

**V Expressions Ltd**



**ATLAS Expansion Pack**

a sound enhancing expansion pack for the Roland TD-15 Drum Module

**TD-15**

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## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing V Expressions Limited's **ATLAS for TD-15!**

This expansion pack intended for the TD-15 provides 20 unique and specialized stereo drum kit selections.

Atlas provides you with plug n play kits designed for ease of use, selection, and 'fit your mix' capabilities. Fully genre based, Atlas is variety laden with something new for many musical situations, recording and live performance alike. Most of the pack is acoustic drum based, featuring well defined kicks/snare/toms for real world use. Well thought out cymbal selections and tunings provide a balanced group of cymbals custom tailored to each kit. Modern Electronic/EDM inspired kits cover a wide array of musical creation. Programmed with an assortment of excellent instrumentation, the use of multiple master effect engines make playing fun and interesting, along with well-placed percussive accessories programmed through many of the kits. This pack spotlights great production value for clear/concise recording quality with an overall modern postproduction drum sound approach.

You will find kits for Reggae, Rock, RnB, Pop/Dance, Metal, Country, Funk, Jazz and Fusion, Electronica not to mention many other uses. The acoustic drum kits in this pack are programmed and created with the feel of direct mic'ing along with added ambience, eq, and compression. All models feature wide ambience in stage, studio, and larger room environments.

While developing these kits, many acoustical considerations were carefully thought out and created to translate well in a headphone performance setting and with loudspeakers. Combining our vast knowledge of acoustic drum sets, these kits were created from ear to best fit into various genres of music. What you get is a cohesive drum sound to fit the part perfectly.

You can dial down the ambience and reverb effects without affecting the produced sound of the kit.

For all experience levels and functionality, this pack will deliver a great enhancement to the TD-15.

The **ATLAS** expansion pack has been fashioned using the onboard *SuperNATURAL* sounds of the TD-15 and ear-created from scratch on a highly expressive platform.

**Before Loading ATLAS please read this manual for important pack and module information.**

## Atlas Kit Listing:

### Kit #

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. NY Club         | Jazz                   |
| 2. Chicago Nights  | Jazz Blues             |
| 3. East Reflection | Fusion                 |
| 4. Pacific Coast   | Funk/Fusion            |
| 5. Southern Cross  | Classic Rock           |
| 6. Golden Child    | Classic Rock           |
| 7. Kentucky Bound  | Country                |
| 8. The Bottom-Line | Country & Western      |
| 9. Happy Roots     | Reggae                 |
| 10. Calypso Air    | Calypso                |
| 11. Platinum       | Pop / Rock             |
| 12. Jump in: Jack  | Electronic Dance       |
| 13. Mind Signals   | Hard Rock              |
| 14. Eleven UP      | Hard Rock              |
| 15. Hammer Down    | Metal                  |
| 16. Thrash Talk    | Metal                  |
| 17. Conga Rain     | Atmospheric Percussion |
| 18. It's Go Time   | Electronica            |
| 19. South Central  | Hip Hop                |
| 20. Diamond Life   | EDM                    |

5 additional Bonus kits included

## Getting Started

To increase customer understanding and awareness, we proudly offer this step-by-step instruction manual to ensure quick and smooth implementation with our expansions.

Comprised of both Roland's and our very own streamlined step-by-step instructions, this helpful document will answer all your questions and get you on your way to playing your new kits.

## IMPORTANT - READ BEFORE CONTINUING!!

Accidents can always happen!

**We highly recommend backing up your current module to save personal modifications before loading any expansion from V Expressions Ltd. It is important you follow our steps in this guide to achieve the best results during the processes of module back-up, file preparation, and loading of your new V Expressions Ltd expansion.**

**NOTE:** To preserve your pad setup, any driver input settings including all vendor / custom settings for DAW use, and any custom kits you've created – Make a backup of your setup configuration to the USB Thumb drive.

