

Hexiphonic settings

As we all know we don't all have GK-3 pickups installed on all our guitars and some of us have multiple guitars with different Pickup systems. I will cover some basic principles I have discovered when I installed a piezo system on one of my guitars.

Through reading the threads on this topic I have found some useful Ideas and discovered some new ones. The first rule is set up your GR-55 and any other 13 pin synth or processor so that it knows your guitar. Set the scale length correctly, if you don't know it you can measure it or look it up on line. Most guitar sites include the scale length in the details of the guitar. As a rule you should set the correct pickup type but you can try other types. I use the Fishman setting for my GK-3 pickup; I can EQ it to get a little better tone from COSM acoustic guitars. The only other setting on the first page that I change is the Normal Pickup gain, if you dial it back to -4 you will get less noise when using the normal pickups.

The string distance page is only useful for the tone of your COSM guitars and is only necessary if you select GK-3 or GK-2A pickups. This setting will not affect tracking or dynamics.

Setting your sensitivities is very important and I have read many threads on the topic. The best results come from setting the sensitivity as high as you can without passing the last dot on the meter. This includes Piezo pickups as well. I have read many threads that say to set it to 0. This will provide good PCM tracking but it will lessen the dynamic response of your playing. If your Piezo pickup still glitches we can fix this on the next page. Remember these concepts w apply for all pickup types. And applying them will improve your playing experience.

The next page is the Velocity settings. Now here is the revelation I came up with and you will be amazed. Lower the Velocity dynamics to about 2. Remember when I said we would fix the glitches from the sensitivity page that's how you do it. From now on you can set Velocity and play feel per patch in the Velocity settings. You have 2 settings here in the patch Velocity curve and level velocity sensitivity. Every instrument responds differently to your paying and you have to set each one a little different to get the most out of it.

I usually set the play feel on the low side also 2 Or 3 is good d play guitar. This setting can be increased or decreased in each patch with Velocity curve also.

Low Velocity cut is for those unessential notes from brushing against the strings. Set this above 5 but be careful because it will cut off any weak signal and you will lose some dynamic ability. You can make up for this by playing every note strong and accurate (if you are anything like me this is not possible) or you can use the legato option. Legato is notes that are tied together (slides, slurs, bends, taps and trills). This is even helpful for instruments with the chromatic option.

On the Nuance page you can leave it default for piezo pickups but for GK's I suggest setting the Nuance trim to 8. This will especially help with triggering drums. For some reason the Ab snare drum needs a little help triggering and it also helps with other tones as well but the drum kits is where it shows the most. Drums have fewer editing parameters and they can be tricky. You will need to employ a lot of palm muting to get an accurate performance.

Always keep in mind when using PCM sounds you are no longer a guitar player you are a synth player and you will need to learn new techniques to achieve a flawless performance.

The topics covered in this article are purely my opinions and feel free to experiment or use whatever works for you. Remember every guitar is different and no one setting will work for everyone.

I am ordering an OPT-1 from RMC soon and I will cover my thoughts on what it does and does not improve. So far everything in my GR-55 is working great without it with the exception of the GR-300 COSM model but I got around that by using the GR-300 PCM.

Side note for Piezo users.... If you use some kind of foam on the other side of your bridge on Les Paul type guitars it will get rid of that overtone/feedback pitch on COSM guitars.

Jimmy.