. The memory is retained even when the PortaTone is turned off, provided power is supplied to the PortaTone by batteries or a power adaptor.
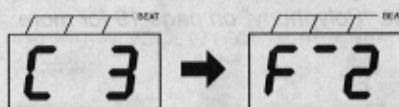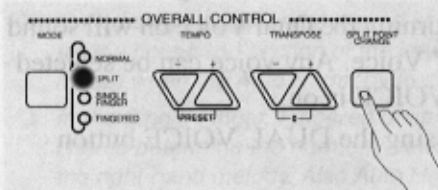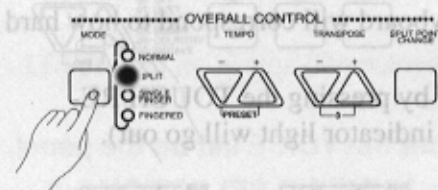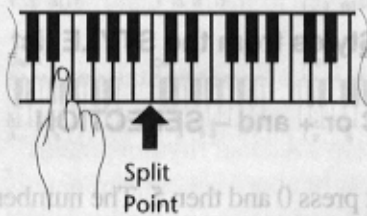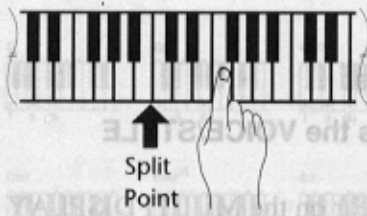
Selecting Voices in the Split mode:

In the Split mode, voices can be selected and played separately in the left and right-hand sections of the keyboard.

Split
Point

Split
Point

### ▼ To select left and right-hand voices:

1. If the VOICE indicator is not lit, press the VOICE/STYLE button so that it lights.

2. To change the right-hand voice press any keyboard key to the right of the Split Point, then select a voice in the normal way.

The current right-hand voice number will be shown on the MULTI DISPLAY and a new right-hand voice can be selected.

3. To change the left-hand voice press any key to the left of the Split Point, then select a voice in the normal way.

The current left-hand voice number will be shown on the MULTI DISPLAY and a new left-hand voice can be selected.

❑ *When the Split mode is first selected the current voice is assigned to the right-hand section of the keyboard and voice number 87 (WOOD BASS) will be assigned as the default voice to the left-hand section of the keyboard.*

❑ *The left-hand voice is octave-shifted to provide the best sound in the left-hand range.*
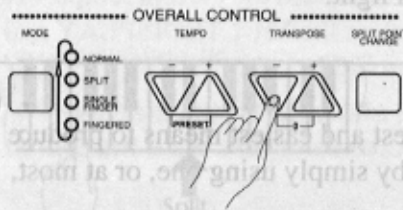
Transpose

The PSR-215 TRANSPOSE buttons make it possible to shift the pitch of the entire keyboard up or down in semitone intervals up to a maximum of 12 semitones (one octave). Transposing the pitch of the PSR-215 keyboard makes it easier to play in difficult key signatures, and you can simply match the pitch of the keyboard to the range of a singer or another instrumentalist.

▼ To transpose the keyboard range:
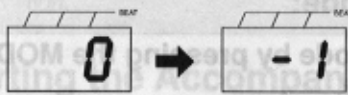
1. Press the TRANSPOSE + or – button.

The first time the TRANSPOSE + or – button is pressed, the current transpose value will appear on the MULTI DISPLAY and remain for approximately 2 seconds afterwards.
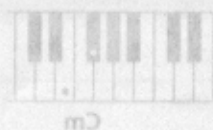
2. While the current transpose value is still showing on the display, press the TRANSPOSE + or – button to raise or lower the pitch.

Holding down either button raises or lowers the pitch continuously.

❑ *The normal transpose value (0) can be recalled at any time by pressing both the TRANSPOSE + and – buttons at the same time.*

❑ *Transpose does not affect the voice number 00 (DRUM KIT).*

Playing with Accompaniment

Playing along with the PSR-215 Accompaniment can be exciting. The PSR-215 provides 50 popular and exciting Accompaniment Styles that can be used to provide fully orchestrated accompaniment.

