ALESIS

TEACHER'S CHOICE 61

User Guide

ALESIS

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(1.0) Introduction

(1.1) Box Contents

Teacher's Choice 61 Portable Keyboard

Power Adapter

USB-C® Cable

Music Rest

Quickstart Guide

Safety & Warranty Manual

(1.2) Support

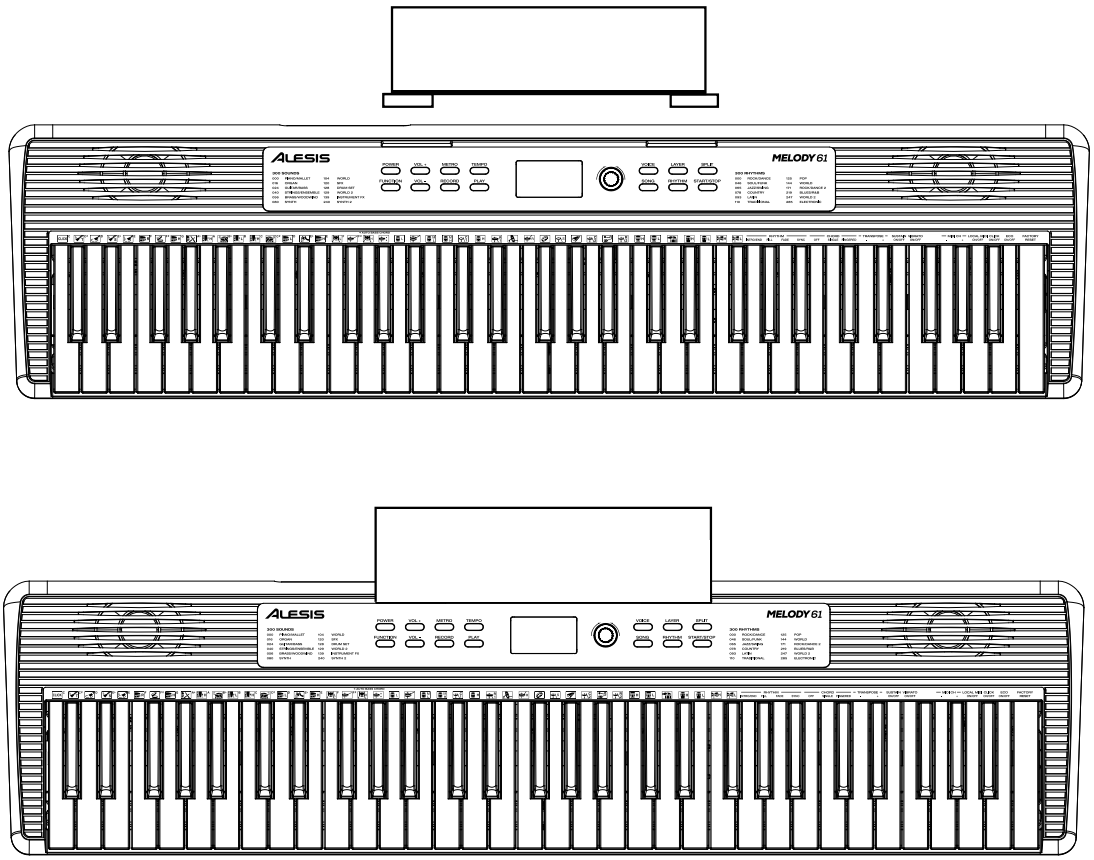
For the latest information about this product (system requirements, compatibility information, etc.) and product registration, visit alesis.com.

