



# SK Gig Start Guide

**HAMMOND®**

THE SOUND THE SOUL THE ONE

# Congratulations!

You made the right choice in getting an SK.

No other instrument has the soul, feel, and range of sound as these remarkable Hammonds. Prepare to be inspired!

This guide will teach you everything you need to know to get started with your SK, to find your way around the features, and be ready for your next show, session, or rehearsal.

We're not going to go into deep programming or explain every parameter – but we'll give you everything we think you need to know to use the many features of your new SK.

You can use this guide along with our handy Gig Start Videos which can be found at [www.hammondorganco.com](http://www.hammondorganco.com).

## 1. Hook Up The Power

Plug your SK power adapter into the back of your SK, and plug the power into a grounded source. BUT DON'T POWER UP JUST YET.



POWER INPUT

## 2. Hook Up For Sound (with Amp)

Now lets get hooked up for sound. On the SK you have a few options depending on your amp setup.

Most players will use the quarter inch stereo outs going into a keyboard amp such as our Leslie 2121, although any high quality amp will do just fine.

We recommend running the SK in stereo when you can, although it will sound great in Mono as well.



1/4 INCH CABLES IN JACKS ON BACK



1/4 INCH CABLES PLUGGED INTO 2121 REAR

### 3. Hook Up A Leslie™ Speaker

The Digital Leslie onboard the SK is our most advanced yet. But if you wish to use a traditional Leslie, here's how to hook it up. The SK is fitted with our 8 pin Leslie jack. Connect the 8 pin cable to the 8 pin Leslie jack on the SK.

If you're using a Model 21 Leslie, connect the other end of the 8 pin cable to the 21's 8 pin jack.

If you're using a Leslie 3300, find the 8 pin jack on the back panel of your 3300 and attach the cable there.



8 PIN LESLIE JACK



21 SYSTEM 8 PIN JACK

If using the complete Leslie™ 21 system, make sure you have the 2101 rotary top connected properly to the 2121 speaker bottom. Use a 1/4" jumper cable and connect it to the Stationary and Rotary L/R LINE OUT jacks on the rear of the model 2101 mkII.

If you're using a Leslie 3300, you're going to need something to hear the Extravoices. Use the quarter inch stereo outs of the SK going into a keyboard amp such as our Leslie 2121, although any high quality amp will do just fine.

Using our 8 pin cable, the SK's onboard Digital Leslie is disabled, and the front panel Leslie switches will control the external Leslie. The Extravoices will not speak through the rotary Leslie elements, but through the keyboard amp attached.



1/4" CABLES IN JACKS ON BACK OF SK



1/4" CABLES PLUGGED IN 2121 REAR

### 4. Using A Vintage Leslie™

If you wish to use a traditional Vintage Leslie with a Leslie Combo Floor preamp, or a Trek II or Goff, you'll have to get our adapter, which changes the 8 pin jack to a quarter inch jack.



1/4 INCH ADAPTER

This allows you to send the drawbar tones to the Leslie Combo Preamp, or any other amp that takes a quarter inch input.

When you attach the adapter, it kills the Digital Leslie, but know that you will not be able to use the SK's front panel Leslie Switch, as the quarter inch cable carries audio and nothing more.

If you wish to hook up a traditional Vintage Leslie like a 122, 147 or newer "11-pin" models without a floor preamp, you'll need to contact Hammond Headquarters to order a special "kit" that will translate the 8 pin info to the proper kind your Leslie understands. Please have your Leslie model number ready when you call or write. In either case, you'll need to run cables from the stereo quarter inch jacks to the keyboard amp of your choice to hear the Extravoices.

### 5. Foot Pedals

If you wish to hook up an Expression pedal, Sustain/Damper, Leslie foot switch or all three, here's how.

#### EXPRESSION (VOLUME) PEDAL

We highly recommend the Hammond EXP-50 Expression/Volume Pedal. It has a heavy-duty metal construction, and has the familiar feel and distinctive response curve of a vintage B-3 pedal that you just cannot find in aftermarket



EXP-50

volume pedals. Just plug it in to the EXP PEDAL jack on the back of the SK. If you choose not to use the EXP-50, you can use most any after-market expression pedal, providing it has a tip-ring-sleeve (or "stereo") plug. An audio volume pedal will not work when connected to the EXP PEDAL jack.



