

ALESIS[®]

HARMONY54

User Guide

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Introduction

Box Contents

- Harmony 54
- Microphone
- Power Adapter
- Music Rest
- User Guide
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Support

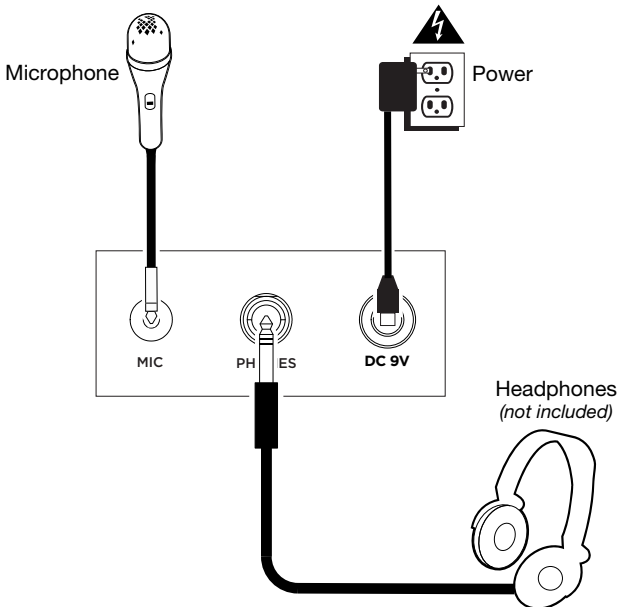
For the latest information about this product (system requirements, compatibility information, etc.) and product registration, visit alesis.com.

For additional product support, visit alesis.com/support.

Setup

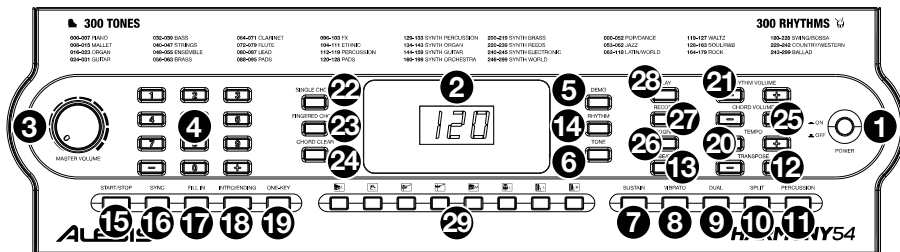
Connection Diagram

Items not listed in [Introduction > Box Contents](#) are sold separately.



