

Programming the Three-Way Mode Switch with the VG-99 GR-300 Emulation:



The industry-standard Fender Roland-Ready Strat uses two momentary push buttons for GK S1 and S2 switch, here labeled **Up** and **Down**.



Similar to the Fender Roland-Ready guitar, [Godin](#) has two momentary pushbuttons for S1 and S2.



S1 and **S2** are combined on one spring loaded toggle switch on the [Brian Moore](#) Roland-Ready guitars.

A little more Roland history: Roland premiered the GK-2 pickup with two momentary switches, S1 and S2. By default, these switches were used to step through programs on the original GR-50 rack-mount guitar synthesizer. Some players may also be familiar with the S1 and S2 switches on the Fender Roland-Ready guitar synthesizers. On the [Brian Moore](#) series of Roland-Ready iGuitars, and some of the [Godin Guitars](#), S1 and S2 worked off a spring loaded toggle switch.

The **BC-13** and **BX-13** translate the three position Mode switch on the Roland vintage guitars into S1 and S2 as well. The converted vintage mode switch is down for S1, and up for S2. Obviously, there is a third possibility, with the switch in the middle. The VG-99 now makes it possible for someone using a **BX-13** to recreate the Mode switch as used on the original GR-300. This is done by ignoring the standard S1 and S2 settings and using the additional control assignments on the VG-99. There are more possibilities with the **BX-13**, but I will use the GR-300 emulation on the VG-99 as an example of how to program this cool feature.

Step One - Disable Standard S1 and S2: I know this sounds a little crazy, but we are going to be using S1 and S2 a bit differently than the default mode. On the VG-99, press the **Control Assign** button, then from **Page 1**, press the **S1, S2** button. Turn both S1 and S2 off.

Step Two - Using General Control Assign: Now use the **Page** keys to move to **Page 7**, which shows control assignment options 1-6. Press **F1** (Assign 1), and set the following parameters:

- Source = GK S1
- SW = ON
- Target Parameter = F4 (A) COSM GUITAR
- Target Parameter = F5 SYNTH GR-300
- Target Parameter = F6 MODE

Next press the **Page** key to move to the next page (2), and set the following parameters:

- Source = GK S1
- MIN = V+D
- MAX= DIST
- SW MODE = MOMENT
- RANGE LOW = 0
- RANGE HIGH = 127

Press the **Exit** key and Press **F2** (Assign 2), and set the following parameters:

- Source = GK S2

- SW = ON
- Target Parameter = F4 (A) COSM GUITAR
- Target Parameter = F5 SYNTH GR-300
- Target Parameter = F6 MODE

Next press the **Page** key to move to the next page (2), and set the following parameters:

- Source = GK S1
- MIN = V+D
- MAX= VCO
- SW MODE = MOMENT
- RANGE LOW = 0
- RANGE HIGH = 127

Why does this work? Roland products are designed to support S1 and S2 switches that are only momentary switches. This design works great for stepping through programs, as each successive press either moves one program up, or one program down. But with a **BX-13** we can do more, and take advantage of the middle position. It only takes a minute to program these changes, and you can build a GR-300 emulation patch that works just like the real thing.

Of course, you there are more possibilities. Using the same principles, you can design the Mode switch to work just like the pickup switch on a Les Paul, with neck, neck and bridge, and bridge only pickup selections. The standard S1 and S2 functions allow you to step through pickup selections, but you never know exactly which combination you are playing until you hear it. With the **BX-13**, you can select the pickup combination just like with a real guitar.