EXP PEDAL JACK

### SUSTAIN (DAMPER) PEDAL

Most of you will want a sustain pedal or damper, and we offer our FS-9H. Just position where you want it on the floor, and connect the cable to the DAMPER PEDAL jack located on the back of the SK. Many aftermarket sustain-type pedals will also work with the SK.



FS-9H



DAMPER JACK

### LESLIE FOOT SWITCH

Many like to use a foot switch for Leslie Speed. Again, use our FS-9H plugged into the FOOT SWITCH jack on the rear of the SK.



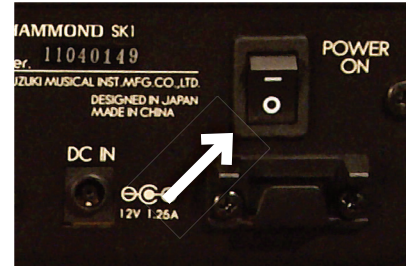
FS-9H



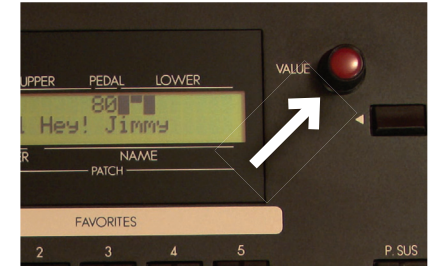
LESLIE FOOT SWITCH

## 6. Power Up

Flip the power switch of the SK to the "ON" position. Set the master volume of the SK to your desired volume and play a bit. Spin the value knob to select different presets. You may wish to jot down the program numbers of presets you like.



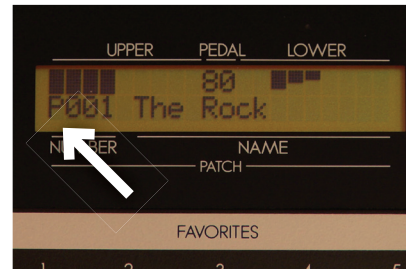
POWER SWITCH



VALUE KNOB

### PRESETS

The SK has 100 factory presets that are hard wired—they can't change, and 100 user presets that can be freely overwritten with your own creations. In the display, Factory presets are designated by the prefix "P," while user presets have the prefix "U."



"P" PRESETS



"U" PRESETS

## FAVORITES

Of the 200 presets you can select any 10 and designate them as your favorites, using the favorites buttons in the middle of the control panel. They work just like the radio buttons in your car, and can be freely and easily changed. Try them out – one through ten – see how easy it is to summon presets. From the factory, the favorites are set to user presets 1 - 10, but you can change them immediately. Here's how to do it:

1. Use the Value knob to dial up your desired preset.
2. Press and hold the Red "Record" Button,
3. Press the "Favorite" Button you wish to assign it to.
4. Release Both Buttons.

Your desired Preset is now available for immediate recall by pressing the Favorite button you just assigned it to.



DISPLAY SHOWING P51



FAVORITE BUTTONS

Don't worry – the preset that was previously there was not lost or erased – it just went back in to the rank and file. Go through your presets, choose your favorites, and link them to the favorite buttons using the procedure you just learned.

## 7. Performance Controls

Now lets look at a few very important performance features – the Transposer and Octave switches.

### TRANSCOPE

The Transposer allows you to play in one key, but your SK sounds in a totally different one. Perfect for accompanying singers, soloists or any other pitch-critical application. It works like this: press and hold the Transposer button and use the adjacent up and down buttons to shift the tuning in half-step increments, 6 half-steps down and 6 half-steps up. Easy! But know that the Transposer is system-wide and its settings are not saved with any preset.



TRANSCOPE BUTTON

### OCTAVE

The Octave buttons are just as simple – each press of the DOWN button takes the playing range down an octave and each press of the UP button raises it. To adjust the octave of the "lower" keyboard, press and hold the LOWER button while pressing the adjacent DOWN and UP buttons. Your "upper" setting will remain unchanged. You can use this feature "on the fly," or save this setting as part of any preset.



OCTAVE BUTTONS

### MASTER EQUALIZER

The Master Equalizer affects the entire instrument, and is not changed by the presets. It allows you to tweak the sonic profile of the entire instrument on the fly, adjusting for the dynamics of your playing situation and venue.