Features

Top Panel

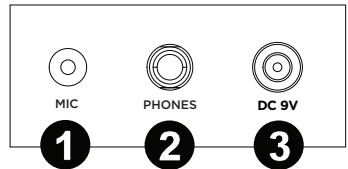


- Power On/Off:** Press this button to turn the keyboard on or off.
Note: After 5 minutes of inactivity, Harmony 54 will power off. If you press any key, it will turn back on.
- Display:** This LED Display will update when you make changes to settings such as the tone, rhythm, tempo, etc. Upon power up, the **Display** shows the currently selected tempo by default.
- Master Volume:** Turn the **Master Volume** knob to increase or decrease the overall volume of the keyboard.
- Number buttons** and **+ / - buttons:** Use these buttons to change the tone, accompaniment rhythm, or demo song. Before using the **Number** or **+ / - buttons**, press the button corresponding to the setting that you would like to change.
- Demo:** Press this button to begin playback of one of the demonstration songs. See [Operation > Demo Songs](#) for more information.
- Tone:** Press this button and then use the **Number buttons** or **+ / - buttons** to select a tone. See [Operation > Choosing Your Keyboard Tone](#) for more information.
- Sustain:** Press this button to activate or deactivate the sustain effect. See [Operation > Choosing Your Keyboard Tone](#) for more information.
- Vibrato:** Press this button to activate or deactivate the vibrato effect. See [Operation > Choosing Your Keyboard Tone](#) for more information.
- Dual:** Press this button to layer two tones together. See [Operation > Choosing Your Keyboard Tone](#) for more information.
- Split:** Press this button to use one tone on one side of the keyboard and a separate tone and the other side. See [Operation > Choosing Your Keyboard Tone](#) for more information.
- Percussion:** Press this button to play percussion sounds with the keys. **On** will temporarily appear on the **Display** when the percussion sounds are activated. See the image above each key in order to know what drum sound a key will play. Press the **Percussion button** again to disable this function. When disabled, **OFF** will temporarily appear on the **Display**.
- Transpose:** Press the **Transpose +** or **Transpose - button** to increase or decrease the pitch of the keyboard by a half-step. See [Operation > Choosing Your Keyboard Tone](#) for more information.
- Beat:** Press this button to cycle between the different metronome settings: **1/4**, **2/4**, **3/4**, **4/4**, and **Off**. When you power on the keyboard, the metronome will be set to **Off** by default. When changing the setting, the **Display** will show the selected setting temporarily. When the metronome is playing, the **Display** will flash three dots for the first beat of every measure and a single dot for each remaining beat. Use the **Tempo + / - buttons** to change the tempo of the metronome.
- Rhythm:** Press this button and then use the **Number buttons** or **+ / - buttons** to select an accompaniment rhythm. See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Accompaniment Rhythms](#) for more information.
- Start/Stop:** Press this button to start or stop an accompaniment rhythm. See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Accompaniment Rhythms](#) for more information.
- Sync:** Press this button to activate the Sync feature. When the Sync feature is activated, playing any key below **G2** will automatically start the currently selected accompaniment rhythm (so that you do not have to press the **Start/Stop button**). See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Accompaniment Rhythms](#) for more information.

17. **Fill In:** While an accompaniment rhythm is playing, press this button to make the keyboard temporarily play a new rhythm or “drum fill.” See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Accompaniment Rhythms](#) for more information.
18. **Intro/Ending:** Press this button to make the keyboard play either an introductory or ending drumbeat, depending on whether an accompaniment rhythm is already playing. See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Accompaniment Rhythms](#) for more information.
19. **One-Key:** Press this button to activate the one-key feature. When this feature is activated, you can play one key at a time to perform a demo song. See [Operation > Demo Songs](#) for more information.
20. **Tempo:** Press the **Tempo +** or **Tempo –** button to change the keyboard’s BPM setting. This will affect playback of the rhythm and chord accompaniments, demo songs, and metronome. Press the **Tempo +** and **Tempo –** buttons simultaneously to reset to the default tempo (120 BPM).
21. **Rhythm Volume:** Press the **Rhythm Vol +** or **Rhythm Vol –** button to increase or decrease the accompaniment rhythm volume. Press the **Rhythm Vol +** and **Rhythm Vol –** simultaneously to reset to the default volume level (A07).
22. **Single Chord:** Press this button to enable the accompaniment chord feature. When this feature is enabled, you can use the keys below **G2** to produce chords that automatically play along with the selected accompaniment rhythm. Pressing the **Single Chord** button (as opposed to **Fingered Chord**) allows you to use condensed chord shapes instead of using all the keys normally required for a full chord. See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Accompaniment Chords](#) for more information.
23. **Fingered Chord:** Press this button to enable the accompaniment chord feature. When this feature is enabled, you can use the keys below **G2** to produce chords that automatically play along with the selected accompaniment rhythm. Pressing the **Fingered Chord** button (as opposed to **Single Chord**) requires that you play full chord shapes instead of a condensed set of keys for each chord. See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Accompaniment Chords](#) for more information.
24. **Chord Clear:** Press this button to turn the accompaniment chord feature off.
25. **Chord Volume:** Press the **Chord Vol +** or **Chord Vol –** button to increase or decrease the accompaniment chord volume. Press the **Chord Vol +** and **Chord Vol –** buttons simultaneously to reset the accompaniment chords to their default volume level (u07).
26. **Program:** Press this button to program a custom accompaniment rhythm. See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Rhythm Programming](#) for more information.
27. **Record:** Press this button to record a song. See [Operation > Recording](#) for more information.
28. **Play:** Press this button to play a custom accompaniment rhythm or recorded song.
29. **Drum Kit Buttons:** Press these buttons to play percussion sounds. See the images on the buttons to note which button plays which type of sound. The **Drum Kit Buttons** are particularly useful for the Rhythm Programming feature. See [Operation > Adding Background Music > Rhythm Programming](#) for more information.