Custom user kits **WILL BE ERASED during a load of your expansion backup file**. However, your module's **factory reset data is never touched**, and this original factory state of your module can always be reset at any time.

Please take a moment to read all procedures below before attempting them. If you have questions before attempting any of the procedures below, please refer to your Roland TD-15 Reference or Quick Guide manual, or feel free to email **V Expressions Ltd** from the appropriate link on our website at [www.vexpressionsltd.com](http://www.vexpressionsltd.com)

**When you are ready to begin, start with Section I below.**

## Section I: Apply Latest Updates

**FOR YOUR INSTALLATION AND EXPANSION TO WORK PROPERLY, YOUR MODULE MUST HAVE THE LATEST FIRMWARE UPDATE(S) IMPLEMENTED BEFORE YOU BEGIN!**

Check Roland website for updates and load the latest firmware if needed. [TD-15 System Update Version 1.14](#) ← Required to load ATLAS

## Section II: Formatting your USB Thumb drive in the TD-15

*See page 40 in your TD-15 manual*

**Skip to Section III if you have already used a USB Thumb drive with your module!**

**If you have never used a USB Thumb drive with your module, and have no data on it, you have to format the drive in the module to create the Roland folder structure.**

**IMPORTANT! Any data on the USB Thumb drive WILL BE deleted by formatting the card in the module!**

- Step 1:** Insert your USB device into the module.
- Step 2:** From the Main Kit screen, Press the **MENU** Button 3 times.
- Step 3:** Press System
- Step 4:** Use Cursor and scroll down to USB Memory and Press Enter
- Step 5:** Cursor down to Format and press FORMAT
- Step 6:** At the confirmation screen, Press OK
- Step 7:** At the next confirmation screen, Press OK

Note: Press Cancel if you do not wish to Format your USB Thumb drive.

### Section III: Backing up your TD-15 Before Loading the VEX Pack

See page 38 in your TD-15 manual

Remember to make a backup of your module in the previous step before you continue!

- Step 1:** Insert your USB device into the module.
- Step 2:** From the Main Kit screen, Press the **MENU** Button 3 times.
- Step 3:** Press System.
- Step 4:** Use Cursor and scroll down to USB Memory and Press Enter.
- Step 5:** Find Save Backup and press Enter.
- Step 6:** In the Save Backup Screen, select any backup number EXCEPT "02/03".
- Step 7:** You can name your backup if desired, press Name, use arrows to select letters, etc.
- Step 8:** In the Save Backup Screen, Press SAVE
- Step 9:** Press OK to save backup.

Note: Press Cancel at any time if you do not wish to Save a backup to your USB Thumb drive.

### Section III: Saving Your Newly created TD-15 Backup file to your computer

IMPORTANT

- Step 1:** Insert your USB Thumb drive into your computer's Reader
- Step 2:** Open the Roland > TD-15 > Backup folder.
- Step 3:** Drag your new backup file to your desktop.
- Step 4:** Create a Folder to store the file in, and move file to this folder.
- Step 5:** Once complete: Eject and or remove the USB Thumb drive.

### Section III: Preparing Your Expansion

**Memory Loading Requirements:** We recommend a 2 - 16GB USB THUMB DRIVE. We use Roland/ HP/ SanDisk 2-16GB USB Thumb drives.

#### Backup File Information

- TWO backup file (expansion) supplied
  - Kit files are supplied
  - Aux is programmed as Tom 4/ may vary.
  - **BKUP-005.TD0:** This is **Backup 05**, and will read as: **ATLAS15 - as programmed**
  - **BKUP-006.TD0:** This is **Backup 06**, and will read as: **ATLAS15D – less verb/ambience**
- 
- **ATLAS** Kits 1-25 are optimized for stereo headphone use.
  - Kit 1 appears first upon loading.
  - Crash 2 trigger input is supported.
  - **ATLAS** Drum kits will load in as Kits 1-25.
  - All **ATLAS** Drum kits are supplied with the Snare Xstick available.
  - To best optimize your trigger performance, please read the Performance Settings Guide on pages IX/X of this manual.
  - The Roland VH-11 is fully supported and was used in the creation of ATLAS on the TD-15.
  - **Roland System Update Version 1.14 is required to load ATLAS. SEE Section 1 of this manual.**

### Section III: Transferring ATLAS to your USB Thumb drive

Ensure the expansion number is unique from any backup number already on your USB Thumb drive in the “Roland > TD-15> Backup” folder. Any backup of the same number in this folder **WILL BE OVERWRITTEN!** Atlas is Backup 05.

