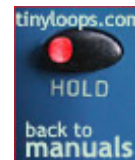


# tinyloops.com - Programming the Roland TB-303

 [tinyloops.com/tb303/pattern\\_write.html](http://tinyloops.com/tb303/pattern_write.html)

## pattern write

when the 303 is slaved to a master (eg the TR-606), the RUN/STOP key is disabled on the 303. please use the RUN/STOP key on the master.  
for the benefits of programming the 303 in slave mode, see "realtime recording" below.



## PATTERN WRITE

### time mode

## for STEP TIME RECORDING

functional buttons:



time

- enter the timing of each pitch

: for every STEP in the pattern, choose:  
• play next pitch  
• sustain the last pitch  
- rest (play silence)

after the last STEP in the pattern, the sequencer automatically returns to NORMAL MODE.  
- can not play an ACCENT or SLIDE  
• does not make sense after a rest



recording

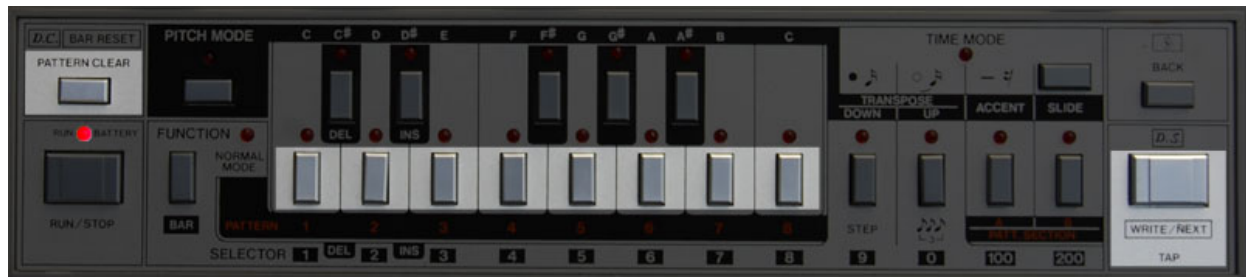
- start realtime recording for TIMING data

=> see **REAL TIME RECORDING**

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## REAL TIME RECORDING

functional buttons:










when you press RUN on the master in **normal**, **pitch** or **time** mode, and the TB-303 is slaved, the sequencer starts running without making sound.  
the mode buttons are disabled during RUN.

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	recording	-	to clear TIMING data, start metronome and arm TAP button	:	press PATTERN CLEAR	- in <b>normal</b> mode *: the sequencer keeps running along with the master, even when PATTERN CLEAR is pressed half-way of the bar. this is very useful when the 303 is slaved to a master.
RUN						- in <b>pitch</b> or <b>time</b> mode: sequencer keeps running, but restarts from the first step of the bar, so it's not perfectly sync with the master any longer. this is useful for when the TB- 303 is in stand alone mode, because the metronome restarts from step 1 of the bar.

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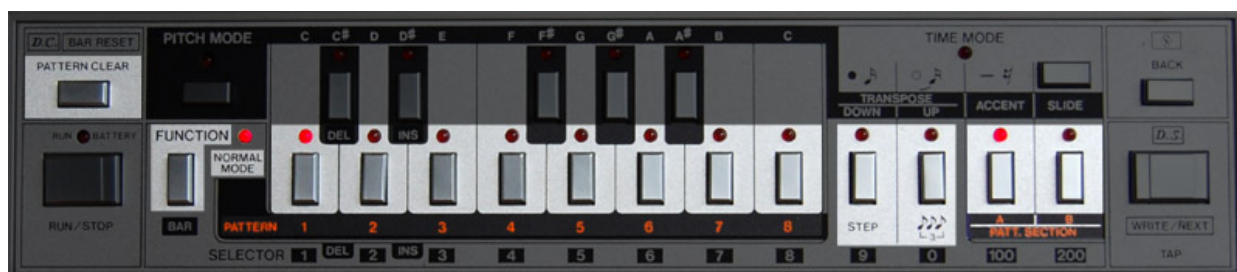
- |                        |   |   |  |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| - "one key<br>play" ** | : | press<br>TAP in<br>time<br>or<br>hold [1..8]<br>+ TAP | hold TAP to make   <br>  ... (=sustained note)<br>release TAP to make   ...<br>hold [1..8] + TAP to make all<br>notes sustain |
|------------------------|---|---|--|






TAP fires the recording for the current metronome loop.  
when the metronome then finishes it's loop, REALTIME RECORDING is automatically ended and the sequencer starts playing the pattern.