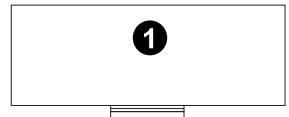
Rear Panel

1. **Mic:** Connect the included microphone here to sing while playing the keyboard.
2. **Phones (1/8" / 3.5 mm TRS):** Connect headphones (*not included*) to this output to hear the keyboard.
Note: Plugging into the **Phones** output will mute the keyboard’s internal speakers.
3. **Power Input:** Connect the included power adapter here.



Bottom Panel

1. **Battery Compartment:** Install 6 AA batteries here to power the keyboard when you are not using the power adapter.



Operation

Choosing Your Keyboard Tone

Harmony 54 comes with 300 unique tones for you to choose from.

To select a tone for the keyboard:

1. Press the **Tone button**.
2. Use the **Number buttons** to pick a specific tone or use the **+ / – buttons** to cycle through the tones one-by-one. Follow the guide at the top of the keyboard to see which tones correspond to which numbers. The number corresponding to the currently selected tone will update on the keyboard's **Display**.
3. Play the keyboard to hear the tone you selected.

To enhance the tone with the keyboard's sustain effect, press the **Sustain button**. **SUS** will temporarily appear on the **Display**. If this feature is activated, the keys will sound out longer when played, mimicking the effect of an acoustic piano's sustain pedal. This feature can be applied to any of the keyboard's 300 tones. To deactivate the effect, press the **Sustain button** again, and **OFF** will temporarily appear on the **Display**.

To enhance the tone with the keyboard's vibrato effect, press the **Vibrato button**. **Vib** will temporarily appear on the **Display**. If this feature is activated, the pitch of the keys will be slight bent up and down when they are played. This feature can be applied to any of the keyboard's 300 tones. To deactivate the effect, press the **Vibrato button** again, and **OFF** will temporarily appear on the **Display**.

To increase or decrease the pitch of the keyboard by a half-step, press the **Transpose +** or **Transpose – button**. The keyboard can be transposed up or down within six half-steps. The **Display** will temporarily show the new setting once it is changed. Press the **Transpose +** and **Transpose – buttons** simultaneously to reset the keyboard to its default pitch range of **C1–F6** (indicated by the numbers **00** on the **Display**).

Dual Mode

Dual Mode allows for two different tones to be layered together.

To layer two tones together:

1. Press the **Dual button**. **dOU** will temporarily appear on the **Display**. The tone that was selected before you pressed the **Dual button** will automatically be used as the first tone in the layer.
2. To change the tone for the added layer, use the **Number buttons** to pick a specific tone or use the **+ / – buttons** to cycle through the tones one-by-one. Follow the guide at the top of the keyboard to see which tones correspond to which numbers. The number corresponding to the currently selected tone will update on the keyboard's **Display**.

Note: When you reach Step 2, the tone that you most recently used for the added layer will be automatically selected. If it is the first time you are entering Dual Mode since powering on the keyboard, **t48 (Ensemble)** will be automatically selected.

3. Play the keyboard to hear the two tones at the same time.

To exit Dual Mode, press the **Dual button** again. **OFF** will temporarily appear on the **Display**.

Split Mode

Split Mode allows you to split the 54 keys into two zones so that you can have one tone for each hand on the keyboard. For example, you may want one of the piano tones for your right hand and one of the bass tones for your left hand.