#### Copying your EXPANSION FILE to your USB device.

- Step 1:** Insert your USB device into your computer.
- Step 2:** From your Desktop, locate the backup TD0 file (BKUP-005.TD0) from your download.
- Step 3:** Open your USB drive.
- Step 4:** Open the Roland Folder.
- Step 5:** Open the TD-15 Folder.
- Step 6:** Open the Backup Folder.
- Step 7:** Copy or Drag the backup TD0 files INTO the Backup folder.
- Step 8:** Once verified the file is INSIDE THE BACKUP FOLDER, you may close & eject the USB device.

#### Copying your INDIVIDUAL KITS to your USB device.

- Step 1:** Insert your USB device into your computer.
- Step 2:** From your Desktop, locate the kit files from your download.
- Step 3:** Open your USB drive.
- Step 4:** Open the Roland Folder.
- Step 5:** Open the TD-15 Folder.
- Step 6:** Open the Kit Folder.
- Step 7:** Copy or Drag the individual kits INTO the KIT folder on your USB device.
- Step 8:** Once verified the file(s) are INSIDE THE KIT FOLDER, you may close & eject the USB device.

Kits 01-20: Tom 4 programmed on AUX

### Section IV: Loading ATLAS kits from an external USB Thumb drive for TD-15

**NOTE: If you are using a VAD Kit {with/and/or} a CUSTOMER TRIGGER set up: Skip to section B below**

If you are using a standard TD-15 set use section A loading procedure for a fast, plug n play transfer. It will load a Roland default trigger setup into your TD-15 System settings that may not match your kit. Skip to section B below to avoid this. Press the “KIT” to CANCEL.

#### A. Load Backup

##### Bulk Loading ATLAS to the TD-15

*See page 25 in your TD-15 manual*

- Step 1:** Insert your USB device into the module.
- Step 2:** From the Main Kit screen, Press the **MENU** Button 3 times.
- Step 3:** Press System
- Step 4:** Use Cursor and scroll down to USB Memory and Press Enter
- Step 5:** Find Load Backup and press Enter
- Step 6:** In the Load Backup Screen, it will default to *Backup 01*.
- Step 7:** Use value dial and scroll to backup 05 or 06.

**(Error Says: Empty/No Backup/No Data? Make sure you are scrolling to Backup 05/06 – or see troubleshooting on page XI)  
Make sure you are running firmware version 1.14**

- Step 8:** Select **Backup 05 or 06**. It will be named: **ATLAS15 / D**
- Step 9:** Once selected, Press LOAD
- Step 10:** Press OK to load backup.

**Once the load completes: Almost ready but.....you are NOT done yet!**

*Note: Perform these following steps to align the pack properly to your kit!*

**Step 9:** Recalibrate your VH Series Hi Hats – but if you have a floor pedal with pad (PD/CY) setup instead...then skip this.

**Step 10:** Make sure your pad settings match your kit's pad types.

**Step 11:** Re-save a copy of **ATLAS** to your USB Thumb drive with your corrected pad settings.

## B. INDIVIDUALLY Kit by Kit

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ.** This loading procedure is recommended for most advanced users.

Use this method of loading the kits:

- 1) Most VAD users / acoustic & third-party trigger users
- 2) When custom trigger settings have been created
- 3) When you are using any special DAW /vendor settings and drivers
- 4) When you have a fully custom trigger setup/ legacy Roland pad configuration

Copying each kit individually to the TD-15

See page 25 in your TD-15 manual

### Loading your kits individually:

This preserves your trigger settings and kit placements, but will take more time to load all the kits.

