

Instructions for playing the Fokker organ with 12-tone MIDI keyboard(s)

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These instructions describe how to make the 31-tone Fokker organ at the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam playable with one or two 12-tone MIDI keyboards. Most of the equipment needed can be found on the spot, you only need to bring your own laptop computer.

Items needed

- Your laptop computer (Mac or PC)
- The computer must have "Max Runtime" software installed (this is free and downloadable at <http://cycling74.com/downloads/runtime/>)
- "Ere's Fokker organ console" software (downloadable at <http://www.erelievenen.eu/documents/>)

- Fokker organ console + its power/data cable*
- USB MIDI interface "Miditech Midilink-mini" (the one with the blue USB plug)*
- VMK-88 MIDI keyboard (the light grey one with many buttons)** + a USB cable*

If you want to use two 12-tone manuals, you also need:

- TMK-88 MIDI keyboard (the dark grey one with few buttons)** + its power cable/transformer*
- USB MIDI interface "Midimate II" (the one with the transparent plugs)*

* stored inside the Fokker organ console

** stored in the cupboard inside the dressing room

Placing the MIDI keyboard(s)

The 12-tone MIDI keyboard(s) can be placed either on a separate keyboard stand**, or on top of the lower 31-tone manual of the Fokker organ console.

When using two MIDI keyboards, they can be placed above each other, with books between them for extra vertical spacing (one on each side, or two if you want more separation), and attached using duct tape*. The light grey VMK-88 must always be the upper manual.

To place the keyboard(s) on top of the lower 31-tone manual of the Fokker organ console, you need to put some raisers under the MIDI keyboard(s) on each side of the console. There are black blocks* available for this purpose.

- When using one MIDI keyboard, use all four black blocks, two under each end of the MIDI keyboard. In this case, the upper 31-tone manual remains playable.
- When using two MIDI keyboards attached together, use only the two bigger black blocks under them.

Cable connections

- The power/data cable of the Fokker organ is to be plugged into the power/data sockets on the Fokker organ console (on either side of the console), and into the power/data sockets under the hall floor.
- The USB MIDI interface "Miditech Midilink-mini" (the one with the blue USB plug) is to be plugged into a USB socket on the laptop computer, and into the MIDI OUT/IN sockets of the Fokker organ console (white "MIDI IN" plug to OUT socket, black "MIDI OUT" plug to IN socket).
- A regular USB cable is to be plugged into the USB socket on the back of the (light grey) VMK-88 keyboard, and into a USB socket on the laptop computer.
- The power cable of your laptop computer can be plugged into an AC power outlet inside the Fokker organ console.

When using two MIDI keyboards, also:

- The MIDI keyboard power cable/transformer is to be plugged into the DC socket on the back of the (dark grey) TMK-88 keyboard, and into an AC power outlet inside the Fokker organ console.
- The USB MIDI interface "Midimate II" (the one with the transparent plugs) is to be plugged into a USB socket on the laptop computer, and into the MIDI output sockets of the MIDI keyboards: MIDI plug # 1 to the lower MIDI keyboard (the dark grey TMK-88), and MIDI plug # 2 to the upper MIDI keyboard (the light grey VMK-88).
- In case you don't have enough USB sockets on your computer, use a USB extension hub* (plug all the USB cables to the extension hub, and the extension hub to your computer).

Powering up

- Press the power on (I) button on the Fokker organ console. (It will take 30 seconds for the organ's internal computer to start up.)
- Start your laptop computer.
- If using two MIDI keyboards: make sure the (dark grey) TMK-88 keyboard is switched on (its power button is on top of the keyboard, in fact between the two MIDI keyboards when they are attached together).
- For concert performance purposes: be sure to configure your computer's system preferences so that your computer and its screen never go to sleep during your playing!