To use Split Mode:

1. Press the **Split button**. **SPL** will temporarily appear on the **Display**. The tone that was selected before you pressed the **Split button** will be applied to the left-hand zone of the keyboard.

Note: The left-hand zone of the keyboard will be raised one octave, while the right-hand zone of the keyboard will be lowered one octave. This means that, if the keyboard is set to its default transposition, the left-hand zone will be **C2–B3**, and the right-hand zone will be **C2–F4**.

2. To select the tone for the right-hand zone of the keyboard, use the **Number buttons** to pick a specific tone or use the **+ / – buttons** to cycle through the tones one-by-one. Follow the guide at the top of the keyboard to see which tones correspond to which numbers. The number corresponding to the currently selected tone will update on the keyboard's **Display**.
3. Play the keyboard to hear the tones you selected.

To exit **Split Mode**, press the **Split button** again. **OFF** will temporarily appear on the **Display**.

Note: Split Mode and Dual Mode cannot be used at the same time.

Adding Background Music

Accompaniment Rhythms

If you would like to have a drum loop accompany you while you're playing the keyboard, Harmony 54 comes with 300 unique rhythms that you can choose from.

To select an accompaniment rhythm:

1. Press the **Rhythm button**.
2. Use the **Number buttons** to pick a specific rhythm or use the **+ / – buttons** to cycle through the rhythms one-by-one. Follow the guide at the top of the keyboard to see which rhythm styles correspond to which numbers. The number corresponding to the currently selected rhythm will update on the keyboard's **Display**.

To start or stop playing the currently selected accompaniment rhythm, press the **Start/Stop button**.

Tip: To observe the timing of the accompaniment rhythm, look at the **Display**, which will flash three dots for the first beat of every measure and a single dot for each remaining beat.

To change the tempo of the accompaniment rhythm, press the **Tempo + button** or **Tempo - button** to increase or decrease the tempo. Press the **Tempo +** and **Tempo - buttons** simultaneously to reset to the default tempo (**120 BPM**).

To adjust the volume of the accompaniment rhythm, press the **Rhythm Vol +** or **Rhythm Vol - button**. Press the **Rhythm Vol +** and **Rhythm Vol - buttons** simultaneously to reset to the default volume level (indicated on the **Display** as **A07**).

To insert a drum fill into the accompaniment rhythm, press the **Fill In button** while the accompaniment rhythm is playing. The accompaniment rhythm will automatically return to its regular pattern after the fill. The drum fill will vary depending on when you press the **Fill In button**.

To play an introductory drumbeat for the selected accompaniment rhythm, press the **Intro/Ending button** while the accompaniment rhythm is not playing. The introductory drum beat will be two bars long, and then the accompaniment rhythm will automatically begin playing.

To play an ending drumbeat for the selected accompaniment rhythm, press the **Intro/Ending button** while the accompaniment rhythm is playing. After you press the button, the ending drumbeat will play for two bars, after which the accompaniment rhythm will automatically stop.

To make the accompaniment rhythm automatically start when you play the keys:

1. Select the desired accompaniment rhythm (as described earlier in this section of the manual).
2. Press the **Sync button**. To indicate that Sync is activated, a dot on the **Display** will pulse in time with the currently selected tempo.
3. Play any of the keys below **G2**. As soon as you play the key(s), the currently selected accompaniment rhythm will automatically start (without you having to press the **Start/Stop button**).
4. When you are finished with the accompaniment rhythm, press the **Start/Stop button** to stop it. If you want to use the Sync feature again, repeat Steps 1–2.

Accompaniment Chords

If you would like to have both a drumbeat and chordal harmonies accompany you while you're playing the keyboard, you can use the accompaniment chord feature.

With this feature activated, the keyboard will automatically play music centered on a specific piano chord, which may be arpeggiated and/or joined by other instruments (such as a bass guitar). The music played will match the style of the currently selected accompaniment rhythm. The music will also adjust when a drum fill or introductory/ending drumbeat is selected.

You need to use the keys below **G2** to produce the accompaniment chord. There are four options: a major, minor, dominant seventh, or minor seventh chord.

