

MV-8800 Production Studio



Making a Beat

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MV8800WS15

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

The MV-8800 is all about making beats, and once you hit the REC button, there's no reason to stop until you've got just what you want, whether it's a single drum phrase or a full-blown arrangement. This booklet explains how to make a beat.

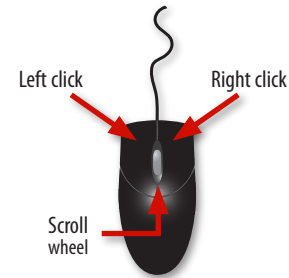
The Buttons, the LCD, or a VGA?

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.

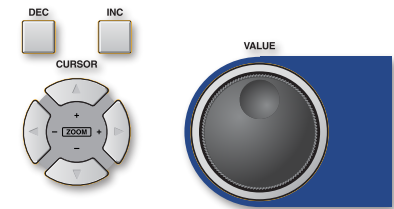
If you're not, don't worry, because the VGA windows and LCD screens are essentially the same. There are clickable VGA icons for all of the MV-8800's buttons. You can also press an onscreen button by clicking your mouse or by pressing an F button on the MV-8800. The main difference has to do with how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

Getting Ready to Make a Beat

Setting Up a New Project for Your Beat

We'll show you how to make a beat by recording one in a brand-new, empty project. Here's how to create a new project:

- 1 Press the PROJECT button.
- 2 Select Create New Project to open the CREATE NEW PROJECT window.



- 3 Click Execute—when the MV-8800 asks you if you want to save your current project before creating a new one, click the desired button. If:
 - you've got a project of your own loaded that you want to keep—click Yes.
 - you've got one of the factory projects loaded, or a project you don't care about—click No.



The CREATE NEW PROJECT window has lots of options you should know about, even though we're not using them here. To learn more about this window—and about projects in general—see the MV-8800 *Creating a New Project Workshop* booklet.

- 4 The best place in the MV-8800 for making beats is Pattern mode, so press the PATTERN button.

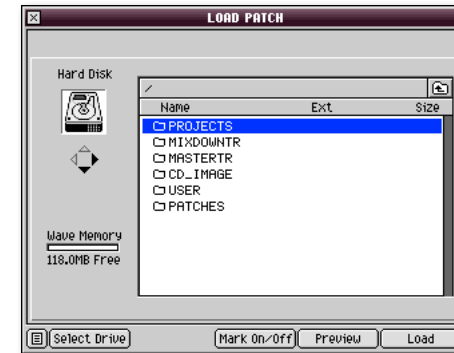


Loading the Sounds You Want

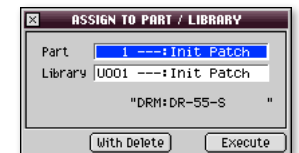
Some beats are simple, and use only a single sound, or "patch." But if you want to, you can easily record a full-blown arrangement on the MV-8800 without ever hitting STOP. In this booklet, we'll show you how to do this. (You can always stop in the middle if you just want to use a single patch.)

Let's load some patches to work with.

- 1 Press the INSTRUMENTS button.
- 2 Press the MENU button.
- 3 Press the 3 button on the MV-8800's keypad to select Load Patch—the keypad buttons let you quickly jump to numbered choices in MV-8800 menus.
- 4 Click Select to open the LOAD PATCH window.



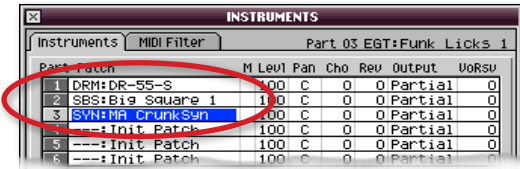
- 5 If what you see doesn't look like this, press the ◀ CURSOR button until it does.
- 6 Using your mouse, double-click the PATCHES folder to open it up.
- 7 Double-click the DRUMKITS folder to see what's inside it.
- 8 Select a drum kit patch—a patch starting with "DRM"—by double-clicking it. We're selecting DR-55-S, but you can use any kit patch.
- 9 Leave the settings in the ASSIGN TO PART/LIBRARY window as they are and click Execute.





If you just want to make a beat using a single patch, you can jump now to “Recording a Beat,” below.

