

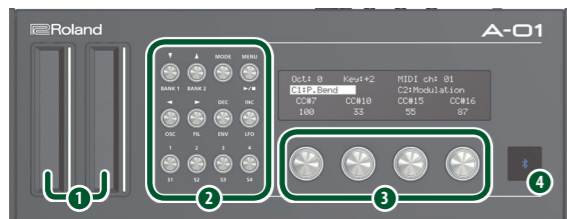
Introduction

The A-01 is a MIDI controller with two ribbon controllers and four rotary encoders. You can assign any MIDI messages to these controllers, and use them to control your DAW or external MIDI device. In addition, the A-01 contains an 8-bit CPU sound module and a step sequencer, allowing you to also use it as a stand-alone synthesizer.

The A-01 also supports the Bluetooth® Smart standard, and can wirelessly exchange MIDI data with a mobile device such as a tablet or smartphone.

Panel Descriptions

● Top panel



1 Ribbon controllers (C1, C2)

These are touch-type controllers.

* From the left, they are numbered C1 and C2.

2 Operation buttons

Use these to make settings for the A-01.

● Rear panel



5 [POWER] switch

Turns the power on/off.

* Before turning the unit on/off, always be sure to turn the volume down. Even with the volume turned down, you might hear some sound when switching the unit on/off. However, this is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.

6 Micro USB port

Connect this to your computer so that MIDI data can be transferred.

7 [VOLUME] knob

Adjusts the output of the built-in speakers, PHONES jack.

3 Rotary encoders (R1-R4)

Use these to control external devices. (Subsequently, we'll call these "encoders.")

* From the left, they are numbered R1, R2, R3, and R4.

4 Bluetooth LED

This LED is lit blue when a Bluetooth connection is enabled.

8 PHONES jack

Connect your headphones here.

9 CV OUT jack, GATE OUT jack

MIDI messages from the A-01 or from an external device are converted to single-note CV/GATE signals and output from these jacks.

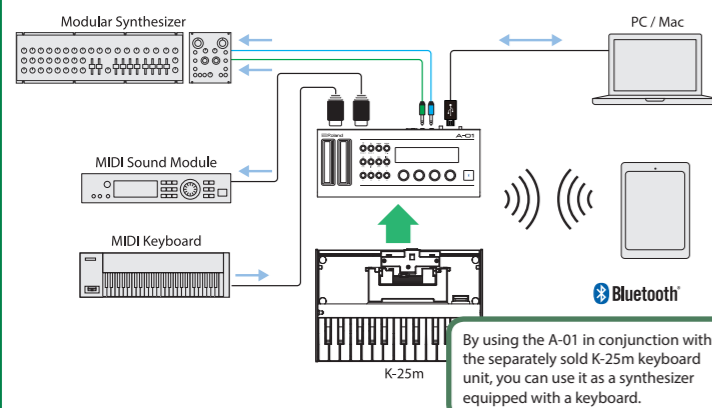
CAUTION

Take care not to connect these jacks to your headphones or earphones. Doing so will cause malfunctions.

10 MIDI IN connector, MIDI OUT connector

Connect these to your MIDI equipment to receive or send MIDI messages.

Connecting Your Equipment



Connecting a computer

1. Using a commercially available USB cable (A-micro B-type), connect the A-01 to your computer and turn on the power of the A-01.

2. Start the DAW or sequencer software that you're using, and specify the A-01 as the MIDI device.

Connecting a tablet

You'll use the Bluetooth function to connect the A-01 to your tablet.

1. Power-on the A-01, and place your tablet nearby.

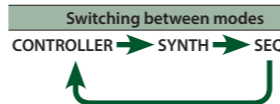
2. Enable the Bluetooth function of your tablet, and in the list of detected devices, choose "Roland A-01."

When the connection is established, the A-01's Bluetooth LED is lit.

3. Start the app that you're using, and specify the A-01 as the Bluetooth MIDI device.

Switching the Mode (CONTROLLER / SYNTH / SEQ)

The A-01 has three modes: CONTROLLER, SYNTH, and SEQ. Press the [MODE] button to switch between these modes.