Selecting an Accompaniment Style

▼ **To select an Accompaniment Style:**

1. If the STYLE indicator is not lit, press the VOICE/STYLE button so that it lights.
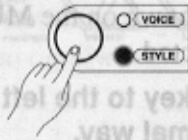
The number of the selected style will appear on the MULTI DISPLAY when the STYLE indicator is lit.

2. Choose one of the Accompaniment Styles from the STYLE list on the panel.

3. Enter its number using the NUMERIC or + and – SELECTION buttons.

To select style number 05, for example, first press 0 and then 5. The number "05" should then be displayed on the MULTI DISPLAY.
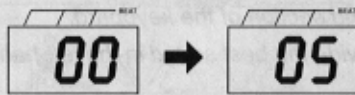
> ❏ A different Accompaniment Style can be selected at any time while the Accompaniment is playing. The style number display will change as soon as the selection is made, but the new style will begin playback from the next measure. The tempo will not change when the new style begins playing.
>
> ❏ Style number 01 is automatically selected as the default style when the Porta-Tone is turned on.

Selecting an Accompaniment Mode

There are two different Accompaniment modes: Single Finger and Fingered. (See below.)

▼ **To select an Accompaniment mode:**

Select Single Finger or Fingered mode by pressing the MODE button as many times as necessary.

The indicator of the selected mode will light.

Single Finger Mode

Chord roots

The Single Finger mode provides the fastest and easiest means to produce beautifully orchestrated accompaniment, by simply using one, or at most, two or three fingers to play the chords.

> ❏ The default Split Point in Single Finger Mode is D2.

▼ **To play a major chord:**

Press the root key.

❏ The root key is the note that corresponds to the chord's name.

C

▼ **To play a minor chord:**

Press the root key and a black key to its left simultaneously.

Cm

▼ **To play a seventh chord:**

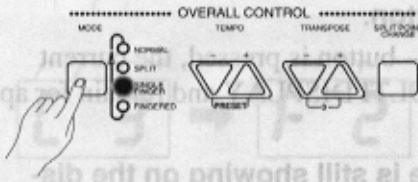Press the root key and a white key to its left simultaneously.

C^7

▼ **To play a minor-seventh chord:**

Press the root key and both a white and black key to its left simultaneously.

Cm^7

Fingered mode

The Fingered mode lets you play a wider range of chord types than the Single Finger mode. Play the notes of the chords yourself in the left-hand section of the keyboard, and the PortaTone will automatically produce an appropriate accompaniment.
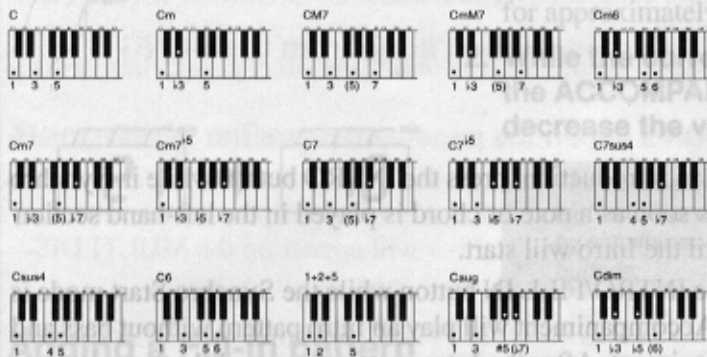
Chord	Abbreviation	Normal Voicing*
Major	M	1-3-5
Minor	m	1-♭3-5
Major seventh	M7	1-3-(5)-7
Minor major seventh	mM7	1-♭3-(5)-7
Minor sixth	m6	1-♭3-5-6
Minor seventh	m7	1-♭3-(5)-♭7
Minor seventh flatted fifth	m7♭5	1-♭3-♭5-♭7
Seventh	7	1-3-(5)-♭7
Seventh flatted fifth	7♭5	1-3-♭5-♭7
Seventh suspended fourth	7sus4	1-4-5-♭7
Suspended fourth	sus4	1-4-5
Major sixth	6	1-3-5-6
One-plus-two-plus-five	1+2+5	1-2-5
Augmented	aug	1-3-♯5-(♭7)
Diminished	dim	1-♭3-♭5-(6)

*Notes in parentheses ( ) may be omitted.