To use the accompaniment chord feature:

1. Select the desired accompaniment rhythm (as described in the previous section of this manual).
2. Press the **Single Chord button** or the **Fingered Chord button**. The **Display** will temporarily update to show which option was selected. Read further for more information on these two options.
3. Press the **Start/Stop button** to begin playing the accompaniment rhythm.

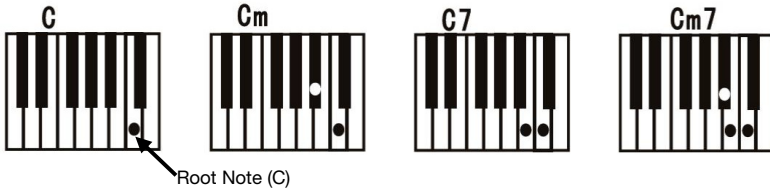
Note: It does not matter in which order you perform Steps 2 and 3.

4. Play the keys required to produce the desired accompaniment chord. What keys you need to play depend on whether you used the **Single Chord** or **Fingered Chord button**. Read further for more details.

Single Chord:

If you press the **Single Chord button**, you can use a condensed set of keys to quickly produce an accompaniment chord.

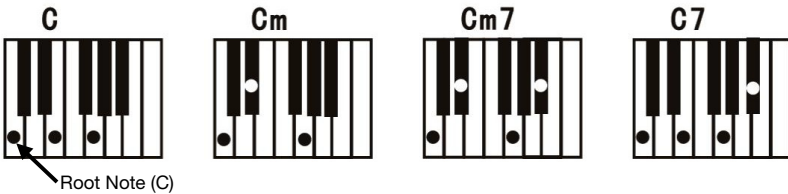
To produce a chord, press the keys corresponding to the chord that you want to play (as diagrammed below). The dots in the diagrams show the keys you would play for a C chord, but the same overall shapes can be applied to any root note. Remember that you need to be using the keys below **G2**.



Fingered Chord:

If you press the **Fingered Chord button**, you need to play a full major, minor, dominant seventh, or minor seventh chord in order to hear it play in time with the accompaniment rhythm.

To produce a chord, play the full major, minor, dominant seventh, or minor seventh chord shape. For example, the four C chords are pictured below, with dots on each key in the chord. Remember that you need to be using the keys below **G2**.



To adjust the volume of the accompaniment chord, press the **Chord Vol +** or **Chord Vol -** button. Press the **Chord Vol +** and **Chord Vol -** buttons simultaneously to reset to the default volume level (indicated on the **Display** as **u07**).

To stop the accompaniment chord from automatically playing, press the **Chord Clear** button.

Note: With the accompaniment chord feature activated, you can use Dual Mode but not Split Mode. Pressing the **Split button** while the accompaniment chords are playing will stop the chords.

To make both the accompaniment rhythm and the accompaniment chord automatically start when you play the keys:

1. Select the desired accompaniment rhythm (as described in the previous section of this manual).
2. Press the **Sync button**. To indicate that Sync is activated, a dot on the **Display** will pulse in time with the currently selected tempo.
3. Press the **Single Chord** or **Fingered Chord button** to activate the accompaniment chord feature.
4. Play the keys required to produce the desired accompaniment chord. As soon as you play the key(s), the currently selected accompaniment rhythm and accompaniment chord will automatically start (without you having to press the **Start/Stop button**).
5. When you are finished with the accompaniment rhythm and chord, press the **Start/Stop button** to stop them.

Rhythm Programming

You can use the rhythm programming feature to create your own custom drum rhythm to accompany you while you play the keys.

To create a custom accompaniment rhythm:

1. Press the **Program button** to enter Programming Mode. **Prg** will appear on the **Display**, and the keys will automatically shift to percussion sounds.
2. Program the rhythm by playing each drum sound in the order that you want to hear them repeat in the rhythmic pattern. You can play the drum sounds with the keys or with the **Drum Kit buttons**. If using the keys, see the image above each key in order to know what drum sound a key will play. The programmed rhythm can contain up to 32 drum sounds. Each drum sound in the pattern will be the length of a quarter note.