#### Kits 1-25

#### To prepare:

Skip copy instructions below if you already copied the kit files in SECTION III -

*{With your USB Thumb drive in computer reader: Find the **Kit** folder that came with your download. Copy and paste all the kits from this folder to your USB Thumb drive Kit folder: "**Roland > TD-15> Kit**". Once all in there, eject USB Thumb drive from computer reader and insert into your TD-15 module}.*

**Step 1:** Insert your USB device into the module.

**Step 2:** Make sure you are on the loading destination drum kit

**Step 3:** Press **MENU 2X** from the Drum Kit screen.

**Step 4:** Press Save/Load button.

**Step 5:** Press F3 **LOAD**.

**Step 6:** Use the cursor or dial to select which kit you want to load.

**Step 7:** Press F3 **LOAD**.

**Step 8:** Press F3 **OK**.

**Step 9:** Press Exit several times to return to Drum Kit screen.

*Repeat Steps 2-8 until all desired kits have been loaded.*

## Pad Configuration

The pad assignments and trigger information should be set to standard Roland default trigger settings for the following pads:

The pad assignments and trigger information are set to standard Roland TD-15 default trigger settings for the following pads:

Kick:	KD TYPE
Snare:	PD TYPE
Tom(s) 1-3:	PD-TYPE
HH:	VH-11
Ride:	CY TYPE
CR1/2:	CY TYPE
AUX:	PD TYPE

If your pad setup is different than the above-mentioned groupings you will need to write down any/all of your pad types and/or custom trigger settings you may have adjusted. After loading **ATLAS**, you may need to recreate all the custom pad settings you have made (pad type, sensitivity, re-trig, etc.)

This will help align **ATLAS** with your kit configuration. This is important when using your module with other pad brands.

Note: Try not to overdrive your pad triggers. Lower Sensitivity as much as possible without losing all your volume.

## My Pad & Trigger Settings

**IMPORTANT:** If your pad setup is different than the above, you will need to write down any/all of your pad types and/or custom trigger settings you may have adjusted. After loading, you may need to recreate all the custom pad settings you have made. (pad type, sensitivity, re-trig, etc.)

If you are using custom trigger, older Roland pads, or other hardware: Please take a moment to write down your personal pad and trigger settings before loading your expansion.

IE: Kick drum is a KD-9, Snare is a PDX-100, Tom 1 is a PD-85.....

Kick:	_____
Snare :	_____
Hi Hat:	_____
Ride:	_____
Tom 1 :	_____
Tom 2:	_____
Tom 3:	_____
Tom 4:	_____
Crash 1:	_____
Crash 2:	_____
Aux 1:	_____

## Performance Settings

### Trigger Sensitivities...

Roland Default TD-15 Sensitivities range from 6-9 depending on which pad you are using. The rule is: the higher the sensitivity setting, the louder the sound will be, but you lose dynamics.

By adjusting the Sensitivity and Threshold settings, this will help prevent mis-triggers, velocity issues, and playability concerns you may be having.

To adjust up or down: go to Pad Settings and mess with the Sensitivity values. Remember: Increasing this value increases the sensitivity, so that even soft strikes on the pad are sounded at high volume (less dynamic). Decreasing this value too much reduces sensitivity, so that even strong strikes on the pad are sounded at low volume (less dynamic). Finding the middle road while you play your drum kit is key.

Note: Try not to overdrive the pad sensitivities with your playing. Look at the meter on the module and try to keep the hardest ATLASs just below max velocity

### Trigger Threshold...



Threshold pertains to the minimum sensitivity of the pad. This setting allows a trigger signal to be received only when the pad is hit above a determined force level (a.k.a. velocity). Threshold can be used to generally prevent a pad from mis-triggering because of vibrations from other drums/pads. Check this with your pads and adjust accordingly. Usually, a setting ranging from 2 to 6 is acceptable, but if you still find mis-triggering happening, keep adjusting up. This setting works in tandem with the XTALK setting.