- After the patch loads, press the ◀ CURSOR button, and then double-click the BASS folder.
- Select a bass patch—we’re picking Big Square 1—by double-clicking it, and in the ASSIGN TO PART/LIBRARY window, click Execute.
- Repeat Steps 10 and 11, this time opening the SYNTH folder and picking a synth patch. We’re choosing MA CrunkSyn.
- Press the INSTRUMENTS button—at this point, we’ve got our three patches loaded into the project’s first three parts:



We’re ready to start recording.



To learn more about loading patches, see the MV-8800 *Loading Patches* Workshop booklet.

Recording a Beat

Recording a Track

- Press PATTERN to close the INSTRUMENTS window.
- Press TOP to move to the beginning of the pattern. When you create a new project, the MV-8800 puts one MIDI track and one audio track in each new pattern. You use MIDI tracks for recording with MV-8800 patches.
- Select this pattern’s default MIDI patch so it becomes highlighted as shown at the top of the next column.



- Look up at the Out Part area above the tracks. The Out Part area shows you the part that’s being used by the track you’ve selected.

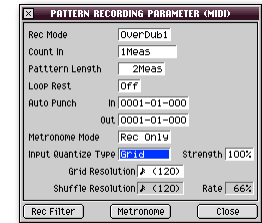


This MIDI track is using Part 1, which holds the drum kit patch we’ve loaded. Perfect.

- Press the red REC button to open the PATTERN RECORDING PARAMETER (MIDI) window. In this window, you can set up the way you want to record.
- Set:



- Rec Mode**—to Overdub1. The MV-8800 has a few different ways to record. Overdub1 lets you add new notes on top of already-recorded notes each time the pattern loops around.
- Count In**—to 1Meas. Count In sets the number of beats you hear before recording begins when press the PLAY button, as we will a bit later on. We like 1Meas, since it gives us the classic “1-2-3-4-go!” countoff.
- Pattern Length**—to 2Meas, for “2 measures.” This parameter sets the length of your beat. Most beats are four measures long, but for now, we’ll make a shorter beat.
- Input Quantize**—to Grid. With the default grid resolution of ♩ 120, the MV-8800 automatically fixes any timing mistakes you make as you play, rounding everything off to 16th notes.



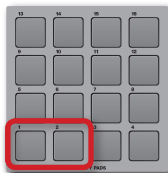


We'll explain the options in the PATTERN RECORDING PARAMETER (MIDI) window in more detail at the end of this booklet, on [Page 8](#). These are the settings we want for now, though.

- 7 You can hear the MV-8800's click, or "metronome." This is the beat you play along with when you record.

For now, we'll make a kick drum and snare rhythm by playing Pads 1 and 2 to record kick drum and snare notes on our track.

- 8 Before we start recording, play along with the click on Pads 1 and 2 to practice your rhythm.



If you don't hear a kick drum and snare when you play these pads, the pads may be set to play the wrong pad bank. Press the PAD BANKS button, select Bank 1, and press PAD BANKS again.



If you want your notes to always be as loud as possible, press the FIXED VELOCITY button above the pads so it lights.

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 what you play on the pads. At the beginning of each measure, you'll hear a higher-pitched click to help you know where you are.

A new pattern has looping on by default, so at the end of the pattern's two measures, it'll loop around, and you'll hear what you've recorded.

Please don't hit the STOP button until we tell you to! Don't worry if you make a mistake—fixing mistakes is part of our lesson. We want to make a whole beat arrangement without stopping. Ready?

- 9 Hit the PLAY button—on the fifth click, start playing the pads for two measures.



If you don't know what a measure is, don't worry. When the two measures have gone by, you'll hear the notes you've recorded start to play back.



Whenever you're actually recording, the REC button's red indicator and the PLAY button's green indicator light solidly.

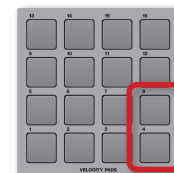
Maybe one or more notes didn't get recorded the way you want, or maybe everything went perfectly. Either way, let's get into how you can erase any note you want.

- 10 Hold down the EVENT ERASE button above the pads, and keep holding it. To remove a note, hold down the note's pad when it plays—the MV-8800 scoops it right out as long as you're holding down EVENT ERASE.



