

SAARANG SPARSHINI USER MANUAL  
*Please read this manual carefully before using the product*

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! You are the proud owner of a Radel quality product - the Saarang electronic tambura (tanpura). Radel products are renowned for their excellent tonal quality as well as their reliability. The latest state-of-the-art technology is used in the design as well as manufacture of the instruments. Being the inventor of these products and the pioneer in the field of electronic musical instruments for Indian music, Radel is constantly improving existing models and introducing new models of instruments. The name Radel assures you of excellent quality, and, although you may never need it, dedicated after-sales service.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Saarang electronic tambura (tanpura) is a sophisticated musical instrument for providing sruti (sur) accompaniment to performers of music. It incorporates the latest state-of-the-art technology. The Saarang can be tuned to any pitch over a range of more than one octave thus enabling it to be used by men or women vocalists as well as instrumentalists.

The Saarang Sparshini is created in the shape of a traditional tambura. **It has the unique feature of being 'plucked' like a traditional tanpura, or used as an automatically playing instrument.** The Saarang Sparshini tanpura (tambura) can be operated on any voltage from 90 – 260V AC Mains, as well as on a set of six 1.5V dry batteries. An additional speaker is provided in the stem portion of the instrument.

It has a built-in accurate digital pitch reference allowing the user to select the exact pitch of his/her choice. It has a range of pitch covering one and a half octaves. Selection of any fractional pitch between the standard half-note pitch settings is possible by fine tuning. Any setting of pitch, tempo and pluck style can be stored together in memory so that the instrument selects these automatically when switched ON.

OPERATION: Switch ON the product, by pressing the 'Power' button.

VOLUME (VOL) : To adjust the volume press ▲ or ▼ button either step by step or continuously.

TONE : To get bass/treble sound, 'TONE' adjustment is provided. Tone can be altered by pressing the ▲ or ▼ button step by step or continuously.

PITCH SETTING : Press the 'up' or 'down' arrow keys to change the pitch to any other standard setting (in steps of half notes). For FINE TUNING close to a standard pitch setting, press MODE key once. The display will now start flashing to confirm that the instrument has entered the fine tuning mode. Now press the ▲ or ▼ button to either increase or decrease the pitch in micro-steps. Press the PA key to change the Pancham note to MA or NI or no note (an LED will light up to indicate the note selected). If the pluck style for obtaining the fifth note is selected, switch ON the fifth note

TEMPO SETTING (Display shows 't') :

Pressing MODE key twice from the NORMAL mode (or once from the fine tuning mode) puts the instrument in the TEMPO setting mode. The display now indicates 't'. Press the ▲ or ▼ button to increase or decrease the plucking tempo (interval between strings). Pressing MODE key once again restores the instrument to the NORMAL mode (coarse tuning) without changing the fine tuned pitch.

PLUCK STYLES: Two pluck styles are provided in the instrument. One has a pause after the PA note and constitutes a cycle of six counts. This style is popular among the South Indian musicians. This style has to be selected to operate all the five strings. The other style does not have the pause after the PA note and this style is popular among the North Indian musicians. To change the style to the alternate one, press the ▲ or ▼ button simultaneously.

PANCHAM, MADHYAM OR NISHAD SELECTIONS: Press the PA button repeatedly to change the pancham note to MA or NI or OFF. A lamp/LED indicates PA/MA/NI selection.

ADDITIONAL 5TH NOTE: First select the pluck style so that there is a pause after the PA note. To switch ON the 5th note, press its switch. An LED will glow to indicate that 5th STRING is ON. The user can tune the 5th string / note, as desired by pressing ▲ or ▼ button. The position of the 5th note can be either before or after the PA. To change the position of the note, press the ▲ or ▼ buttons together, while the 5th note is ON. The position of the note will change alternately. eg., GA-PA-SA-SA-SA or PA-GA-SA-SA-SA.

MANUAL TUNING OF NISHAD: The facility of the additional fifth note can also be used to manually tune the NISHAD when a selection of NI-SA-SA-SA is required with a different nishad. Select in the 'pa-ma-ni-' selection button, the 'off' position. Switch ON the fifth note and tune it to the nishad desired.

MANUAL / AUTOMATIC PLUCKING: The Saarang Sparshini has the unique facility of 'plucking' the strings manually. Four touch sensitive 'strings' are seen on the stem portion of the instrument. Press the button marked 'AUTO / MANUAL' to enter the manual plucking mode. Lightly TOUCH each of the 4 strings to produce the relevant note. This note will be perfectly tuned according to the pitch selected. If the string does not respond, you can try slightly wetting your finger. Please ensure that the narrow metal strip along the side of the stem is in contact with your hand. To select automatic

plucking, press 'AUTO / MANUAL' button again.

**MEMORY:** The Saarang Sparshini has the facility of ASDM (auto-save dual memory). Your current selections of pitch, tempo etc are automatically stored after 10 seconds of operation. To store another set of selections in memory: Press the MEMORY key (the yellow key marked PA). Keeping this key pressed, press the key marked 'STORE', to store your current selection of pitch, tempo etc. To recall this selection, press the MEMORY key, and keeping it pressed, press the RECALL key.

**OPERATION ON BATTERY:** The instrument operates on a set of 6 'AA' size batteries. Fit these into the battery compartment on the under-side of the instrument, according to the correct polarity. On failure of mains power, the instrument will automatically switch over to battery power.

**EXTERNAL SPEAKER / AMPLIFIER FACILITY:** The Saarang Sparshini can be connected to an external speaker or amplifier through the 'speaker' or 'line-out' socket (1/8 inch).

**DUAL SCALE SYSTEM FACILITY:**

Two systems of scale are provided - the chromatic scale, (A=440Hz) and the diatonic scale (used in Indian music and many Radel products). The display shows '1' for the Chromatic scale and '2' for the Diatonic scale when the product is switched on.

To change the system from one type to the other, to the diatonic scale (to match some other Radel products), keep the MODE key pressed for about 8 seconds. The display temporarily changes and shows '1' or '2' as the case may be. After changing the scale, press the ▲ or ▼ buttons to match the pitch to the selected scale system.

**CAUTION : While operating the Saarang Sparshini :**

**Provide a gap of at least 15 seconds between switching OFF the instrument and switching it ON again to ensure reliable operation.**

**Avoid using the instrument close to other electronic equipment such as mobile or cordless phones, pagers, etc.**

**WARRANTY**

Like all Radel products, the Saarang Sparshini carries a warranty of 3 years from the date of sale. (Loudspeakers and power cords carry a warranty of 12 months) this warranty is subject to the standard terms and conditions of the manufacturer. All users are advised to ensure that the warranty counterfoils attached to this manual are returned to Radel Electronics Pvt. Ltd. within 15 days of purchase. In case of any problems, users are advised to contact the manufacturers without any delay giving details of the problem, date of purchase, dealer's name and purchase document reference.

The manufacturers invite users to feel free to send any feedback, suggestions and special requirements regarding the product to them.

This Radel product is supplied with the following free accessories:

(a) Power cord, (b) User Manual, (c) Carry case

**For a video demonstration of all features of the Saarang Sparshini, go to this link:**

**[Saarang Sparshini on Youtube](#)**

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