

Roland SP-404

MICRO MANUAL

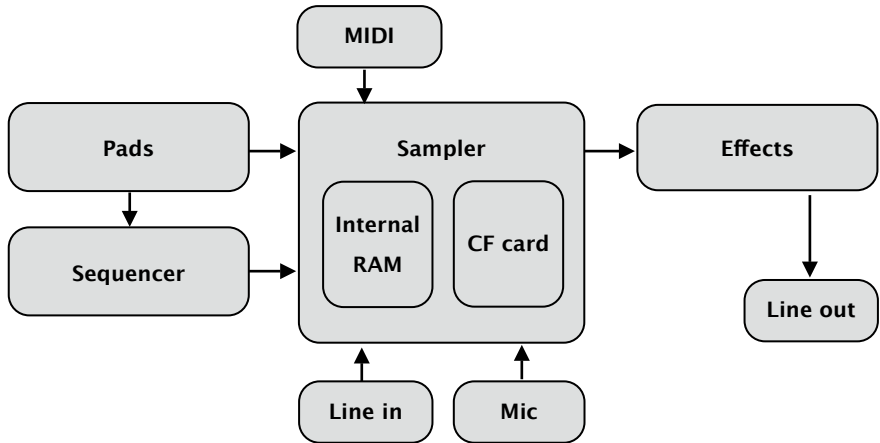


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SP-404 structure

To understand how the SP-404 works and how its parts interoperate, please have a look at this block diagram below.



Importing samples

SP-404 allows you to import samples in WAV and AIFF formats. To do so, you need to have a USB Compact Flash card reader or use the USB function of your other gear which uses Compact Flash cards. The size of the samples is only limited by the space available on the Compact Flash card. After importing the samples, you can erase the originals off the card, as they will be converted to SP-404 format and placed in the ROLAND folder.



The image shows a Roland SP-404 sampler with four numbered callouts pointing to specific controls:

- 1** Copy the files onto the root folder of the Compact Flash card (points to the MEMORY CARD slot)
- 2** Hold down CANCEL and press RESAMPLE (points to the CANCEL and RESAMPLE buttons)
- 3** Press the pad bank and the starting pad for the import (points to the BANK and 1 buttons)
- 4** Press the blinking REC button (points to the REC button)

Adjusting the pad level

SP-404 allows you to set the volume (audio level) of each of the sounds assigned to the pads. A great feature is that you can adjust the level while a pattern is playing – you just need to switch to pads mode by pressing the lit PATTERN SELECT button.



3 Adjust the level with the CTRL 3 knob

2 Press START/END/LEVEL

1 Press the pad you want to adjust the level for

Swapping sounds between two pads

To rearrange your sounds, you can use the “swap” function on the SP-404. It allows you to exchange sample assignments between any two pads, so that you can get them laid out the way you want.


- 2 Hold down CANCEL and press REC
- 3 Press the pad you want to exchange the sample with



- 1 Press the pad you want to change the sample for

Creating a pattern

SP-404 allows you to easily create a pattern and quantize it on the fly. You can use 16th note quantize grid for usual beats and 16.3 (16th with triplets) for swinging beats. While the recording goes on, you can press the REC button so it blinks – this will enter a “rehearsal” mode which allows you to switch pad banks and check out the sounds in the context of the pattern you’re creating. Once you found the sound you want to add, press REC again and play what you want in.



The image shows a Roland SP-404 sampler with six numbered callouts pointing to specific controls:

- 1** Press PAT-TERN SE-LECT and then REC
- 2** Select the pattern bank and pattern you want to record into
- 3** Press QUANTIZE
- 4** Use the CTRL 3 knob to set the quantize rate
- 5** Press REC to start
- 6** Play the pads and press CAN-CEL when done