TOP 20 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE MOTIF ES
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1. Yamaha uses the term “voice” in place of the term “patch”. Choose a Normal Voice by selecting a Bank, Group and Number. Choose a Drum Voice by holding down the DrumKit button before selecting a Drum Bank.

2. Banks Pre1 through Pre6 and GM use ROM memory and cannot be overwritten. User1 and User2 Banks use Flash ROM memory and can be overwritten. The GM bank follows the General MIDI standard for voice organization.

3. Turn Local Control off (Utility > MIDI > Switch) when you are sequencing with a DAW (to prevent doubling) and turn it on when you are not sequencing.

4. Set MIDI Sync (Utility > MIDI > Sync) to “MIDI” if you want to slave the internal sequencer or arpeggio to your DAW. Otherwise, ALWAYS set MIDI Sync to “Internal” (when set to MIDI, voices with an arpeggio turned on will not play when you press the keys). Also set ClockOut and SeqCtrl to off (pressing the Store button afterwards).

5. Only the Motif ES6 and ES7 have the Down/Up Octave buttons for octave transposition (press both simultaneously to reset). For the ES8, go to Utility > General > Kbd for octave transposition.

6. Voice mode is a “poly” mode. The motif will respond to only one MIDI channel. Song mode is “multi” mode. The motif will respond to all 16 MIDI channels and playback 16 different voices.

7. To edit a voice, go to Edit Mode. To start from scratch, initialize a voice by going to Job mode.

8. You will be in one of two places for a Normal Voice after pressing the edit button in voice mode: Common or Element. Differently, if you had a Drum Voice selected before pressing the edit button, you will be at either Common or Key.

9. A Normal Voice can have up to 4 elements. They are accessed in edit mode by pressing buttons 1-4. Buttons 9-12 serve as mute and solo buttons. The four Control Sliders (CS) control the level of each element.

10. A Drum voice can have up to 72 waves. They are accessed in edit mode by pressing button 1 and then playing the keyboard for each key.

11. Back up your voices and/or songs with a bulk dump from the Job mode.

12. Create a Standard MIDI file from an internal sequence with File mode.
13. Do a factory reset by going to Utility > Job. To do a hard reset, hold down the white record transport button (with the red dot) and the remote on/off button as you turn on the Motif. After doing either of these, go to Utility > General > Other, and set AutoLoad to “off”. Press Store and reboot the Motif. This will clear out song demos and prevent problems when choosing a song for sequencing.

14. Go to Song mode to sequence. Choose an empty song or clear it (Job > Song > ClearSong). Press Mixing to go to the Song Mixing mode. F1 displays your volume (cc#7) and pan (cc#10) levels for each part. F2 displays the bank and voice number for each part. F3 allows you to choose and edit two different system effects. F4 allows you to set the send level for each part.

15. Prepare to record with the internal sequencer by pressing the white Record transport button. Press the Play transport button to start the count off for recording.

16. The Motif has three types of effects: Insertion, System and Master. If you want to bypass them, press the effects buttons found under the Effects section on the panel above the white transport buttons. The Insertion and System effects are bypassed when their buttons are highlighted. Differently, the Master effect is bypassed when its button is not highlighted.

17. Each voice can have two insertion effects. These are selected and routed in Voice Edit mode at Common > Effect > Connect. Only voices for 8 parts in Song Mixing mode can use their Insertion effects. The 8 parts are selected at F3 > Ins Sw. The Insertion effects for the other 8 parts will be bypassed.

18. System effects saved with a voice in Voice mode will not work in Song Mixing mode. All 16 parts in a Song will share the two system effects selected for that Song.

19. Master effects apply to the stereo output of the Motif. Typically, they are bypassed.

20. Use the Motif editor to edit voices from your computer. To setup, open SM2 from the dock of your computer. Add a Motif Voice Editor. Click on the MIDI Ports tab and check input 1 and output 1. Apply and double-click the Motif voice editor to open it. Choose Setup from the Setup menu and assure that input and output 1 are assigned. Click a tab to choose a bank, and then double-click on a voice to load it in the Motif. Begin editing. When finished, save a .YSM file from the SM2 file menu.

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