

GR-55 Custom Patches: Sounds from 25 Classic Songs

Thanks for downloading these custom patches for the Roland GR-55 Guitar Synthesizer.

To learn how to install these patches—and also how to back up and install other patches in your GR-55—please refer to the “READ ME FIRST” PDF document that accompanied this download.

For custom patches by GR-55 artists, other downloads, and lots of info about the GR-55, please visit www.RolandUS.com/GR-55.

About the Patches

These patches feature both keyboard and guitar sounds from 25 famous songs. They show off the amazing versatility and wide-ranging sound capability of the GR-55, which provides both synthesizer voices and authentic guitar and amp tones using powerful onboard COSM modeling.

Each patch has one or two synthesizer and/or keyboard sounds associated with the song, as well as a guitar sound that emulates the main tone in the original. Since some songs have many parts, we chose the tones that are the most prominent and identifiable.

Playing Notes

- Since these patches feature not only guitar tones but also tones traditionally played by keyboardists, they’ll sound best when the GR-55 is played through a full-range PA, keyboard amp, or studio monitors. If you want to plug into a guitar amp, you’ll get the best results by setting the amp for a clean, flat tone. (The GR-55 provides the ability to assign synth sounds and COSM guitar/amp sounds to separate outputs, allowing you to route each to different amplification systems. For more details, refer to the *GR-55 Owner’s Manual*.)
- Most of these patches utilize the normal guitar, the COSM modeling tone, and two synth sounds. When trying these out with your GK pickup, keep your guitar’s normal pickup engaged, too.
- All the patches have the CTL pedal, EXP pedal, and EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF (the EXP pedal’s toe switch) set to do something, so be sure to experiment with them while you’re playing. All patches use the EXP pedal for patch volume by default; press the EXP pedal’s toe switch to engage the alternate function assigned to EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF.
- In many of the audio examples for these patches, the rhythm was played with one tone, then a second tone was added using the CTL pedal and overdubbed on top. In others, all the tones in the patch were combined throughout or played separately.

Patch Descriptions

- 1 *Stairway*—In the style of “Stairway to Heaven.” Classic acoustic tones; CTL switches between strings and flutes; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages a 12-string guitar sound and switches EXP to control the blend of the synth sounds.
- 2 *Fly Eagle*—In the style of “Fly Like an Eagle.” Features a flute-type tone with delay (sounds great with whole tone scale licks); EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend; CTL switches to an electric guitar tone.
- 3 *Somebody I Know*—In the style of “Somebody That I Used to Know.” Features a rhythm guitar tone; CTL switches to a Marimba tone; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend.
- 4 *Dragula*—In the style of “Dragula.” Features pulsing synth tones; CTL switches to guitar; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend.
- 5 *Final Count*—In the style of “The Final Countdown.” Features an vintage analog synth tone and a rhythm guitar tone. For the synth tone, CTL switches octaves and EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend. For the guitar tone, CTL switches to a marimba sound and EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend.
- 6 *Fooled*—In the style of “Won’t Get Fooled Again.” Features an organ with a Slicer effect and “in rhythm” delay; CTL switches to a guitar sound and EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend for the organ.
- 7 *Dreams On and On*—In the style of “Dream On.” Features a clean guitar blended with a synth pad; CTL engages modulation and EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend.
- 8 *Born Run Lead*—In the style of “Born to Run.” A classic lead-with-tremolo tone; CTL adds synth tones and EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend on the synth.
- 9 *Lucys Diamonds*—In the style of “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.” Harpsichord and clean guitar blended, and CTL adds a rotary effect. EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF lets you use the pedal to change the rotary rate.
- 10 *LaylaPianoBlend*—In the style of “Layla.” Clean guitar tone; CTL adds piano and EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend.
- 11 *Crowley*—In the style of “Mr. Crowley.” Heavy church organ and synth blended; CTL switches to heavy guitars and EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend on the synth.
- 12 *CTL for HOLD*—Based on Yngwie Malmsteen’s live solo with floor synth pedals. Demonstrates GR-55’s the HOLD function: play a low note and press CTL to hold it, then solo over it.
- 13 *Free the Birds*—In the style of “Free Bird.” Piano and organ combined for intro rhythms; press CTL to switch to a lead sound for slide guitar parts; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF adds pedal-controlled reverb.
- 14 *Dark Rainbow*—In the style of “Rainbow in the Dark.” Classic heavy metal rhythm sound; press CTL for a high synth sound; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend on the synth.
- 15 *Black Magic*—In the style of “Black Magic Woman.” Classic organ tones; press CTL for rock lead guitar; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend.
- 16 *70s Smoke*—In the style of “Smoke on the Water.” Classic rock guitar tone; press CTL to add organ; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF adds pedal-controlled reverb.
- 17 *Hotel*—In the style of “Hotel California.” 6-string and 12-string guitars; CTL adds strings; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend on strings.

- 18 *Like a Hole*—In the style of “Head Like a Hole.” Industrial synth tone; CTL adds metal guitar; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend.
- 19 *Robin ‘Vibe*—In the style of “Bridge of Sighs.” Features descending intro bell effects; press CTL to turn on a distorted CLA-ST COSM guitar with a UNI-V effect and some spooky wind; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend for the bell tones.
- 20 *Just a Girl*—In the style of “Just a Girl.” Classic rock rhythm tone; press CTL to momentarily add a synth tone.
- 21 *SuperStation*—In the style of “Superstition.” Rock guitar tone; press CTL to add a clavinet sound; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages delay with pedal-controlled delay level.
- 22 *1999*—In the style of “1999.” Classic synth tones; CTL switches to clean guitar; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal wah.
- 23 *Bad Guys*—In the style of “Bad Company.” Piano for intro, then press CTL for guitars; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend on piano.
- 24 *Crack That Whip*—In the style of “Whip It.” One-note style (mono) bass synth; use CTL to switch to synth sound for chords; EXP PEDAL SW ON/OFF engages pedal-controlled pitch bend.
- 25 *Organ Vibrations*—In the style of “Good Vibrations.” High organ sound.