● CONTROLLER Mode

In CONTROLLER mode you use the two ribbon controllers (C1, C2) and four encoders to control your MIDI equipment. The assignments of each controller can be saved in buttons [1]-[4].

● SYNTH Mode

In SYNTH mode you can create sound by editing the settings of the oscillator, filter, envelope, and LFO. You can save up to 16 of the sounds (tones) that you create (8 tones x 2 banks).

● SEQ (Step Sequencer) Mode

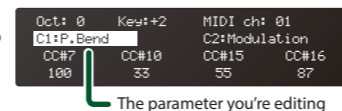
The A-01 operates as a 16-step step sequencer, allowing you to view and edit the steps in four blocks each containing four steps.

Using CONTROLLER Mode

In CONTROLLER mode, the A-01 performs the functions that are printed above each operation button.

Editing the settings

To edit the settings, use the [◀] [▶] [▲] [▼] buttons to move to an item, and use the [INC] [DEC] buttons to edit the parameter.



Recalling and saving a patch

You can recall or save controller settings for the patch as follows. Up to 16 sets of patches (4 patches x 4 banks) can be saved.

1. Hold down the [▼] button and use the [1]-[4] buttons to select a bank.

2. Press one of the [1]-[4] buttons to recall a patch. If you long-press a button, the current settings are saved in that number.

* When you save the settings, the previously-saved settings are overwritten by the newly-saved settings.

Using SYNTH Mode

In SYNTH mode, the A-01 performs the functions that are printed below each operation button.

Creating a tone

1. Press the button corresponding to the item (OSC, FIL, ENV, LFO) that you want to edit.

The parameters are displayed.

Button or encoder corresponding to the parameter for each item

	S1	S2	S3	S4	R1	R2	R3	R4
OSC	Saw	Square	PWM	Noise	PW	Portamento	Portamento Time	Octave
FIL	Type1	Type2	Type3	OFF	Cutoff	Resonance	Envelope Mod	LFO Mod
ENV	Envelope	Gate	—	—	Attack	Decay	Sustain	Release
LFO	Sine	Square	Saw	Random	LFO Mod	LFO Rate	LFO PWM	(Zoom)

* PWM: Pulse Width Modulation, Mod: Modulation

2. To edit a parameter, operate the button (S1-S4) or encoder (R1-R4) corresponding to that parameter.

* Parameters that are assigned to the buttons (S1-S4) allow you to select one choice.
* In LFO, the Zoom parameter lets you change the magnification of the audio waveform.

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to create your tone.

Recalling or saving a tone

Here's how to recall or save a tone.

1. Use the [BANK 1], [BANK 2] buttons to select a bank.

2. Press one of the [OSC], [FIL], [ENV], [LFO], or [S1]-[S4] buttons to recall a tone. By long-pressing a button, you can save the tone.

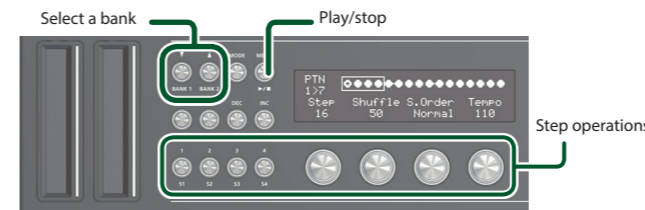
* When you save a tone, the newly-saved tone overwrites the previously-saved tone.

Performing

So that you can perform using the separately sold K-25m keyboard unit, the default settings assign pitch bend to ribbon controller (C1) and modulation to ribbon controller (C2). By pressing the [▶/■] button you can play back the step sequencer.

Using SEQ Mode

SEQ mode contains settings for the entire pattern (16 steps) and settings for each individual step.



Playing/stopping the pattern

To play the pattern, press the [▶/■] button. To stop the pattern, press the [▶/■] button once again.