#### Advanced Trigger Settings...

**SCAN TIME:** 1.4 is optimal / 2.0 is standard

**STRIKE Force:** You may notice that identical hits (velocity) you play may produce sound at different volumes. Adjust the “Scan Time” so your way of hitting/playing can be detected more precisely by the module. While repeatedly hitting the pad at a constant force, gradually raise the Scan Time value from 0ms, until the resulting volume stabilizes at the loudest level. At this setting, try both soft and loud strikes to make sure that the volume changes appropriately. With higher settings, latency increases so set this to the lowest value possible you are comfortable with

**RETRIG CANCEL:** 1 for Roland Pads is standard – 6 for all types of Roland CY Cymbals is standard.

Correcting mis triggering:

Important when you are especially using acoustic drum triggers or “non” Roland brand triggers.

Many aftermarket triggers produce altered waveforms, which may also cause mis-triggering. This occurs at the decaying edge of the waveform which is annoying when you hear it. Retrig Cancel detects this and prevents it from occurring. To Adjust: while repeatedly striking the pad, raise the “Retrig Cancel” value until retriggering no longer occurs. Although setting this to a high value prevents retriggering, it then becomes easy for sounds to be omitted when the drum is played fast (roll etc.). Set this to the lowest value possible while still ensuring that there is no retriggering.

You can also eliminate this problem of retriggering with the Mask Time setting. Mask Time does not detect trigger signals if they occur within the specified amount of time after the previous trigger signal was received. Retrig Cancel detects the attenuation of the trigger signal level and triggers the sound after internally determining which trigger signals were actually generated when the head was struck, while weeding out the other false trigger signals.

**MASK TIME:** 4-8ms is optimal / 8-10ms is standard.

**Double triggering prevention:** When playing a kick trigger – it is quite common for the beater to bounce back and hit the head a second time immediately after the intended ATLAS. Many times, on acoustic drums the beater stays against the head and you do not hear it. Anyway, this bounce back causes a single hit to “double trigger.” The Mask Time setting helps to avoid this extra dbl trigger. Once a pad has been hit, any additional trigger signals occurring within the specified “Mask Time” will be ignored.

Adjust the “Mask Time” value while playing the pad.

When using a kick trigger, try to let the beater bounce back and hit the head very quickly, then raise the “Mask Time” value until there is no more sound made by the beater rebound.

**XTALK CANCEL:** 15-30 is optimal / 30-80 is standard and will depend on your setup.

Do not be afraid to max these values out. When multiple pads/drums/cymbals are attached to the same stand, this Crosstalk Cancel setting prevents vibrations produced by a strike from falsely triggering the other pads/drums/cymbals. For example, if Crash 2 is falsely triggered when you strike TOM 2, you will increase the XTalk Cancel value of Crash 2 until crosstalk no longer occurs.

**Note:** If the setting is too high, a strike played on Crash 2 **might** be omitted when Tom 2 and Crash 2 are played simultaneously. If you experience this lower both XTALK values on both pads.

Typically: The reason this happens is your trigger settings do not match your pad types.

#### **Troubleshooting a possible XSTICK/snare issue with ATLAS:**

*"When I strike the snare of one of the imported ATLAS VEX kits gently, I get the soft sound of the snare, but then when I hit the snare just a slight bit harder, I get the sound of the Xstick.*

If you experience this: You need to perform a: Factory reset of only the "System" Settings.

#### **To do this:**

You'll need to choose the "System" option for the "Target" parameter on the **Factory Reset** screen.

**Refer to pg 46 in your TD-15 manual for the Factory Reset procedure.** By default, "Target" is set to the "ALL" option.

Do **NOT** choose the "ALL" option for the factory reset "Target" choice. Select "System." Press OK (F3) Twice. This should fix the problem.