MASTER EQUALIZER

## 8. The Hammond Organ Division

Now let's take a look at the Organ specifics. At its heart, the SK is a full-featured genuine Hammond Organ that responds like the legendary B-3 and has all the components that you'd expect to find on a vintage instrument.

### HARMONIC DRAWBARS

The SK has one set of harmonic drawbars that work for the Upper and Lower keyboards and the Pedal/Manual Bass. The Drawbars select the different harmonics that make up your tone just as on the legendary B-3. There's no right or wrong way to set these – find the tone you like.

You choose which keyboard to edit by the Drawbar Select buttons: UPPER, LOWER, or PEDALS. Press the desired button and make your setting. When you choose a different keyboard, your setting for the previous choice is remembered, even if the drawbars are in a different configuration. When a preset is selected, the drawbar settings will change internally to match the preset. You can change the drawbars "on the fly" for an instant edit of the preset, but when you select the preset again, the original drawbar setting of the preset will return.



DRAWBAR SELECT BUTTONS



DRAWBARS

### VIBRATO & CHORUS

The Vibrato & Chorus is an important part of the Hammond Sound. While the SK doesn't have the iconic round knob of the vintage B-3, the controls do the same thing, and have the same effect on the sound. Select which Keyboard you wish to have the Vibrato & Chorus: Upper, Lower or Both. The three classic degrees are chosen via two buttons. Press V1/C1 for "1," V2/C2 for "2" and by pressing both of those buttons together, you get "3." Select the Chorus button to switch the generator to Chorus mode. These settings are remembered in each preset, and like most of the controls on the front panel, you can edit them "on the fly" while playing.



VIBRATO & CHORUS BUTTONS

### TOUCH RESPONSE PERCUSSION

Upon its release, the chief feature of the B-3 was the inclusion of Touch-Response Percussion. It's that little accent at the top of the sound that is so distinctive. As on the B-3 it is only available on the upper manual. You can select SECOND which is an octave higher than the note you're playing, or THIRD which sounds an octave and a fifth above. Unlike the B-3 you can select both types together for an interesting effect. FAST shortens the decay of the percussion tone, and SOFT decreases the volume of the percussion tone. All these settings are remembered in each preset.



PERCUSSION BUTTONS

## OVERDRIVE

A lot of players like to have some grit in their Hammond tone. Lets look at the overdrive. It's pretty simple: press the ON button below and turn the knob to adjust the amount. A little bit to warm up the sound, or crank it up to rock out.

With every feature we are covering, you can go deeper into the menus and tweak the parameters to fit your style of playing, and save it all in the presets. Check out the reference guide or any of the instructional videos at [www.hammondorganco.com](http://www.hammondorganco.com) to learn more.



OVERDRIVE BUTTON

## 9. Digital Leslie™/External Leslie Controls

It's not the Hammond sound without a Leslie, and the SK's Digital Leslie is our best yet. Press the FAST button to put the big spin on, press it again to return to slow spin. When none of the lights are lit, you're on "slow speed." To stop the virtual rotors totally, press the STOP button. You won't hear any motion, but you're still going through the Digital Leslie circuitry giving the cabinet simulation, virtual mic placement, and frequency split. Should you wish to disengage the Digital Leslie totally, press the BYPASS button.

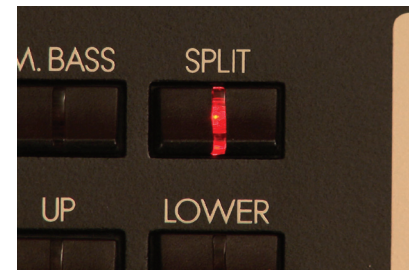
If you have a physical Leslie attached via the 8 pin cable, the Leslie buttons will control it just as marked. If you're using the 8 pin to quarter inch adapter, it's best to leave the bypass button on all the time, so you're not sending the Digital Leslie tone through a physical Leslie.



LESLIE BUTTONS

## 10. Split

A lot of players wish to split the keyboard and that option is available with the touch of a button. Just press the SPLIT button. Register your sounds using the various LOWER buttons on the control panel. You can set the split point to your desire-consult the Owner's Guide for the procedure.