## ● normal mode

### for GENERAL PATTERN SETTINGS

functional buttons:



 STOP	pattern	- select	: [1..8], A or B	
		- clear	: hold [1..8] + "PATTERN CLEAR"	clears TIMING data and resets STEP to 4/4, 16 steps.
		- step information	: hold "FUNCTION"	when  lights up the STEP is in 3/4, 15 steps. when  is dim the STEP is in 4/4, 16 steps.
		- set step to 3/4, 12 steps	: hold "FUNCTION" + 	 lights up. keeps TIMING data
		- change nr of steps for 4/4	: hold "FUNCTION" + press STEP 1x..16x	clears TIMING data
		- change nr of steps for 3/4	: hold "FUNCTION" + press STEP 1x..15x	clears TIMING data
		- reset step from 3/4 to 4/4	: hold "FUNCTION" + press STEP 16x	clears TIMING data (same as "pattern clear" but more work)

unsure about all this "timing" stuff? see the ["sync" explanation](#) in the quickresults page, question #5.



recording - start  
realtime  
recording  
for TIMING  
data

=> see **REAL TIME  
RECORDING**

● **pitch mode**

for **STEP RECORDING OF NOTE PITCHES**

functional buttons for "change this pitch":



functional buttons for "keep this pitch but change the properties":



for every PITCH : (step 1)  
**choose one  
of these 2**

- *to change the pitch:*  
(hold transpose DOWN/UP or none +)  
press [C..C']   
release button(s)

- *to keep the pitch but be able to change  
the properties:*  
hold WRITE/NEXT (+ press  
DOWN/UP, ACCENT, SLIDE or none),  
release WRITE/NEXT button

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(step 2)  
**choose one  
of these 3**

:

- *to edit the next pitch:*  
go to step 1

- *to re-edit the above pitch or properties:*  
press BACK to edit the same pitch,  
go to step 1

- *to go back to edit the first pitch of the  
pattern*  
press PITCH MODE,  
go to step 1

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(last step)

:

- *to finish editing the pitches and store the  
pitch data:*  
press NORMAL MODE

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recording

-

start realtime  
recording  
for TIMING  
data

=> see **REAL TIME RECORDING**

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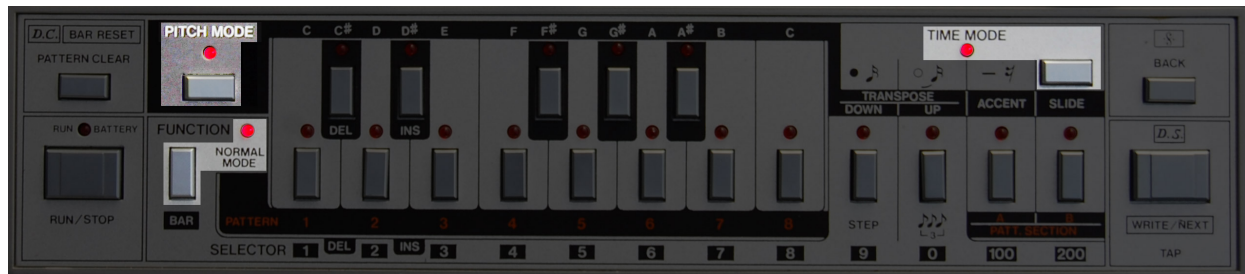
- there are 3 modes during PATTERN WRITE: **NORMAL** mode, **PITCH** mode and **TIME** mode.

#### workflow:


1. set the general pattern settings in **NORMAL** mode (eg pattern length and 3/4 or 4/4 time)
2. create and edit the note pitch sequence (including accents and slides)
  - > in **PITCH** mode (=STEP RECORDING OF NOTE PITCHES)
  - > there is no way to enter the pitches in REAL TIME
3. create and edit the note duration sequence
  - > in **TIME** mode (=STEP TIME RECORDING),
  - > or during **RUN** state (=REAL TIME RECORDING)

#### the different modes:

- the 3 modes can only be changed during STOP state, because they are locked in RUN state.
- the mode selection buttons can be found here:



#### remember:

- pitch data can never be deleted, only TIMING data.
- in other words, you can "overwrite" existing PITCH data, but you can never actually "delete" existing PITCH data.
- after *switching on* the TB-303, all the patterns are filled with 48 random pitches, but you can only use the first 16 pitches in a pattern.
- the ACCENT and SLIDE pitch data is only reset when the PITCH is changed.
- TIMING data are the note durations but **not** the STEP or  data.

