

VOCODER VC340

Authentic Analog Vocoder for Human Voice and Strings Ensemble Sounds from the '80s



- Authentic analog Vocoder, Human Voice and Strings sounds from the '80s
- Vocoder sounds that wrote musical history and inspired some of the most famous artists and bands
- Microphone input to modulate any audio signal
- Multiple-stage Chorus based on legendary BBD (Bucket Brigade Delay) technology
- 37 semi-weighted full-size keys featuring velocity sensitivity
- 32 sliders and switches to give you direct and real-time access to all important parameters
- Comprehensive USB/MIDI implementation for connection to keyboard/sequencers
- 3-Year Warranty Program*
- Designed and engineered in the U.K.

A Brief History of Analog Synthesis

The modern synthesizer's evolution began in 1919, when a Russian physicist named Lev Termen (also known as Léon Theremin) invented one of the first electronic musical instruments – the Theremin. It was a simple oscillator that was played by moving the performer's hand in the vicinity of the instrument's antenna. An outstanding example of the Theremin's use can be heard on the Beach Boys iconic smash hit "Good Vibrations".



Ondioline

In the late 1930s, French musician Georges Jenny invented what he called the Ondioline, a monophonic electronic keyboard capable of generating a wide range of sounds. The keyboard even allowed the player to produce natural-sounding vibrato by depressing a key and using side-to-side finger movements. You can hear the Ondioline on Del Shannon's "Runaway".



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Storytone Piano

Designed by famous piano manufacturer Story & Clark in association with RCA, the Storytone piano debuted at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Hailed as the world's first electric piano, the Storytone is prized by musicians and collectors alike for its realistic piano sound – only 500 or so were ever built.



Mellotron

Finding a high level of acceptance in the 1960s, Harry Chamberlin's Mellotron was an electro-mechanical keyboard that generated sounds by playing back pre-recorded tape loops. Although temperamental and prone to pitch and mechanical issues, the Mellotron was used extensively by many U.K. artists. Classic tracks from the Moody Blues "Days of Future Passed", the Beatles "Strawberry Fields Forever", and the Rolling Stones "She's a Rainbow" are prime examples.

Attribute author: By Buzz Andersen from San Francisco, California, United States Mellotron | NAMM 2007

Arp 2600

Manufactured by ARP Instruments, Inc., the Arp 2600 was one of the most successful synthesizers to come out of the 1970s. They were ideal for players new to the synth world, and allowed patches to be changed via switches or 1/8" audio cables. The list of recordings and artists that used the venerable Arp 2600 reads like a veritable Who's Who of rock, pop and jazz, and includes The Who, David Bowie, John Lennon, Depeche Mode, Edgar Winter, Frank Zappa and Herbie Hancock – to name just a few. An Arp 2600 was even used to create the voice of the Star Wars character R2-D2.

Attribute author: The original uploader was Kimi95 at Italian Wikipedia - <http://www.vintagesynth.com/arp/arp2600blue.jpg> e <http://www.vintagesynth.com/arp/arp.php>, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7708499>



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Minimoog

Designed to replace the large, modular synths being used in pop music at the time, Bill Hemsath and Robert Moog developed the Minimoog in 1971. The monophonic instrument became the first truly all-in-one, portable analog synthesizer. Thanks to its 3 oscillators and 24 dB/octave filter, the Minimoog produces an extremely rich and powerful bass sound and is still in high demand today. Yes keyboardist Rick Wakeman said the instrument “absolutely changed the face of music.”

Attribute author: glacial23 - Early Minimoog Uploaded by clusternote, CC BY-SA 2.0

Yamaha CS-80

In 1976, Yamaha released their CS-80 8-voice polyphonic synthesizer, which provided velocity-sensitive keys and aftertouch that worked on individual voices. The analog instrument featured a ribbon controller, which allowed the user to perform polyphonic pitch bends and smooth glissandos. Composer Vangelis used the CS-80 extensively in the Blade Runner and Chariots of Fire soundtracks. The CS-80 also provided the bass line heard in the BBC 1980 series Doctor Who theme song.

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Sequential Circuits Prophet 5

Sequential Circuits introduced the Prophet 5, which was the first analog 5-voice polyphonic synthesizers to provide onboard memory storage of all patch settings for instant recall. The great-sounding Prophet 5 revolutionized the synthesizer world and, in spite of its rather expensive price tag, became one of the most successful synths of all time. Designed by Dave Smith and J Owen, the Prophet 5 was the keyboard of choice by a very long list of performers that includes Peter Gabriel, Philip Glass, Journey, The Cars, Thomas Dolby, Duran Duran, Gary Numan, Pink Floyd, and countless others.

