

## Fixing EX-800 “Sticky” Buttons

The Korg EX-800 hardware has stood up very well to the test of time. The hardware is generally reliable and the parts that do fail or wear out are common and it is easy to find replacement parts.

One thing that does bug owners is that the buttons on the front panel start to get “sticky”. They begin to require additional pressure to operate and they begin to double act. This becomes very frustrating as the problem gets worse.

The good news is that you can put down your solder guns, because the buttons on the EX-800 can be refurbished easily!

**CAUTION and WARNING:** the type of switch used in the EX-800 is no longer manufactured. This means that you must use extreme care when carrying out this procedure. It is your own responsibility if you break the switches and you should understand that these switches are fragile. Read through these instructions first and prepare yourself before jumping in to do the job.

After removing the top board, and closely looking at the buttons, you will notice that the switches are a simple 5 part assembly that can be taken apart and cleaned.

Once you remove the top board and remove the 2 cables, look closely at the buttons underside. There are 2 black 'clips' that attach the button face to the actual switch.

Carefully and slightly wedge a small flathead screwdriver at the bottom corner edge of the clips to release it from the tab and remove the button face. A small jeweler's screwdriver is best for this.

Next, you want to carefully use a pair of small tech pliers to 'pinch' close the white button shaft that is held to the switch by two small tabs at the top and bottom of the switch (be careful here, you can easily lose the internal contact inside the switch, I recommend working on a clean table or in a clean room).

The contact is only about 2-3 millimeters in diameter so it is very easy to misplace. Be extremely careful not to lose the contact. Once that is removed, you should see the copper side of the internal contact, you may have to tip the board upside down to remove the contact. Put in a safe place.

Next, get some alcohol, and about 10 q-tips. Roll the q-tip between your fingers so that it will fit inside the hole in the switch where the contact was, dip in alcohol and insert into the hole, rotating the q-tip to remove debris.

Next, use the other end of the q-tip (and alcohol) to clean BOTH sides of the internal contact you removed, clean well, as this is the part with the most debris.

Replace the contact into the hole with copper side up. **IMPORTANT** - The switch will NOT operate if you do not install the contact copper side up. Once you are certain that the contact is in place copper side up, replace the white button shaft (tabs top and bottom) and finally the button face.

You have now refurbished one of the switches. It's time to move on to the next one. Repeat the procedure for each button. We recommend that you do the buttons one at a time, or else you are asking for trouble losing the contacts. All of the buttons should about and one hour to complete.