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

(1.3) Setup

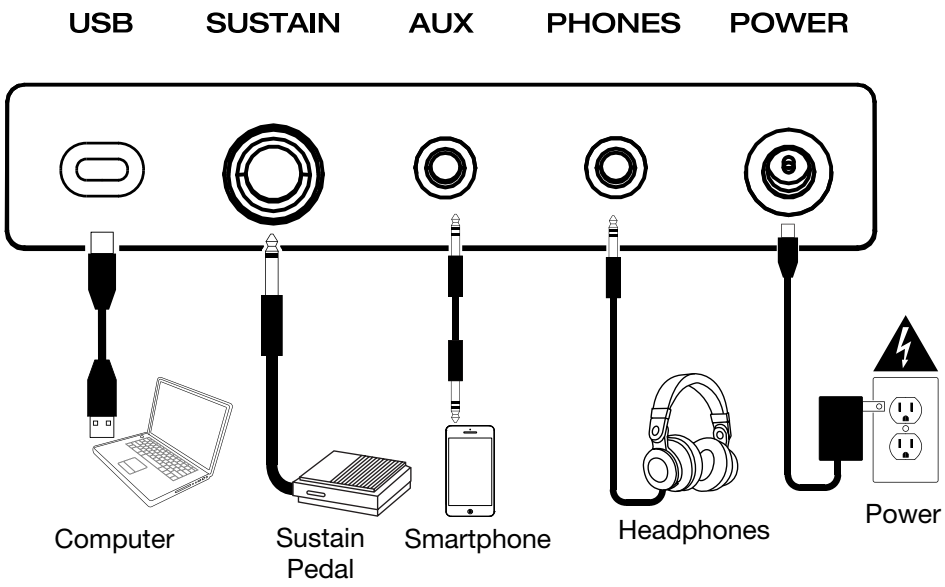
Music Rest:

Insert the music rest's tabs into the top of Teacher's Choice 61 until they fit securely, as seen in the images below:



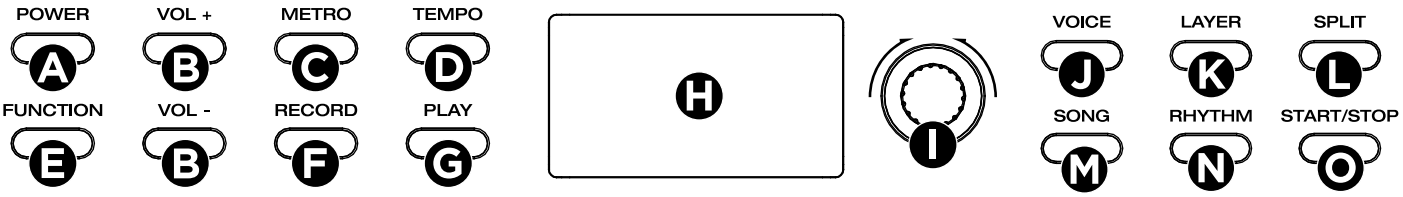
(1.3.1) Connection Diagram

Items not listed in *Introduction > Box Contents* are sold separately.



(2.0) Features

(2.1) Top Panel



A. Power Button

Press this button to turn the piano's power on or off.

B. Volume +/-

Press these buttons to increase or decrease the main volume, including the voices, songs, and rhythms (0-10). When the main volume is changed, "Main Volume" will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds.

Note: If the internal speakers do not produce any sound, check that the volume is not set too low. Also, if headphones are plugged into the **Phones** output, the speakers will be muted.

C. Metronome

Press this button to turn the metronome on or off. Press and hold this button, and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the metronome. When the metronome volume is changed, "Metro Volume" will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds. See the *Metronome* section for more details.

D. Tempo

Press this button to show the current internal tempo setting on the display (040 - 280 BPM). Turn the **Encoder** to adjust the internal tempo used for the metronome, song, and accompaniment rhythm features. Press this button several times at a consistent pace to set the tempo via tap. When the tempo is changed, "Tempo" will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds.

E. Function

Press and hold this button and then press a labeled key on the keybed to perform a function, such as Transpose -/+. See the *Keybed Functions* section for more details.

F. Record

Press this button to record a user song, then press it again to stop recording. If a user song already exists, it will be deleted. When the keyboard is ready to record a user song, the screen will show "Ready...". Once a key is pressed to start recording a user song, the screen will show "Recording".