Note: You cannot program two percussion sounds to play at the same time.

3. Press **Play** to stop programming and hear the rhythm play on a loop. **Ply** will appear on the **Display**.
4. After pressing **Play**, the keys will automatically switch back to the last selected tone, and you can play along to your custom rhythm.

To change the tempo of the custom rhythm, press the **Tempo + button** or **Tempo - button**. Press the **Tempo +** and **Tempo - buttons** simultaneously to reset to the default tempo (**120 BPM**).

To adjust the volume of the custom rhythm, press the **Rhythm Vol +** or **Rhythm Vol - button**. Press the **Rhythm Vol +** and **Rhythm Vol - buttons** simultaneously to reset to the default volume level (indicated on the **Display** as **A07**).

To stop the custom rhythm from playing, press the **Play button** again. The keyboard will re-enter Programming Mode, and you can program a new rhythm or press the **Play button** to start the previously programmed rhythm. Alternatively, you can stop a custom rhythm from playing by pressing the **Program button**, which will make the keyboard exit Programming Mode and erase the rhythm that was playing. When you exit Programming Mode, **OFF** will temporarily appear on the **Display**.

Note: If you turn off the keyboard while using a custom rhythm, the custom rhythm will be erased.

Tip: With Programming Mode activated, press the **Single chord button** while a custom rhythm is playing or stopped. This will allow you to use the abbreviated chord shapes (pictured in the previous section) on the keys below **G2** to play full chords. The chords will not automatically play along with the custom rhythm; they will stop ringing out after you release the keys. However, you will still have the ability to play full chords at the quick touch of 1-3 adjacent keys.

Recording

You can use the recording feature on Harmony 54 to record yourself playing the piano.

To record your playing:

1. Press the **Record button** to enter Recording Mode. **REC** will remain on the **Display**.
2. When you are finished playing what you wanted to record, press the **Play button** to stop the recording and automatically hear it play back. **Play** will remain on the **Display**.
3. After the recording finishes playing, the keyboard will re-enter Recording Mode. You can then make a new recording by playing the keys or press **Play** to hear the previous recording again.

Note: If a recording is still playing, you can press the **Play button** to stop it and re-enter Recording Mode.

Note: If the keyboard's memory fills up while you are recording, the **Display** will read **FUL**, and the keyboard will re-enter Recording Mode. You can then press **Play** to hear the recording or overwrite it by playing the keys.

To exit Recording Mode, press the **Record button**. This will erase the recording.

Note: If you turn off the keyboard while in Recording Mode, any recording will be erased.

Note: In Recording Mode, you cannot use Split Mode, Dual Mode, or the accompaniment rhythms/chords.

Demo Songs

Harmony 54 comes with 40 demo songs for you to choose from and play.

To begin playback of a demo song, press the **Demo button**. The currently selected demo song will remain on the **Display** and begin playing.

To change the demo song, use the **Number buttons** or the **+ / - buttons** while a demo song is playing. The **Display** will update as you select a new song.

To stop a currently playing demo song, press the **Demo button** again.

One-Key

The One-Key feature allows you to play a demo song using Harmony 54's keys. Each time you press any single key, a short segment of the demo song will play. By repeatedly pressing any of the keys in time, you can play the full demo song. This feature is especially good for beginner pianists, since it allows them to experience what it's like to play a song on the keyboard without requiring that they know the right keys to play.

To use the keys to play a demo song:

1. Press the **One Key button**. The currently selected demo song (as shown on the **Display**) will automatically start playing. If you'd like to change the song, use the **Number buttons** or **+ / - buttons**.
2. Press and release any key, which will stop the demo song from automatically playing.
3. Repeatedly press any of the keys in time to play the demo song.
4. When you are finished, press the **One Key button** again to exit this mode.