❏ The chart above shows the basic fingerings for the chords; however, different voicings can be used as well, with the following exceptions:
 ● Minor sixth chords will be recognized only if the root is the lowest note.
  ● Seventh flatted fifth chords will be recognized only if either the root or flatted seventh is the lowest note.
  ● For diminished and augmented chords, the lowest key pressed is regarded as the root of the chord.
  ● One-plus-two-plus-five chords and major sixth chords will be properly detected only if they are played in root position.

❏ The default Split Point in Fingered mode is G2.

❏ An octave — i.e. two notes played exactly one octave apart — will produce Accompaniment using only that root note.

❏ Full accompaniment can be cancelled if you press three adjoining keys including a black key. At that point only the rhythm accompaniment will continue.

❏ The accompaniment will continue playing even if you lift your fingers from the left-hand section of the keyboard. You only need to press the accompaniment keys when changing chords.

Starting the Accompaniment

Split Point

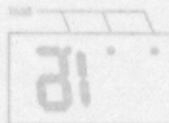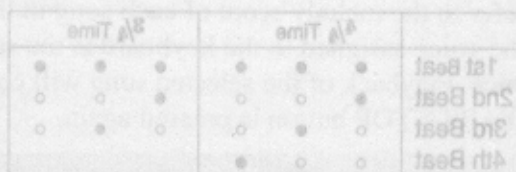### ▼ To start the Accompaniment:
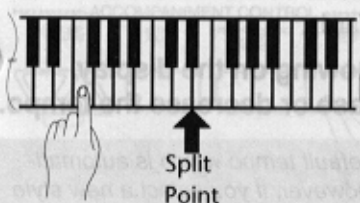
Press a key, key combination, or chord in the left-hand section of the keyboard to start a fully orchestrated accompaniment.

The start is synchronized with the first note or chord played in the left-hand section of the keyboard since the Synchro Start mode is automatically set when selecting Fingered or Single Finger mode.

The Synchro Start mode is indicated by three flashing dots along the top of the MULTI DISPLAY. To cancel Synchro Start mode press the SYNCHRO START/ENDING button.
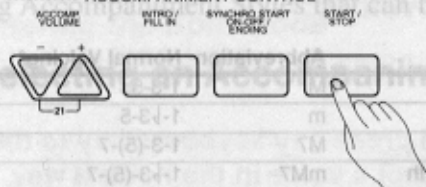
❏ Chord changes always coincide with a beat.

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## Other ways of starting the Accompaniment

Pressing the START/STOP button

·········· ACCOMPANIMENT CONTROL ··········
ACCOMP. VOLUME   INTRO/ FILL IN   SYNCHRO START ON-OFF/ ENDING   START/ STOP

Pressing the START/STOP button immediately starts a rhythm pattern. No bass or chord accompaniment is produced until a chord is detected in the left-hand section of the keyboard.

Pressing the INTRO/FILL IN button

·········· ACCOMPANIMENT CONTROL ··········
ACCOMP. VOLUME   INTRO/ FILL IN   SYNCHRO START ON-OFF/ ENDING   START/ STOP
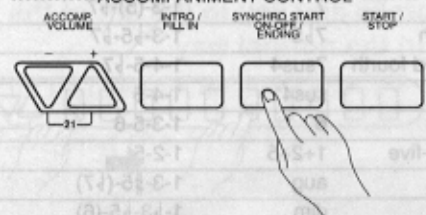
To begin with an introduction, press the INTRO button while in Synchro Start mode. As soon as a note or chord is played in the left-hand section of the keyboard the Intro will start.
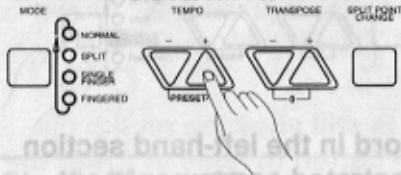
If you press the INTRO/FILL IN button while the Synchro Start mode is canceled, the Accompaniment will play an Intro pattern without bass and chord accompaniment. After the Intro pattern a normal rhythm pattern will continue from the next measure. No bass or chord accompaniment is produced until you begin to play in the left-hand section of the keyboard.

❑ If you cancel the Synchro Start mode by pressing the SYNCHRO START/ ENDING button in SINGLE FINGER or FINGERED mode, and play a chord in the left-hand section of the keyboard, the chord and bass of the selected accompaniment will sound for as long as the chord is held.

❑ A "_" before the style number in the MULTI DISPLAY indicates that the Intro Ready mode is selected.