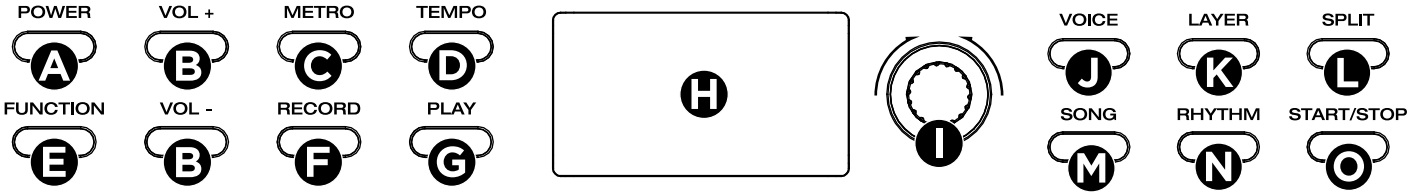
G. Play

Press this button to play back a user song. If this button is pressed during recording, recording will stop and the user song will start playback. When the keyboard is playing a user song, the screen will show "**Playing**". After the keyboard has finished playing the song, it will return to the previous screen after 1.5 seconds.

Note: The user song will be cleared after powering off Teacher's Choice 61.

H. Display

This display screen shows relevant info for settings while they are being changed.



I. Encoder Knob

Turn this to adjust settings.

J. Voice

Press this button to show the currently selected Main Voice (sound) and turn the **Encoder** to select a new voice. Press and hold this button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the Main Voice (R1). See the ***Voices*** section for more information.

K. Layer

Press this button to enable Layer Mode and use the **Encoder** to select the Layer Voice. Press and hold this button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the Layer Voice (R2). Press the button again to disable Layer Mode. See the ***Layer Mode*** section for more information.

L. Split

Press this button to enable Split Mode and use the **Encoder** to select the Split Voice. Press and hold this button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the Split Voice (L1). Press the button again to disable Split Mode. See the ***Split Mode*** section for more information.

M. Song

Press this button to access Song Mode. Press and hold this button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the Demo Song. See the ***Song Mode*** section for more details on this function.

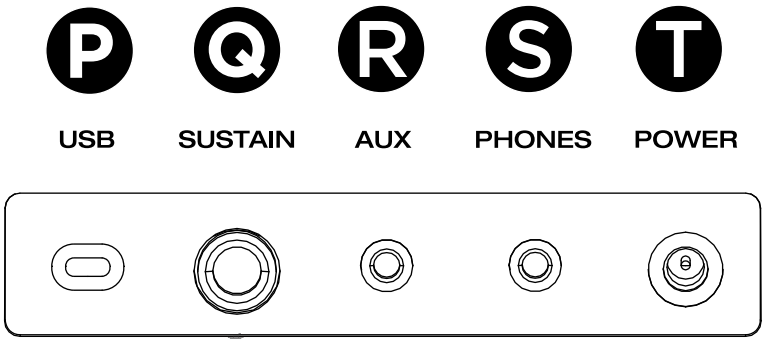
N. Rhythm

Press this button to enable the Rhythm Mode and then turn the **Encoder** to select an accompaniment rhythm for playback. Press and hold this button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the rhythm. See the ***Rhythm Mode*** section for more information.

O. Start/Stop

Press this button to start and stop an accompaniment rhythm in Rhythm Mode, or start and stop a song in Song Mode. You can also press this button to stop a currently playing metronome or user song.

(2.2) Rear Panel



P. USB-C® Port

Use the included USB-C® cable to connect this port to a computer or mobile device to send and receive MIDI data or apply firmware updates.

Q. Sustain Pedal Input

Connect a standard 1/4" (6.35 mm) sustain pedal here (not included).

R. Aux

Connect an auxiliary device (such as a smartphone or MP3 player) to this 1/8" (3.5 mm) stereo input.

S. Phones

Connect headphones to this 1/8" stereo output.

Note: If headphones are plugged into the **Phones** output, the speakers will be muted.

