

Dear fellow Karma User

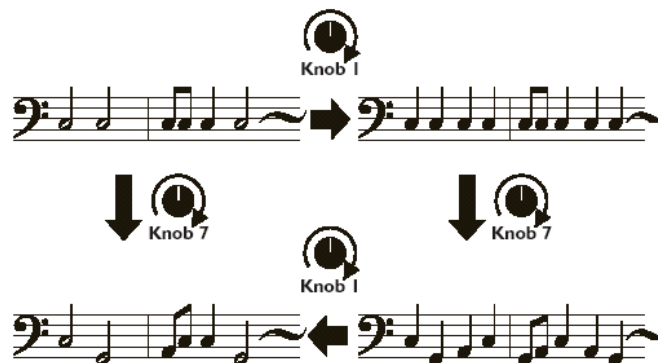
Beyond doubts you chose one of the most stunning and complex Workstations, the KARMA Musikworkstation, to be your own. More than a year ago I made the same choice, one of the best choices I made so far ;) and hope you can find some introductional basic understanding in the few lines I put together on that purpose.

I think it is important to understand that the Karma Function generates Phrases and Patterns with the notes or chords you play, but at the same time allows you to control realtime manipulation of the same patterns and phrases with the, KRTC, Variable Performance Controller, as well as with CC's using external sequencers, and/or other Keyboards. This is a very powerful tool, see the graphical explanation of such KRTC manipulation below:

Variable Performance Controller or KARMA Realtime Controllers, KRTC:



Example:



To better understand what functions are really used when you tweak the knobs on the KRTC, it is useful to always look up the KRTC Overview, by pressing the F5 button under the screen.

F5 KRTC Overview:



This screen gives you a better detail overview what happens when you twist knob 3 for example, that's would be the Duration % of the Gate, or Knob 1 Syncopation.

The building block for those Phrases and Patterns is a Generated Effect, GE, which can be modified with the Parameters of a Karma module. To know what GE is actually assigned you can go the the KARMA Screen.

F4 Karma Screen:



So in the above example you can see that GE number 0441: Express Gtr1 is used in the program, spanish guitar in this example.

In Program Mode you can apply one of such Karma Modules, in Sequencer and Combi mode up to four Karma Modules. Subsequently up to four different timbres, can be controlled, for example drums, bass, guitars, piano, that already would make a nice ensemble.

With roughly 400 Parameters per single GE, the KARMA Function enables you to generate many different musical changes. A subset of up to 16 Parameters can be modified and controlled in realtime, using the Karma Panel or CC's, and at the same time you can play your board. This means that in Program mode you can modify up to 16 Parameters, which would be split up in Combi mode, lets say using 4 Karma modules in a combi, would come down to 4 Parameters tweakable for each module. Nevertheless, some can trigger Parameters that affect the entire Combi and would be identified on the KARMA Page, F5 in Program and Combi Mode, F7 in Sequencer mode, as {MLTI}, the duration, swing, or complexity just for example.

The workstation consists of 1189 different GE's, organized fortunately in 17 different categories. With OS 2 you have additional space for 320 GE's that you can create utilizing the announced MW Software, to be available for PC or MAC.

But how does all this come together? The fundament for most of the GE's is a NOTE SERIES. This is a series of different tones and velocities that are controlled from your keyboard for example, and they are transferred to the GE Pattern. With the given Parameters you can define how those NOTE SERIES will be played, transposed, filtered, whatever modification you apply.

I think it is important to further understand that all that which is generated by the KARMA Function can be output via MIDI, therefore you can trigger external sound modules or samplers that talk midi to even enhance the immense spectrum of this instrument.

So far my own basic understanding of the technology that drives this stunning instrument. I have it since more than a year, and I am still very much in love with it. There are great 3d party developers who already delivered beautiful masterpieces, combis for sale that you can purchase and load into your Instrument.

I wish to point out Paul W.Osborn, "Chemistry Vol.1", and Eric James, "Edges" as the best I came across in 3rd party development so far, no disrespect for the Companies on the net who also supply additional sound food for your KARMA, nevertheless, in my humble opinion the above mentioned represent the best.

Go through the Basic guide delivered with your KARMA step by step, and you gain know-how in a fast pace, have Stephen's FAQ available to check on the many covered issues and tricks, and go into depth with the Paramater and GE'Guide as you need it, I really hope this helps with the first steps!

Now, enjoy your exploration into the amazing musical world of the KARMA :)

Best wishes

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P.S.
Last not least, here a few more good sources on the KARMA:

Documents and updates are easy to be found at:
<http://www.korg.com/>

You find more links and details on Stephen Kay's site at:
<http://www.karma-lab.com/>

A free editor under development, originally for the triton, but is working fine with the KARMA as it is based on the same HI sound engine to be found at Stuarts place:
<http://www.pryer.freemove.co.uk/>

A free KARMA Program Explorer put together by Daz from Irish acts to be found at:
<http://www.btinternet.com/~daz.richards/>

Irish Acts, a BB service with good topics around Karma, Korg, Music in generall at:
<http://www.irishacts.com/>

P.P.S.

How complex are the possibilities of this stunning beautiful Instrument?

Answer:

"DOING THE MATH" by Scott

Just for the (marginal) interest value, I've calculated the number of combinations one can create with the Karma using:

- 1) Only four factory-preset programs.
- 2) The maximum four GE's allowed by the current architecture.
- 3) Just Scene 1 for each of those GE's, using factory settings.

The number of possible combinations are: 43,602,635,766,953,410,560,000

That's forty-three sextillion possible combinations and some change. Or forty-three thousand trillion trillion, to put it another way. That's figured by taking 384 (the number of factory programs) to the fourth power times 1190 (the number of GE's) to the fourth power.

If you previewed one combi per second (not long enough to really get a feel for each one, in my opinion), it would take you just over 1,381,684,151,106,339 years to hear them all. To put that in perspective, that's about 92,000 times the current age of the universe (according to accepted scientific thought at the moment).