



Supplemental Notes

Updating the VS-840 with SMFs

June 23rd, 1999 SN113 v1.0



The VS-840 can be user-updated to add new features and to install the latest version available from Roland Corporation. The updated software is provided as eight Standard MIDI Files on floppy disks formatted for either IBM-compatible or Macintosh computers.

The tools required are:

- MIDI sequencer (software or hardware) that can load Standard MIDI Files and transmit System Exclusive data.
- MIDI cable
- VS-840
- VS-840 System Software update disk(s)

Update Procedure

- 1) Connect the MIDI OUT port of the sequencer to the MIDI IN port of the VS-840.
- 2) Hold down MODE, INPUT, and ENTER while powering on the VS-840. The message "Receive MID-EX?" will be displayed.
- 3) Press YES. The message "Now Waiting..." will be displayed.
- 4) Load the first Standard MIDI File (VS840000.mid) into your sequencer.
- 5) Play all Standard MIDI Files: "VS840000. mid" to "VS840007.mid" in order. After all SMF's have been played "Version Up?" will be displayed.
- 6) Press YES and the message "UserArea Update?" will be displayed.
- 7) Press YES and the message "END!!! Please POWER OFF/ON" will be displayed.
- 7) Restart the VS-840 (power off and then on again).

Troubleshooting Information

If you have problems with these files, you can order new update disks directly from Roland. Please call Customer Service at 323-890-3700 ext. 2289 and request one of the following:

Zip® Disk update - Part # SU-31
SMF (PC) update - Part # SU-36
SMF (Mac) update - Part # SU-37

You can also download these files from our Website (www.rolandus.com).

Computer Troubleshooting Tips

If you have problems updating your unit with a computer, the first place to look is your MIDI/interface setup. A MIDI Interface is used to connect MIDI devices to your computer. The setup procedure for your MIDI interface will vary depending on the type of interface and computer you are using. On the Macintosh, MIDI interfaces are usually connected to the printer, modem, or USB port(s). The interface is then controlled by either the sequencing software itself or by one of three programs: Apple MIDI Manager, OMS (Opcode), or FreeMIDI (Mark of the Unicorn). On Windows based computers, MIDI interfaces are usually connected to the serial port, parallel port, USB port, or directly to a sound card. Each interface will probably have its own software drivers that must be installed and configured for the interface to operate correctly.

If you are having trouble getting your MIDI Interface to work properly, there are a number of common troubleshooting techniques you can use to determine where the problem lies. On the Macintosh, most setup problems are the result of conflicting extensions in your system folder. Try disabling any extensions that are not absolutely necessary for the program to run and restart your computer. On Windows based computers, most setup problems are the result of conflicting IRQ and/or Port Address settings. Make sure that each of the devices connected to your computer is set to its own IRQ and Port Address and that the corresponding software driver(s) reflects those settings. Defective or incorrectly connected MIDI cables are another common problem encountered when configuring a MIDI sequencing setup.

Troubleshooting Information (cont.)

Hardware sequencers (such as the MC-80 and XP-50/60/80) are very reliable for transferring system exclusive MIDI data. We have successfully updated the VS-840 with the following computer-based MIDI sequencing programs; Vision (Opcode), Performer (MOTU), Cubase (Steinberg), and Logic (Emagic). Some sequencers do not send system exclusive messages that are embedded in a Standard MIDI File properly. These programs will not work for this purpose. If you do not have access to a sequencer package, Roland has two SMF Updater applications available. You can order part number SX-30 (PC) or SX-31 (Mac) from our Customer Service department for free, or download them from the Miscellaneous Downloads section of our Website (www.rolandus.com). You will need a MIDI interface attached to your computer to use these programs.

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24 hours a day, 7 days a week, you can receive a library of support materials and product information on your fax machine - and it's all FREE! Just call 323-890-3780.



If it's a real-live person you want, we've got a team of Product Specialists that can't be beat. They're on call from 8:30am to 5:00pm PST Monday through Friday at 323-890-3740.