- 11 Remove a note or two to see how this works, and then let go of EVENT ERASE.
- 12 If you want to add the notes back in, re-play them when the pattern loops back around.

Now we want to add some hi-hat using Pads 4 and 8. The MV-8800's Rehearsal mode lets you turn off recording while you work out what you want to play. Let's enter Rehearsal mode.



- 13 Press REC again—it flashes to show you're in Rehearsal mode.
- 14 Work out your hi-hat part on Pads 4 and 5. You can play whatever you want as you figure it out, and—as you can hear—it's not being recorded.
- 15 When you're ready to record, hit REC again—it stops flashing to show that you're out of Rehearsal mode and that the MV-8800 will record anything you play.
- 16 Lay down your hi-hat part.
- 17 Repeat Steps 13-16 to add any other sounds from your Drum kit patch.



We're about to add some more instruments to our beat as part of our lesson, so don't hit STOP if you want to keep going. If you don't care, though, and only want to record a single-patch beat, you can hit STOP now, and then press PLAY to enjoy your new beat.

Recording More Tracks

There may be times when a beat wants more than a single patch, and the MV-8800 makes it easy to record sound after sound as you build a beat.

In the following steps, we'll keep going to give you an idea of the power the MV-8800 puts at your fingertips. We'll add two more instruments to show how the music never stops when you're making a beat on the MV-8800.

- Press the MENU button and select Add MIDI tracks with your mouse or the ▼ and ▲ CURSOR buttons—you can't use the VALUE dial for this when music is playing. We could make as many new MIDI tracks as we want here, but, for now, we'll just make one new one.



- Leave the Number of Tracks parameter set as it is, but set Output Assign to Part 2, your bass sound. Here's what the window looks like for us.



- Click Execute—a new MIDI track that uses your bass patch appears, and it's already selected.
- Press REC again so it flashes to show you're in Rehearsal mode.
- Work out a bass part by playing the pads.



If you want to get to higher bass notes, press the PAD BANKS button to find the pad bank you want, and then press it again when you're done.

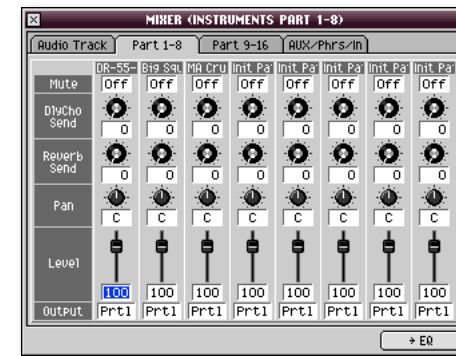
- When you're ready, hit REC again to get out of Rehearsal mode, and then record your bass line.
- Repeat Steps 18-23 to record a synth part. This time, chose Part 3 in Step 19 so the track uses your synth patch.
- When you're done, press the STOP button—you've just recorded a beat on the MV-8800.



Some Other Ideas

Here are some other things you can do while you're recording a beat—all without stopping the music. You can:

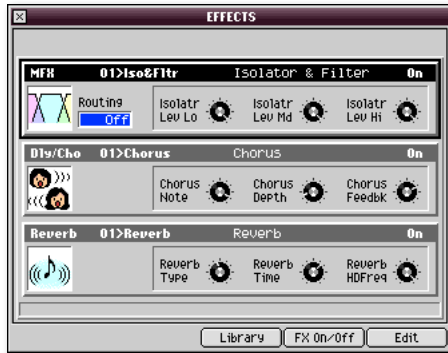
- record more tracks*—using any parts in which you've loaded instruments.
- clear out everything you've recorded since you hit REC*—by hitting the UNDO button. To get it back, hit the flashing UNDO button again before you record anything else.
- name a track*—by double-clicking the track's name with your mouse, naming the track as desired, and clicking OK.
- press MIXER*—and adjust your mix by setting each part's level.



EQ your tracks from the MIXER screen by clicking →EQ or pressing F5. (To learn about EQ, see the MV-8800 *Using EQ* Workshop booklet.)