## Tips & Tricks

### Using ATLAS with a live PA...

ATLAS kits 81-100 are optimized for STEREO/HEADPHONE USE. The settings below will help dial in your drum sound thru speakers.

**Room/OverHeads/MFX Reverbs:** Avoid the larger hall settings when gigging. Most of time: Less is more. **To adjust:** Press "AMBIENCE", and adjust LEVEL. Any Reverb MFX settings adjust down as well.

**PAN:** Tom and cymbal separation can also be adjusted using the PAN edit feature to widen or reduce the depth of your instruments without harming the kit model. Keeping a tighter pan will sound better through the PA.

**Master EQ:** Reduce or Add low/hi eq frequency amounts to even out your kit models on the PA. Use PAD EQ settings to help fine tune the sounds of the kit. Sometimes reducing Bass is the way to add Treble. Subtractive EQ-ing works well with Boomy PA's.

**SNARE EQ/VOL:** To help your Snare cut through the mix.... Snare depth is at 160-250 HZ, Snare body is at 400-630, Snare clarity is at 2 kHz. Adjust the EQ frequencies in your snare channel until your Snare is cutting while guitars and vocals are present. Crank the output volume level of the snare in the TD-15 to assist.

**LOW XSTICK / HI HAT PEDAL VOL:** To adjust: Press "Mixer", then KIT VOL – use arrows/dial to make adjustments.

**STEREO L/R OUT to PA:** For a simple stereo connection to the mixing console use the TD15 Master L/R outputs. You can then add / reduce the desired effects to accommodate the current environment.

**\*\* MONO L Output:** If in Mono, send your signal via the L MONO OUT. We suggest panning to L15 on all triggers for your particular gig kit. This should greatly enhance your drum set's power in the PA. Panning this way should give you much stronger/ punchier audio and help curb the "drown in effects" wash sound.

## Troubleshooting

If you are having problems with your pads not responding like normal, or your rim features have been shut off, check the following:

1. **Pad playability seems “off”?** Check trigger settings & pad assignments. We supply default Roland pad & trigger settings on a bulk load.
2. Pad types are wrong: See “Pad Configuration” in this manual for more information. Correct pad types to match your own.
3. No sound when I strike my pad: Check pad type, mixer settings for volume, and cables for incorrect/proper trigger routing.
4. **CY-13R / CY-15R ride has no bell sound?** Choose the proper pad type in your pad setup. Make sure ride cables are connected correctly into BOW/BELL trigger input of cymbal. Your RD cable should be in BOW/EDGE trigger input of cymbal.
5. **Error message on load: Empty or NO Data/Backup?**
  - Make sure you are **scrolling** to Backup 05.
  - Make sure you have properly formatted your USB device. (With correct folder structure, and files are in the proper folders)
  - You must use a USB device. (*Running a cable from the computer USB port to the module will not work*).
  - Make sure your firmware is current. SEE SECTION I on this manual.
  - Make sure the backup file is in the proper folder on the USB drive: Roland/TD-15/**Backup or Kit (for individual files\*)**.
  - Try using a new/fresh USB drive if still having issues.
  - Check file name, it must remain in this format only: BKUP-005.TD0. (Backup up #'s can be from 001-100).
  - If you are trying to load kits individually, make sure the KIT folder contains all the kits: Roland/TD-15/**Kit \*(1-20)**.

## V Drum Librarian

We recommend [VDrumLib](#). This librarian application is a computer- based editing and management tool for your TD-15. VDrumLib allows you to customize your kit order and more.

## Contact & Support

If you have questions before attempting any of the procedures above, please refer to your Roland TD-15 owner’s manual, or feel free to email **V Expressions Ltd** from the appropriate link on our website at [www.vexpressionsltd.com](http://www.vexpressionsltd.com)

### Contact Information:

Expansion Pack	Programmer	Contact
TD-15 Atlas	Chris Blood	email: <a href="mailto:fiddlebak@gmail.com">fiddlebak@gmail.com</a>

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