T. Power

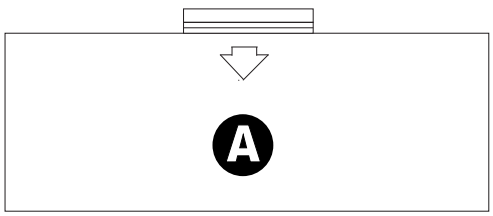
Use the included power adapter to connect this input to a power outlet.

(2.3) Bottom Panel

A. Battery Compartment

Install 6 "AA" batteries (not included) here to power Teacher's Choice 61 if you are not using the power adapter.

Tip: To help save battery life, use the Eco Mode feature to automatically turn off the keyboard after 20 minutes of inactivity. To turn this feature on or off, hold the **Function** button, and press the key labeled "Eco".



(3.0) Basic Operation

(3.1) Voices

To select and play a Main Voice (r1):

1. Press the **Voice** button. The currently selected voice (ex. GrandPno) will be shown on the screen.
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select a voice (000 - 299).
3. Play the keys to hear the voice.
4. Press and hold this button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the Main Voice.



When this volume is changed, "R1 Volume" will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds before returning to the previous screen.

Tip: Teacher's Choice 61's keyboard features LEDs that will light up red when you press a key, or when a demo song is playing. You can customize the color, or turn the lights off, by holding the **Function** button, and then pressing the left-most key of the keyboard labeled "**Click**". Continue to press this button repeatedly to select from the available options (Red, Green, Amber, or Off).

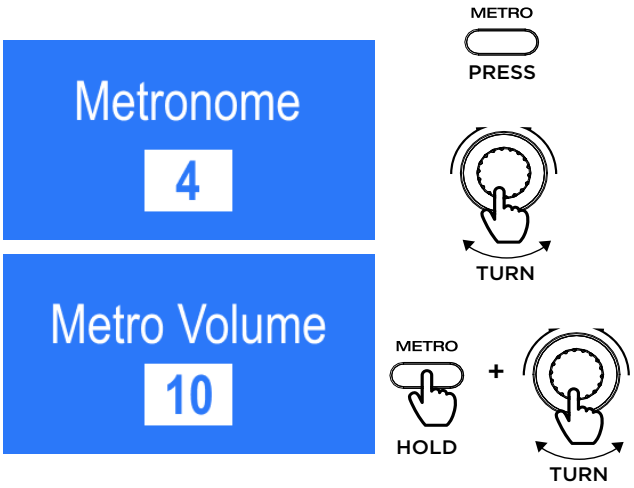
(3.2) Metronome

The metronome feature provides a steady beat to aid in practicing at a consistent tempo.

To use the metronome:

1. Press the **Metronome** button to turn the metronome on. The time signature (beat) will be shown on the display screen (0, 2 - 9).
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select the time signature to be played (0, 2 - 9).
3. Press and hold the **Metronome** button and turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the metronome.

   Note: The metronome cannot be used during Rhythm, Demo Song, or User Song playback.
4. To turn off the metronome, press the **Metronome** button again, or press the **Start/Stop** button.



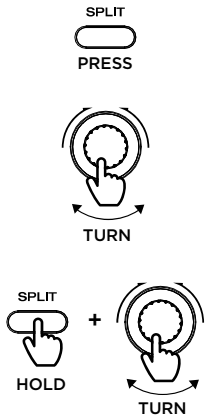
When the metronome volume is changed, "**Metro Volume**" will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds before returning to the previous UI screen.

(3.3) Split Mode

Split Mode allows you to separate the 61 keys into two zones so that you can have two different voices for each of your hands. For example, you may want the Piano voice for your right hand, and the Bass voice for your left hand. When Split Mode is enabled, the left-hand voice is referred to as the Split voice. The left-hand voice will be heard when playing the lowest 2 octaves of the keyboard.







To split the keyboard into 2 zones:

1. Press the **Split** button.
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select the split voice (000 - 299) to be played.

Note: The split point cannot be adjusted.