Settings for the entire pattern

1. As shown in the table below, make settings for the entire pattern.

Parameter	Explanation	Controller			
Step	Specifies the number of steps (1-16).	Encoder (R1)			
Shuffle	Adjusts the rhythmic swing of the notes.	Encoder (R2)			
Step Order	Specifies the playback order of the steps.	Encoder (R3)			
	Normal		Normal (default)	O → E	Odd-numbered only → Even-numbered only
	EvenOdd		Invert even/ odd-numbered	E → O	Even-numbered only → Odd-numbered only
	Odd		Odd-numbered only	Random	Random
Tempo	Specifies the tempo (40-240 bpm) of the pattern. * The [MENU] button blinks at the specified tempo.	Encoder (R4)			
Gate Time	Specifies the same note duration for all steps. * It is not possible to enter a tie in the overall settings. To enter a tie, make settings for each individual step.	Ribbon controller (C2)			
Scale	Select one of the following four as the note length value of each step.	[INC], [DEC] button			
Off Step	Inputs the "Rest" or "Skip" to all blank steps. Rest: Hold down a [1]-[4] button and press [◀] button. Skip: Hold down a [1]-[4] button and press [▶] button.	—			

Creating a pattern: Inputting and editing steps

1. Use the [◀] [▶] buttons to select the block that you want to input.

2. Use the [1]-[4] buttons to enter (turn on/off) each step.

* Enter a tie: Hold down a [1]-[4] button and press [INC] button.
Enter a tie Off: Hold down a [1]-[4] button and press [DEC] button.

3. As shown in the table below, specify how each step will sound.

Parameter	Explanation	Editing procedure
Key	Specifies the pitch of the step.	Hold down a [1]-[4] button and turn the encoder (R1).
Gate Time	Specifies the duration of the note. To enter a tie, set this value to 101%.	Hold down a [1]-[4] button and turn the encoder (R2).
Cutoff	Specifies the cutoff frequency of the low pass filter.	Hold down a [1]-[4] button and turn the encoder (R3).
Resonance	Emphasizes the overtone components in the region of the low pass filter's cutoff frequency.	Hold down a [1]-[4] button and turn the encoder (R4).
Velocity	Specifies the strength (velocity) of the note.	While holding down one of the [1]-[4] buttons, press the [▼] button and turn encoder (R1).

4. Repeat steps 1-3 to create your pattern.

Recalling or saving a pattern

Here's how to recall or save a pattern.

1. Use the [BANK 1] [BANK 2] buttons to select a bank.

2. Press one of the [OSC], [FIL], [ENV], [LFO], or [S1]-[S4] buttons to recall a pattern. By long-pressing a button, you can save the pattern.

* When you save a pattern, the newly-saved pattern overwrites the previously-saved pattern.

Main Specifications

Roland A-01: CONTROLLER + GENERATOR	
Memory	CONTROLLER mode: 16 patches (4 patches x 4 banks) SYNTH mode: 16 tones (8 tones x 2 banks) SEQ mode: 16 patterns (8 patterns x 2 banks)
Power Supply	Rechargeable Ni-MH battery (AA, HR6) x 4, Alkaline battery (AA, LR6) x 4, USB bus power
Current Draw	500 mA (USB bus power)
Dimensions	300 (W) x 128 (D) x 46 (H) mm 11-13/16 (W) x 5-1/16 (D) x 1-13/16 (H) inches
Weight	950 g (including batteries) 2 lbs 2 oz
Accessories	Owner's Manual, Leaflet "USING THE UNIT SAFELY", Alkaline battery (AA, LR6) x 4
Options (sold separately)	Keyboard unit: K-25m

* In the interest of product improvement, the specifications and/or appearance of this unit are subject to change without prior notice.

System Settings

Here's how to make system settings for the A-01 and MIDI-related settings.