❑ In Normal or Split mode only rhythm patterns can be played.

Setting the Tempo

The tempo of the Accompaniment can be adjusted from 40 to 240 beats per minute.

·············· OVERALL CONTROL ··············
MODE   TEMPO   TRANSPOSE   SPLIT POINT CHANGE
NORMAL
SPLIT
SINGLE FINGER
FINGERED
(PRESET)

`108` → `120`

▼ To adjust the tempo:

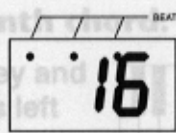**1. Press the TEMPO + or – button.**

The first time the TEMPO + or – button is pressed the current tempo will appear (in quarter-note beats per minute) on the MULTI DISPLAY and remain for approximately 2 seconds afterwards.

2. While the current tempo value is still showing on the display, press the TEMPO + or – button to increase or decrease the tempo.

❑ Each Accompaniment Style has a different default tempo which is automatically set whenever a new style is selected. However, if you select a new style while the Accompaniment is playing, the newly selected style will use the tempo of the previous style.

❑ The default tempo for the selected Accompaniment Style can be recalled at any time by simultaneously pressing the TEMPO + and – buttons.
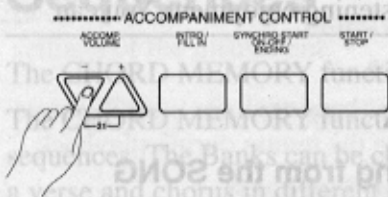
Beat Display

The MULTI DISPLAY provides a visual indication of the beats as shown in the figure below.

`16`

|	⁴/₄ Time			³/₄ Time		
1st Beat	●	●	●	●	●	●
2nd Beat	●	○		○		
3rd Beat	○	●		○	●	
4th Beat	○	○	●			

Adjusting the Accompaniment Volume

▼ **To adjust the Accompaniment volume:**

1. Press the ACCOMPANIMENT VOLUME + or – button.

The first time the ACCOMPANIMENT VOLUME + or – button is pressed the current volume value will appear on the MULTI DISPLAY and remain for approximately 2 seconds afterwards.

2. While the current volume is still showing on the display, press the ACCOMPANIMENT VOLUME + or – button to increase or decrease the volume.
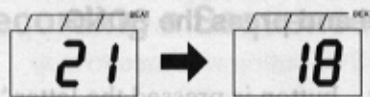
❏ *The volume range is from 0 to 24, with 0 being the lowest volume and 24 the highest. The default Accompaniment volume (21) can be recalled at any time by simultaneously pressing both the ACCOMPANIMENT VOLUME + and – buttons.*

Adding a Fill-in pattern

You can enhance your performance by adding a Fill-in (rhythm variation) at anytime during the Accompaniment.

▼ **To add a Fill-in pattern:**
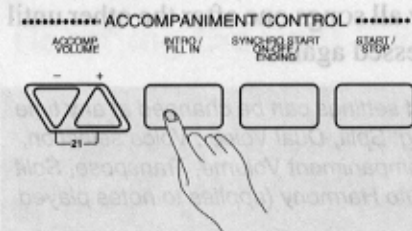
Press the INTRO/FILL IN button.

A Fill-in pattern that matches the selected style will be produced. The normal Accompaniment will then continue from the beginning of the next measure.

❏ *If the INTRO/FILL IN button is pressed after the last beat of the measure, the Fill-in will start at the beginning of the next measure.*

Stopping the Accompaniment

An Accompaniment in progress can be stopped immediately, or it can be stopped with an appropriate ending pattern.

▼ **To stop the Accompaniment:**

Press the START/STOP button to stop the Accompaniment.

The Accompaniment will end immediately.

Pressing the SYNCHRO START/ENDING button will automatically add a brief ending pattern before stopping the Accompaniment.
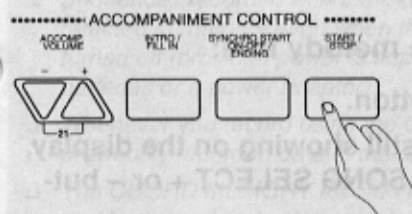
❏ *If the INTRO/FILL IN button is pressed while the ending pattern is playing, a Fill-in pattern will be played, followed by a return to the normal pattern.*

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