3. Press and hold the **Split** button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the split voice. When the volume is changed, “L1 Volume” will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds.

To enable/disable Split Mode, press the **Split** button. The Split voice will disappear from the main screen, and the main voice will then be able to be selected again using the encoder.

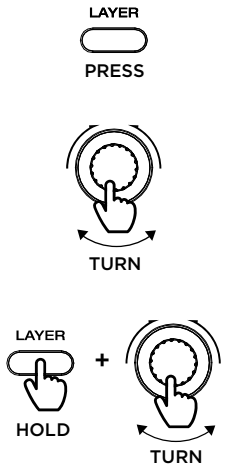
Note: Split Mode cannot be enabled at the same time as Layer Mode.

(3.4) Layer Mode

Layer Mode allows for two different voices to be mixed together for a more full and rich sound.







To layer two voices:

1. Press the **Layer** button. The Layer (ex. "Layer:049 StrEns") will appear on the main screen along with the currently selected layer voice.
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select the layer voice (000 - 299) to be played.
3. Press and hold the **Layer** button and then turn the **Encoder** to adjust the volume level of the layer voice. “R2 Volume” will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds.

To enable/disable Layer Mode, press the **Layer** button. The “Layer:” voice will disappear from the main screen, and the main voice will then be able to be selected again using the encoder.



Note: Layer Mode cannot be enabled at the same time as Split Mode.

(3.5) Rhythm Mode

Teacher's Choice 61 features 300 accompaniment rhythms that you can play along with and create your own songs.



To enable Rhythm Mode and select an accompaniment rhythm (000 - 299), press **Rhythm** and then turn the **Encoder**. "Rhythm" will be shown on the screen.

To adjust the volume level of the rhythm, press and hold **Rhythm** and then turn the encoder. When the volume is changed, "Rhythm Volume" will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds.



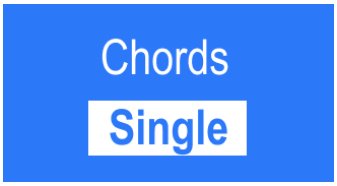
To start or stop an accompaniment rhythm, press the **Start/Stop** button while in Rhythm Mode.

To have the rhythm play a short fill, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Fill**".

To start the rhythm with an intro or end a currently playing rhythm ending, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Intro/End**".

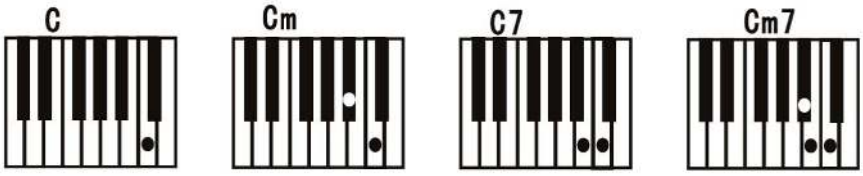
To start the rhythm with a fade-in or end a currently playing rhythm with a fade-out, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Fade**".

The Rhythm Mode feature also features auto-chord accompaniment that can be triggered by playing the "Auto Bass" keys in the lower range (the second lowest F# key or lower) of the keyboard. There are two different settings for this feature, **Single Chord** and **Fingered Chord**.

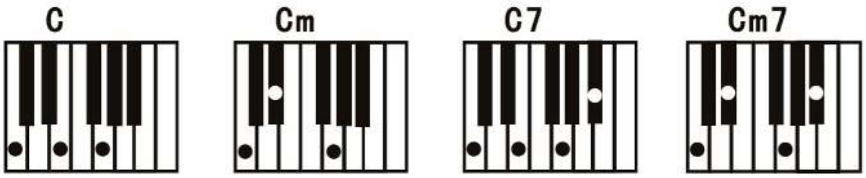




Single Chord:
When using the Single Chord feature you can use the abbreviated chord shapes shown below starting on any note to play major, minor, seventh, or minor seventh chords.



Fingered Chord:
When using the Fingered Chord feature you can use the full chord shapes shown below starting on any note to play major, minor, seventh, or minor seventh chords.