1. Press the [MENU] button.

2. Use the [▲] [▼] buttons to select a parameter, and use the [DEC] / [INC] buttons to specify a value.

3. When you have finished making settings, press the [MENU] button to return to the original mode.

Parameter list

SYSTEM parameter	Value	Explanation
Master Tune	-64-63	Specifies the master tuning.
System Tempo	40-240	Specifies the basic tempo. If synchronization (slave) is disabled, the tempo of the pattern will be the value that you specify here. * When you change this value, the tempo of the currently-recalled pattern also changes.
LCD Contrast	1-10	Adjusts the brightness of the display.
Auto Off	Off, 30 min	Specifies the time after which the power automatically turns off if the unit has not been operated. * Auto Off does not occur if the unit is USB-connected.
Eco Mode	Off, 3 sec, 10 sec, 1 min	Specifies the time after which the display is dimmed if the unit has not been operated.
Bluetooth LE	Off, On	Turns Bluetooth communication on/off.
Bluetooth LE Name	Off, 1-9	Specifies the name that is displayed for the Bluetooth device.
Key Velocity	Touch	The transmitted velocity value that is transmitted when you play the keyboard.
	1-127	The transmitted velocity corresponds to the force with which you play the key. A fixed velocity is always transmitted, regardless of the force with which you play the key.
Velo Curve	Light	Specifies the keyboard touch. The keyboard feels light.
	Normal	The keyboard feels normal.
	Heavy	The keyboard feels heavy.
MIDI Clock	Auto	The tempo automatically synchronizes to MIDI clock (default).
	Internal	The tempo specified on the A-01 unit is used. Choose the "Internal" setting if you don't want to synchronize to an external device.
CV Scale	-63-+63	Adjusts the output scale of the CV signal.
CV Fine Tune	-100-+100	Applies a fine adjustment to the output voltage of the CV signal.
CV Ref Note	C0-C4	Specifies the note number (in steps of an octave) for which the output of the CV OUT jack will be 0V.
Bulk Dump	Execute, Cancel	Transmits controller settings, tones, and patterns via MIDI.
Factory Reset	Execute, Cancel	Resets the unit to the factory-set state.

PATCH parameter	Value	Explanation
Bank Select MSB	0-127	Specifies the bank select MSB value.
Bank Select LSB	0-127	Specifies the bank select LSB value.
Program Change	1-128	Specifies the program change value.
C1 Hold	Off	This setting specifies whether the value is held or returned to 0 when you release your finger from a ribbon controller (C1, C2).
C2 Hold	On (hold value)	
Note Scale	16 Types	Selects the scale (such as Chromatic or Major) that is used when using the ribbon controller (C1) to play preview sounds.
Seq Tx Ch	1-16	Specifies the channel on which the MIDI messages of SEQ mode (step sequencer) are transmitted.
Synth Ctrl Src	ALL, KEYBOARD, 16STEPSEQ, MIDI ch 1-16	Selects the source that plays the synth.
CV/GATE Ctrl Src		Selects the signal that is output from the CV OUT jack and GATE OUT jack.
CV Portamento SW	Off	Applies a portamento effect to the CV signal. Portamento is not applied.
	Always	Portamento is always applied.
	Legato	Portamento is applied only when you play legato.
CV Portamento Time	1-127	Specifies the time of the portamento effect that is applied to the CV signal. Higher values make the portamento apply more slowly.
CV Pitch Bend Range	1-12	Specifies the range of pitch bend in semitone units.
SysEX 1	Type: Roland, Normal	Specify the system exclusive messages that are assigned to the ribbon controllers (C1, C2) or encoders (R1-R4).
SysEX 2		
SysEX 3		
SysEX 4		

Important Notes

The A-01 operates on batteries or on USB bus power. If using the unit on batteries, install four AA batteries, ensuring that the batteries are oriented correctly.

- * When the batteries run low, the LED at the top of ribbon controller (C1) blinks. Please install new batteries.
- * If you handle batteries improperly, you risk explosion and fluid leakage.
- * This unit is equipped with a protection circuit. A brief interval (a few seconds) after turning the unit on is required before it will operate normally.
- * The power to this unit will be turned off automatically after a predetermined amount of time has passed since it was last used for playing music, or its buttons or controls were operated (Auto Off function). If you do not want the power to be turned off automatically, disengage the Auto Off function.
 - Any settings that you are in the process of editing will be lost when the power is turned off. If you have any settings that you want to keep, you should save them beforehand.
 - To restore power, turn the power on again.