Image attribution: original uploader was Felix2036 at Dutch Wikipedia derivative work: Clusternote (Sequential_Circuits_Prophet_5.jpg) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Which brings us to 1977...



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A Passion for Keyboards

Our founder, Uli Behringer has a deep passion for keyboards. Born in the small town of Baden, Switzerland in 1961, Uli grew up in a musical family where his mother taught him to play the piano at the tender age of four. His father was a scientist who built a massive organ in the family home and taught the young lad all about electronics. So at the age of 17, Behringer built his first synthesizer – the UB-1. Later, while attending college to seek a degree in audio engineering, Uli put his electronics knowledge to use, building his own equalizers and signal processors to fill the gap left by the university's inability to provide enough proper studio gear. Word soon spread about how good his products were, and he began building gear for his friends – the **BEHRINGER** legacy had begun. The rest, as they say, is history...



VOCODER VC340

Thanks to 37 semi-weighted full-size keys with velocity sensitivity and an authentic analog signal path, the VOCODER VC340 is sure to become one of your favorite keyboards. Whether you use it to provide that awe-inspiring talking-synth sound that sold millions of recordings, or just for its really fat string section and multi-voice choir pads, owning the VOCODER VC340 is like having your own personal time machine, enabling you to embrace the past – or make your imprint on the future!

Legendary Vocoder Users

Although originally patented by Bell Labs engineer Homer Dudley in 1939, the vocoder didn't become part of the modern musical lexicon until the 1970s. It has since been used by recording/performing artists Wendy Carlos, Phil Collins, Jean Michel Jarre, Mike Oldfield, Kraftwerk, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Coldplay, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Daft Punk, Isao Tomito and Emerson, Lake and Palmer, to name but a few. The vocoder has also become a singular staple of major motion pictures and video games for its ability to create robot voices, special audio effects and much more.



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True to the Original

Great care has been taken in engineering the VOCODER VC340, including the true to the original analog circuitry, which makes it extremely easy for you to recreate the classic vocoder sounds that made a tremendous impact on synth-based rock. This highly-focused attention to detail is what gives the VOCODER VC340 its ultra-flexible sound shaping capability, which covers everything from super-fat voice and string ensembles to stunning effects – and all the way out to the otherworldly sounds of your imagination.

You Provide VOCODER VC340's Unique Voice

Unlike the original vocoders of the 1970s and '80s, you get to use your favorite microphone with the VOCODER VC340. A dedicated XLR input connector is provided on the rear panel that allows any Low-Impedance (Lo-Z) dynamic mic (not incl.) to modulate the onboard synthesized sounds.



Multiple-Stage Chorus

Nothing fattens up the sound of a vocal choir or string section better than a truly-great chorus! That's why VOCODER VC340's chorus features authentic analog BBD (Bucket Brigade Delay) technology, which hands the signal off across multiple processing stages for the ideal amount of luscious thickening.

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Controls & Connectivity

We just can't help ourselves – like you, we're gear-heads, too. For those who want the numbers, VOCODER VC340 has 32 knobs, faders and switches, all laid out in a highly-intuitive format that puts the joy back into your music creation. Input and output connections include: Mic In; Phones; External Synth In; Control (Vocoder Hold & Pitch pedal inputs); Audio Out (Mono & Stereo with 3-position Level switch); and MIDI (I/O and Thru) via USB/MIDI DIN.



Unleash Your Imagination

When it comes to not just pushing envelopes but creating them, VOCODER VC340 gives your imagination its voice – and it's so very affordable. When modern performance calls for that classic analog sound – it calls for the Behringer VOCODER VC340!

Visit your dealer to experience the stunning VOCODER VC340, or get yours online today. MUSIC never felt this good!

You Are Covered

We always strive to provide the best possible Customer Experience. Our products are made in our own [Music Tribe](#) factory using state-of-the-art automation, enhanced production workflows and quality assurance labs with the most sophisticated test equipment available in the world. As a result, we have one of the lowest product failure rates in the industry, and we confidently back it up with a generous [Warranty program](#).



Synthesizers and Samplers

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