You can also assign add effects in the part's MIXER window:

- *Add an MFX effect*—by setting the part's Output parameter to an Aux bus being sent to the MFX processor.
- *Add Delay/Chorus or Reverb*—by adjusting the part's Dly/Cho Send or Reverb Send, respectively.
- *press EFFECTS*—and select and/or edit an MFX, or adjust the settings of the Dly/Cho or Reverb processors.



Don't Forget

You can always record a beat a track at a time if you prefer to work that way. Just hit STOP after each track is recorded.

Also, don't forget to save your beat by holding down SHIFT and pressing SHUTDOWN·SAVE PROJECT.

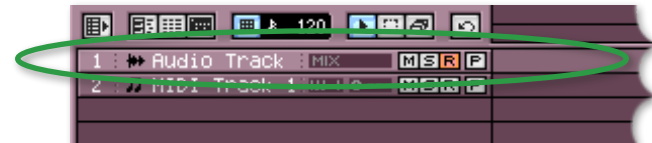


When you're done working on the MV-8800, shut it down properly by pressing SHUTDOWN, and if you haven't already saved your project, make sure to do it now. If you don't, your work will be lost when your turn off the MV-8800.

Making a Beat with Audio Phrases

It's just as easy to make a beat from audio phrases as it is to make one using patches. The process is similar, though there are a few differences. If your currently loaded project contains audio phrases, here's how to make a beat from them.

- 1 Press PATTERN.
- 2 Press TOP to move to the beginning of the pattern.
- 3 When you create a new project, the MV-8800 puts one MIDI track and one audio track in each new pattern. You use audio tracks for recording with audio phrases.
- 4 Select the pattern's default audio track so it becomes highlighted as this one is here.



- 5 Press the red REC button to open the PATTERN RECORDING PARAMETER (AUDIO) window. In this window, you can set up the way you want to record.
- 6 Set:
 - *Rec Mode*—to Event to record your playing on the pads.
 - *Count In*—to 1Meas for a "1-2-3-4" countoff.
 - *Pattern Length*—to 2Meas, for "2 measures." This parameter sets the length of your beat. Most beats are four measures long, but for now, we'll make a shorter beat, as we did earlier.
 - *Input Quantize*—to 120 to help fix any timing mistakes you may make while recording.



We'll explain the options in the PATTERN RECORDING PARAMETER (AUDIO) window in more detail at the end of this booklet, on [Page 9](#). These are the settings we want for now, though.

- 7 You can hear the MV-8800's click, or "metronome." This is the beat you play along with when you record.

- 8 Practice what you plan to record by playing your audio phrases on the pads along with the click.

Once we hit PLAY in Step 8 below, you'll hear four clicks—"1-2-3-4"—and then the MV-8800 will begin recording at the fifth click. At the start of each measure, there's a higher-pitched click to help you know where you are.

When the pattern finishes playing through once, it'll loop, and you'll hear what you've recorded.



Recording Parameter Details

PATTERN RECORDING PARAMETER (MIDI) List

We skipped over this earlier in order to save time, but here's what all of the parameters in the PATTERN RECORDING PARAMETER (MIDI) window do:



When you record with audio phrases, the MV-8800 goes through the pattern once, recording what you play, and then automatically switches over to playback, where no more audio phrases are recorded.

Ready?

- 9 Hit the PLAY button—on the fifth click, start playing the pads for two measures.
- 10 When you're done, hit the STOP button.



After stopping playback, you can record additional audio phrase tracks by creating a new audio track and repeating Steps 5-10, selecting the new audio track in Step 4.

<i>This parameter:</i>	<i>sets the MV-8800 so that:</i>
Rec Mode	notes you play are recorded the way you want them to be. You can set Rec Mode to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overdub1</i>—so that any new notes you play are added to already-recorded notes. • <i>Overdub2</i>—so that you can re-play notes you've already recorded, replacing them with new notes. • <i>Replace</i>—so that everything new you record replaces what's already recorded on the track.
Count In	you hear the desired amount of warning before recording actually begins. You can set this to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Off</i>—for no count-in. • <i>1Meas, 2Meas</i>—to hear four beats or eight beats before recording starts. • <i>Wait Note</i>—so recording starts whenever you play your first note, with no count-in.
Pattern Length	your pattern is the desired length, from 1 measure, or four beats, to 999 measures.
Loop Rest	recording can pause for four beats each time a looping pattern plays through. When Loop Rest is turned off, the pattern plays over and over without pausing.
Auto Punch In	recording starts at the Auto Punch In location when the AUTO PUNCH button is lit.
Auto Punch Out	recording ends at the Auto Punch Out location when the AUTO PUNCH button is lit.