To add or remove auto-chord accompaniment for the rhythm, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the keys labeled "**Single**", "**Fingered**", or "**Off**" accordingly.

To configure whether the rhythm's playback should start when a key is played in the chord range, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Sync**".

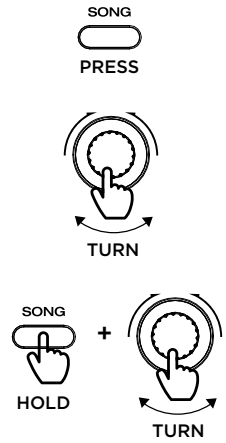
(3.6) Song Mode

To play a song:

1. Press the **Song** button. The "Song Mode" screen will be shown where the current selected song number and name is displayed.
2. Turn the **Encoder** to select a song for playback (000 – 029).
3. Press the **Start/Stop** button to start the song.
4. Press and hold the **Song** button and then turn the Encoder to adjust the volume level of the song. When the volume is changed, "Song Volume" will be shown on the screen for 1.5 seconds.
5. Press the **Start/Stop** button to again to stop the song.







When a song is playing, each note of the melody (normally played with the right hand) will light its respective key's LED. There are three different key light modes ("Lrn1", "Lrn2", and "Lrn3") that can be selected by holding the **Function** button, and pressing the key labeled "**Song Mode**".



- **Lrn 1**: In this mode, the song will wait for you to press a key to continue the song. This mode is useful for practicing rhythmic timing, as the key does not need to be correct for the song to proceed.
- **Lrn2:** In this mode, the song will wait for you to press each key to continue the song. The song will not proceed until you press the correct key. If press an incorrect key, the wrong note will sound, and the song will not continue until the correct key is pressed.
- **Lrn3**: In this mode, the song will continue to play regardless of any key presses. However, the melody will be muted, and you will need to press the correct keys to hear the melody.

To return to the original key light functionality for Song mode, hold the **Function** button, and press the key labeled "**Song Mode**" until "Lrn1", "Lrn2", or "Lrn3" is no longer shown.

Tip: When you are first learning a song, it's very useful to use the Tempo function to slow down the song, and speed it up gradually as you become more comfortable.

(3.7) Skoove Setup

Teacher's Choice 61 features 61 keys with built-in LED lights that are tightly integrated with Skoove's premium all-in-one learning method featuring over 1000+ lessons and songs. This Skoove premium subscription is for 3 months.

When a lesson is playing in the Skoove app, key LEDs will light in an ***amber*** color to show which keys to press. If the correct key is pressed, it will turn ***green***. If an incorrect key is pressed, it will turn ***red***.