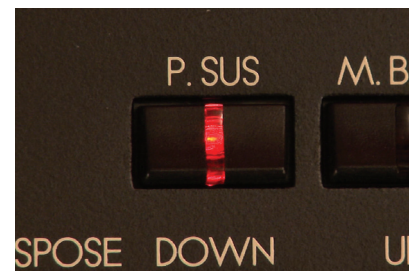
SPLIT BUTTON

## 11. Manual Bass

Press the M. BASS button. Choose PEDAL from the Drawbar Select buttons. Adjust the 16 and 8 drawbars to your liking, just as on a B-3. On the SK-2, the Manual Bass appears on the Lower manual only. If you desire sustain on the Manual Bass, press the P.SUS button (abbreviation for Pedal Sustain – but also works for the Manual Bass).



MANUAL BASS BUTTON



P.SUS BUTTON

## 12. Combo and Pipe Organ Divisions

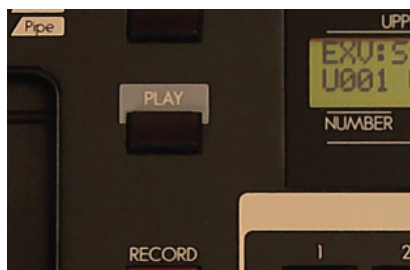
There are three other organ divisions in the SK. Farf, Vx, and Pipe. The Farf and Vx are authentic models of famous 1960's combo organs. You can register these organs exactly as you were able to on the original. To select these models quickly, return to the drawbar select buttons and push all three together. This will take you to a menu screen where you may choose which organ type you wish. B-types One, Two and Mellow are Classic Hammond tones. Farf, Vx, and pipe call their respective models. Choose the voice type you desire, and press the PLAY button.

*IMPORTANT NOTE! The PLAY Button will instantly get you back to regular playing mode. If you should accidentally get into an edit/parameter screen, just press PLAY and you will get back to regular playing mode.*

Use the drawbars as before to register your tones. Consult the legend printed on the top panel to be your guide in choosing sounds. And here's a tip: When choosing the Vx model, remember that you register it just like the original. You must register one or both waveform drawbars to get sound. The Vibrato, Overdrive and Leslie controls will work with the Farf and VX models, but will not work with the Pipe models.



DRAWBAR SELECT BUTTONS



PLAY BUTTON



DRAWBAR LEGEND

## 13. Extravoices

If we stopped there, we'd have a great instrument, but that's only half of the SK. We call the "other" side Extravoices, and they comprise the rest of the keyboard family beyond the Hammond Organ. Acoustic and Electric pianos, Clavs, Accordion, Synth and Orchestral voices – they're all there. Let's show you how to access them.

### CHOOSING AN EXTRAVOICE

You can assign an Extravoice to the Upper or Lower keyboard, but not both. You can play Hammond organ with your right hand and piano with your left or vice versa. You can play an Extravoice together with the Organ voices, or play it solo. Know, however that you can only play one Extravoice at a time.

When none of the Extravoice buttons are lit, there are no Extravoices sounding. The Allocate buttons specify where an Extravoice is going to play. For example, if you wish to choose an Acoustic Piano, select UPPER, and because we want to play the piano by itself, press the SOLO button. The Solo button suppresses the organ division to allow the chosen Extravoice to play alone.

Now choose the A.PIANO button. This is where you choose the variations of the major category. The Major category is on the top and the Variation is on the bottom. The default is "Stereo Grand Piano." Use the left and right arrow keys to make the sound choice you desire. If you press the E. PIANO button, you'll have an electric piano. It's that easy. Turn off the SOLO button and the Extravoice will play along with the organ voices. The Extravoices will play along with the Farf, Vx and Pipe organs as well.

The Extravoice section has its own volume control, and its own DSP Effects section. Each Extravoice has a default effect assigned to it, whose primary adjustable value is assigned to the Extravoice effects knob. You can enable and disable the effect by pressing the ON button below the EXTRA VOICE EFFECT knob.



EXTRAVOICE SCREEN



EXTRAVOICE SECTION WITH VOLUME CONTROL



This GigStart guide barely scratches the surface of the many features of your new Hammond SK.

Please consult the Owners guide to learn more, or you can see videos that show many of the deep programming procedures in easy-to-learn steps at **[www.hammondorganco.com](http://www.hammondorganco.com)**.

For additional help: [info@hammondorganco.com](mailto:info@hammondorganco.com)

*For 75 years, Hammond has been  
The Sound, The Soul, The One!*

**HAMMOND**®  
THE SOUND THE SOUL THE ONE