<i>This parameter: sets the MV-8800 so that:</i>	
Metronome Mode	<p>the metronome click plays as desired. It can be set to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Off</i>—so it never plays. • <i>Rec Only</i>—so it only plays during recording. • <i>Play&Rec</i>—so it plays during both playback and recording. • <i>Always</i>—so it plays all the time, even when you're not playing back or recording.
Input Quantize Type	<p>the timing of notes you play is corrected in the desired way. You can set it to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Grid</i>—to move your notes to the Grid Resolution note value. • <i>Shuffle</i>—to move your notes to the Shuffle Resolution note value before adding "swing" to the notes.
Strength	<p>quantized notes are moved to the Grid or Shuffle Resolution note value as exactly as you want. With a 100% setting, notes are moved precisely to the note value. With lesser values, they're moved towards the Grid Resolution note value by lesser amounts.</p>
Grid Resolution	<p>notes are moved during recording to the nearest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 = 1/32 notes • 80 = 1/16(triplet) notes • 120 = 1/16 notes • 160 = 1/8(triplet) notes • 240 = 1/8 notes • 320 = 1/4(triplet) notes • 480 = 1/4 notes
Shuffle Resolution	<p>notes are moved during recording to the nearest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 = 1/16 notes • 240 = 1/8 notes

<i>This parameter: sets the MV-8800 so that:</i>	
Rate	<p>"swing" is added to notes quantized to the Shuffle Resolution. A 50% Rate setting means no swing. Values below 50% swing each backbeat toward the downbeat (Beat 1, 3, 5, etc.) before it. Values above 50% swing each backbeat towards the downbeat after it.</p>

PATTERN RECORDING PARAMETER (AUDIO) List

If you're recording using audio phrases, you'll see the PATTERN RECORDING PARAMETER (AUDIO) window when you press REC. Here's what this window's parameters do.

<i>This parameter: sets the MV-8800 so that:</i>	
Rec Mode	<p>notes you play are recorded the way you want them to be. You can set Rec Mode to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Direct Rec</i>—to record audio directly from the MV-8800's inputs. Use this for recording live audio. • <i>Resample MIX</i>—to re-record, or resample, everything coming out of the MV-8800's MASTER output jacks. • <i>Event</i>—to record audio phrases played on the pads.
Sample Type	<p>audio is recorded in your choice of stereo or mono when you've set Rec Mode to Direct Rec or Resample MIX. This parameter doesn't apply to recording audio phrases.</p>
Count In	<p>you hear the desired amount of warning before recording actually begins. You can set this to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Off</i>—for no count-in. • <i>1Meas, 2Meas</i>—to hear four beats or eight beats before recording starts. • <i>Wait Note</i>—so recording starts whenever you play your first note, with no count-in.

This parameter: sets the MV-8800 so that:

Pattern Length your pattern is the desired length, from 1 measure, or four beats, to 999 measures.

Loop Rest recording can pause for four beats each time a looping pattern plays through. When Loop Rest is turned off, the pattern plays over and over without pausing.

Auto Punch In recording starts at the Auto Punch In location when the AUTO PUNCH button is lit.

Auto Punch Out recording stops at the Auto Punch Out location when the AUTO PUNCH button is lit.

Metronome Mode the metronome click plays as desired. It can be set to:

- *Off*—so it never plays.
- *Rec Only*—so it only plays during recording.
- *Play&Rec*—so it plays during playback and recording.
- *Always*—so it plays all the time, even when you're not playing back or recording.

Input Quantize the timing of notes you play is corrected to the nearest selected note value. You can choose:

- *Off*—for no quantizing
- *60*—1/32 notes
- *80*—1/16(triplet) notes
- *120*—1/16 notes
- *160*—1/8(triplet) notes
- *240*—1/8 notes
- *320*—1/4(triplet) notes
- *480*—1/4 notes

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.