Setting up "Ere's Fokker organ console" software

- On the computer, open file "Ere's 3.5.0" (or newer). (If Max Runtime doesn't start automatically, open it first, then open "Ere's" using the menu File > Open.)
- On the grey setup window, click on "Load settings", and find the file "settingsFOrg+1x12tMan" or "settingsFOrg+2x12tMan" (depending on whether you'll be using 1 or 2 MIDI keyboards).
- Check that the input/output settings properly show the names of the MIDI interface(s) or MIDI keyboard; if not, select them using the menus.
- If you wish to use the Meantone modulator and control it with the MIDI keyboard, select the option "Use highest keys on 12-tone keyboards as meantone modulator" from the Options menu.
- If you changed any of the settings, click on "Save settings" to save them in a file, so that the next time you can load your own settings file instead of the sample settings file.
- If you wish to use the preset registrations ("Hugo's registrations"), click on "Load a registration list", and select file "Hugo's registrations" (this automatically also loads the file "Hugo's VMK88settings").
- Click on "Go to console window" (if the Console window is not already opened).
- If you wish to use the Meantone modulator, click on "Meantone modulator" on the console window, so that the Meantone modulator window comes to the front.
- Engage some registers if none are on, and check that the MIDI keyboard(s) make the organ sound; and if needed to control the preset registrations and meantone modulator, check that the small oval buttons on the VMK-88 are working as described below.

Controls for preset registrations and meantone modulator

- The **preset registrations** ("Hugo's registrations") can be accessed on the VMK-88 keyboard by pressing buttons 1–7 or turning knobs 1–7 on the left, as well as by moving sliders 1–7 on the right.

The registrations, roughly as percentages of the organ's volume:

1 = man. I 20%, man. II 20% (= same soft sound on both manuals)

2 = man. I 20%, man. II 40% (= solo on man. II)

3 = man. I 40%, man. II 40%

4 = man. I 60%, man. II 40%

5 = man. I 80%, man. II 70%

6 = man. I 100%, man. II 70%

7 = man. I 120%, man. II 100%

If only one MIDI keyboard is being used, it equals manual I.

Pedal in balance to manuals.

- The **meantone tuning** can be changed using the five buttons directly under the VMK-88 logo (from left to right: Modulate flatwards, Meantone -4, Meantone -2, Meantone 0, Modulate sharpwards).
- The meantone tuning can also be changed using the 15 highest keys of the 12-tone keyboard (bb3 = Modulate flatwards, c5 = Modulate sharpwards, cb4 – b4 = Meantone -7 ... 5).

Troubleshooting

- **If you get hanging notes, press space bar on the computer keyboard, or an "All Notes Off" button on the VMK-88 keyboard** (if available).
- **The small oval buttons on the VMK-88 keyboard can sometimes get stuck in their depressed position.** Any stuck button will cause *all* the buttons to stop responding. If this happens, **check that every button has returned to its rest position, by moving them gently sideways.** (Even if the buttons do get stuck, the knobs, sliders and the keys themselves will still work.)

- If the MIDI keyboard(s) don't make the organ sound, check all cable connections. Check that the MIDI input/output menus on the grey setup window have the names of the USB MIDI interface(s) or MIDI keyboard selected. If the name of a USB MIDI interface or keyboard doesn't appear on the menus, click on "Rescan MIDI in/outputs" and try again. Watch the MIDI monitor on the grey setup window while you play on the MIDI keyboard(s), and note the channel number(s) that the keyboard(s) are sending on; then go to the "Advanced settings" window and check that the input channels are configured with the proper channel numbers. If not, modify the channel numbers appropriately (and save the settings). If none of this helps, try quitting Max and reopening "Ere's" as described earlier.
- If virtual couplers and synchronized registrations are not working, look at the MIDI monitor on the grey setup window while you play on the keyboard(s) affected. If the "MIDI in" monitor is not responding to the notes played, the problem lies in the MIDI cable connections or in the MIDI settings. See the point above.
- Do not remove the cardboard that covers some of the buttons of the VMK-88 keyboard. The buttons underneath have no function when used with the Fokker organ, and pressing them accidentally may render the other buttons, knobs and sliders inactive. In case this has happened (and the display does not show "Preset Num.: 1"):
 - If the Preset Number is other than 1, turn the Data Entry wheel until number 1; then press ENTER button.
 - If the Edit button is lit, press EDIT – ENTER to exit Edit mode.
 - If the display reads "Keyb. Live Edit", press one of the three buttons on the right side of the Data Entry wheel to exit Keyboard Live Edit mode (press the button whose name reads on the display; Bank Select button may need to be pressed twice).
- If the VMK-88 keyboard (but not "Ere's" software) has forgotten the basic settings for its buttons/knobs/sliders, they need to be reprogrammed. Select "VMK-88 controls editor" from the Utilities menu, then click on the "Setup instructions" button and follow the instructions.
- Under the manuals of the Fokker organ, on the right-hand side, there is a small white button for the cooling fan of the console. If the fan is not on, push the button to turn it on. *It is recommended to keep the fan running at all times.* Overheating of the console will produce hanging notes.