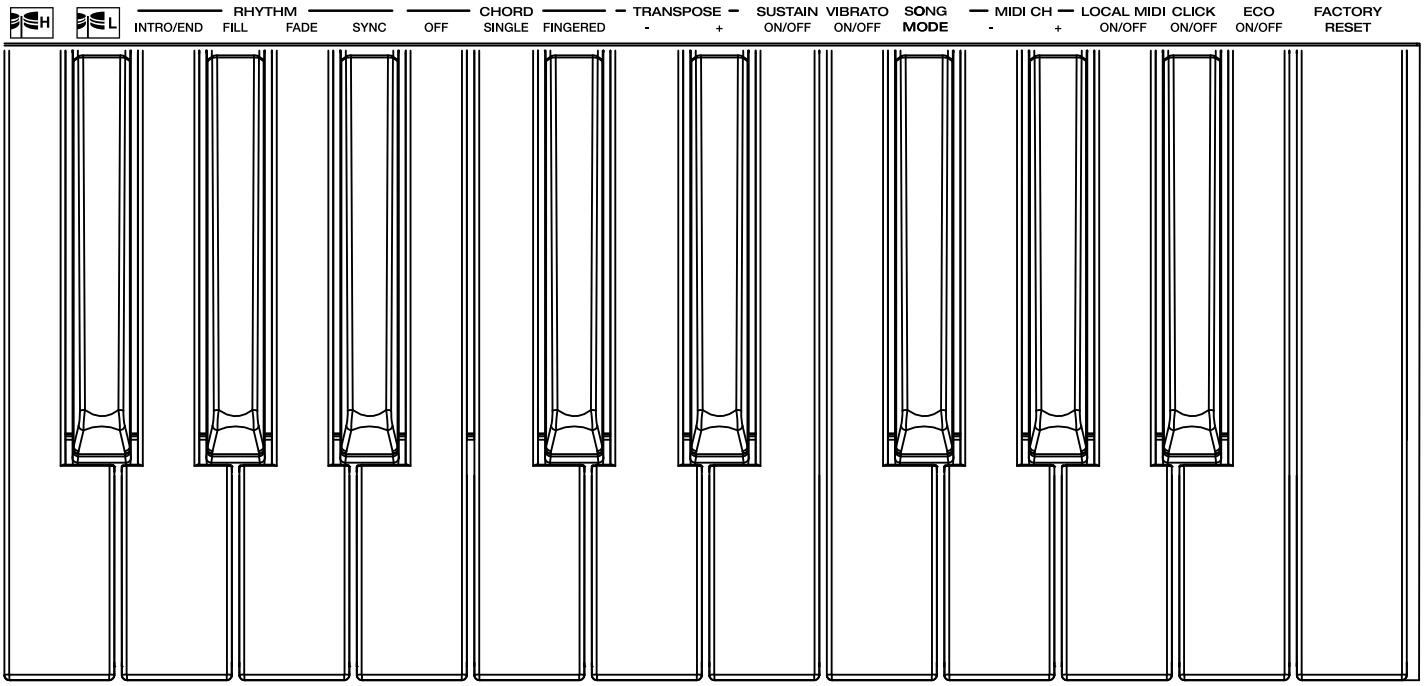
To get started with Skoove and redeem your 3-months free offer:

1. Use the QR Code or navigate to skoove.com/promotions/alesis-3m to redeem your offer.
2. Download the Skoove app on your Android or Apple mobile device.
3. Connect Teacher's Choice 61 to your device using the included USB-C cable.
4. Open the Skoove app and login to start learning!

(4.0) Advanced Operation

(4.1) Keybed Functions

You can change more advanced settings by pressing and holding the **Function** button and then press a key that corresponds to the graphic below to change your desired setting.



(4.1.1) Transpose

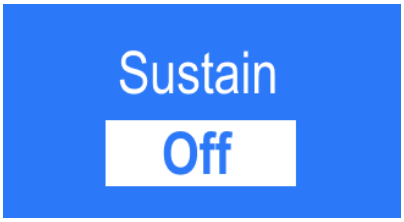
This function allows the overall pitch of the piano to be transposed up or down by a maximum of six semitones.

To lower/raise the keybed transposition by a semitone (-6 to 0 to +6), press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Transpose +**" or "**Transpose -**" respectively. To reset the transposition to default (0), hold the **Function** button and then press both "**Transpose +**" and "**Transpose –**" buttons at the same time.



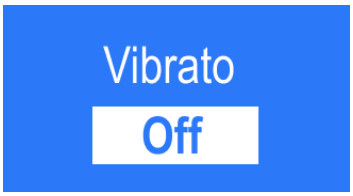
(4.1.2) Sustain

To enable/disable the Sustain effect, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Sustain**". The display screen will display "**ON**" or "**OFF**" accordingly.



(4.1.3) Vibrato

To enable/disable the Vibrato effect, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Vibrato**". The display screen will display "**ON**" or "**OFF**" accordingly.



(4.1.4) Song Mode

Use the Song Mode key to configure how the LED key lights will function when using the Song mode. To learn more, see the *Song Mode* section for more details.

(4.1.5) MIDI Channel

To change the MIDI channel (1-16) of the keybed for the USB-MIDI output, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**MIDI Channel +**" or "**MIDI Channel -**", repeatedly if needed.



(4.1.6) Local MIDI

To turn Local MIDI on/off, press and hold **Function,** and then press the key labeled "**Local MIDI**". The display screen will display "**ON**" or "**OFF**" accordingly.

When Local MIDI is on (default), sound will be generated and heard through the speaker, and MIDI messages will be sent to the USB-MIDI output when keys are played.

When Local MIDI is off, sound will not be generated, however MIDI messages will still be sent to the USB-MIDI output when keys are played.



(4.1.7) Click

To enable/disable the click sound that is heard when the Function key settings are changed, press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Click**". The display screen will display "**ON**" or "**OFF**" accordingly.

Note: The "click" sound will not play when pressing the Rhythm Intro/End or Fade keys, regardless of this setting.



(4.1.8) Eco Mode

The Eco Mode feature will automatically turn off the keyboard after 20 minutes of inactivity. To turn this feature on or off, press and hold the **Function** button and press the key labeled "**Eco**".



(4.1.9) Factory Reset

To return the keyboard to factory default settings (including the default volume settings), press and hold the **Function** button and then press the key labeled "**Factory Reset**". When the keyboard is being reset, the display screen will show "Factory Reset In Progress" and when completed, the keyboard will return to the Main screen.



(5.0) Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause and Solution
The LED screen is intermittent or not turning on and/or the speakers are making a humming noise.	The batteries may be low or depleted. Change to a new set of batteries or use the power adapter connected to a power outlet.
The speakers produce a pop sound whenever the power is turned on/off.	This is normal and is no cause for alarm.
The speakers do not produce sound when the keys are played.	Check if the main volume is set too low or if headphones are plugged into the **Phones**. The speakers will be muted if there are headphones plugged into the **Phones**.
The speakers are producing noise or interference.	Using a mobile phone in close proximity to Teacher's Choice 61 may produce interference. To prevent this, put the mobile phone in airplane mode, turn off the mobile phone, or keep it away from the piano.
Certain notes produce the wrong pitch.	Make sure that the transpose value is set to **0**. If that does not work, then hold the **Function** button and press the **Factory Reset** key (C7) to restore the factory default settings.

(6.0) Appendix

(6.1) Sounds

000–015 Piano/Mallet	104–119 World
016–023 Organ	120–127 SFX
024–039 Guitar/Bass	128 Drumset
040–055 Strings/Ensemble	129–138 World 2
056–079 Brass/Woodwind	139–239 Instrument FX
080–103 Synth	240–299 Synth FX

(6.2) Rhythms

000–045 Rock/Dance	125–143 Pop
046–064 Soul/Funk	144–170 World
065–077 Jazz/Swing	171–218 Rock/Dance 2
078–092 Country	219–246 Blues/R&B
093–109 Latin	247–284 World 2
110–124 Traditional	285–299 Electronic

(6.3) Technical Specifications

Key Type	61 Compact Non-Weighted Keys with Red/Green/Amber LEDs
Touch Response	No
Display	Backlit LCD
Max Polyphony	32
Sounds	300
Rhythms	300
Songs	30
Keyboard Modes	Split, Layer, Rhythm, Song, Record Mode
Built-in Effects	Sustain, Vibrato
Transpose Feature	-6 to +6 semitones
Metronome Tempo Range	040 - 280 BPM
Speakers	5W (2.5 x 2)
Headphone Output	1/8” (3.5 mm) stereo output
Aux In	1/8” (3.5 mm) stereo input
Sustain Input	1/4” (6.35 mm) input
USB-MIDI Port	USB-C® port
Power Input	12V DC, 1A, Center-Positive (adapter included)
Battery Power (optional)	6 AA batteries (not included)
Keyboard Dimensions (with music rest) (width x depth x height)	35.9” x 9.1” x 9.1” / 91.3 x 23.1 x 23.1 cm
Keyboard Weight	7.3 lbs. / 3.3 kg

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

(6.4) Trademarks & Licenses

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