



**SOUND SALES INC.**

Route 37 Sherman, Conn. 06784 (203) 355-1256

Exclusive Mellotron Distributor,  
U.S.A., Canada, South and Central America



Sound Sales, Inc. of Sherman, Conn., recently designated exclusive Mellotron distributor for the entire Western Hemisphere, is pleased to introduce two new models. The first is the Mellotron 400 SM, replacing the old Mellotron 400 (now discontinued) and the new double keyboard Mellotron Mark V. Both new models are vast improvements over previous designs and are readily available. Sound Sales has also introduced new service procedures as well as a new unprecedented warranty (included in this brochure).



### How The Mellotron Works

Mellotrons are keyboard instruments designed to allow the player to reproduce the sound of any live or synthesized instrument at the touch of a key. This is achieved by a series of controlled playback heads which play back any pre-recorded tape at the touch of a corresponding key. Each key on the Mellotron has its own piece of tape and its own playback head. On the tape can be recorded any sound at all, each tape 3 tracks wide. So you have 35 keys, 35 heads, and 35 separate pieces of 3 track tapes. (Mellotron Mark V has two keyboards) All the tapes are arranged by customer's specifications, and there are endless combinations and mixtures readily available.

The Mellotron system permits all the tapes to be "cued" when any key is pressed. By means of a spring return system, any tape can be played to a maximum length of 8 to 10 seconds, and will return to the start instantly at the release of the key.

In order for the Mellotron to reproduce actual instruments as played, the endless loop system of recording is not used. Unlike a poly-phonic synthesizer, the Mellotron actually plays back a recording of the instrument with its own "Attack" characteristics. For instance, only on the Mellotron can a flute be played that is "tongued" at the attack of the note, or voices that pronounce "A-h-h" at the touch of a key. This returning tape system also allows any percussive sounds to be played back, such as Timpani drums, vibes, pianos, bells, chimes, gongs, cymbals and 1200 different 8 second sound effects, such as airplanes, cars, explosions, wind and rain storms, applause, laughter, etc.

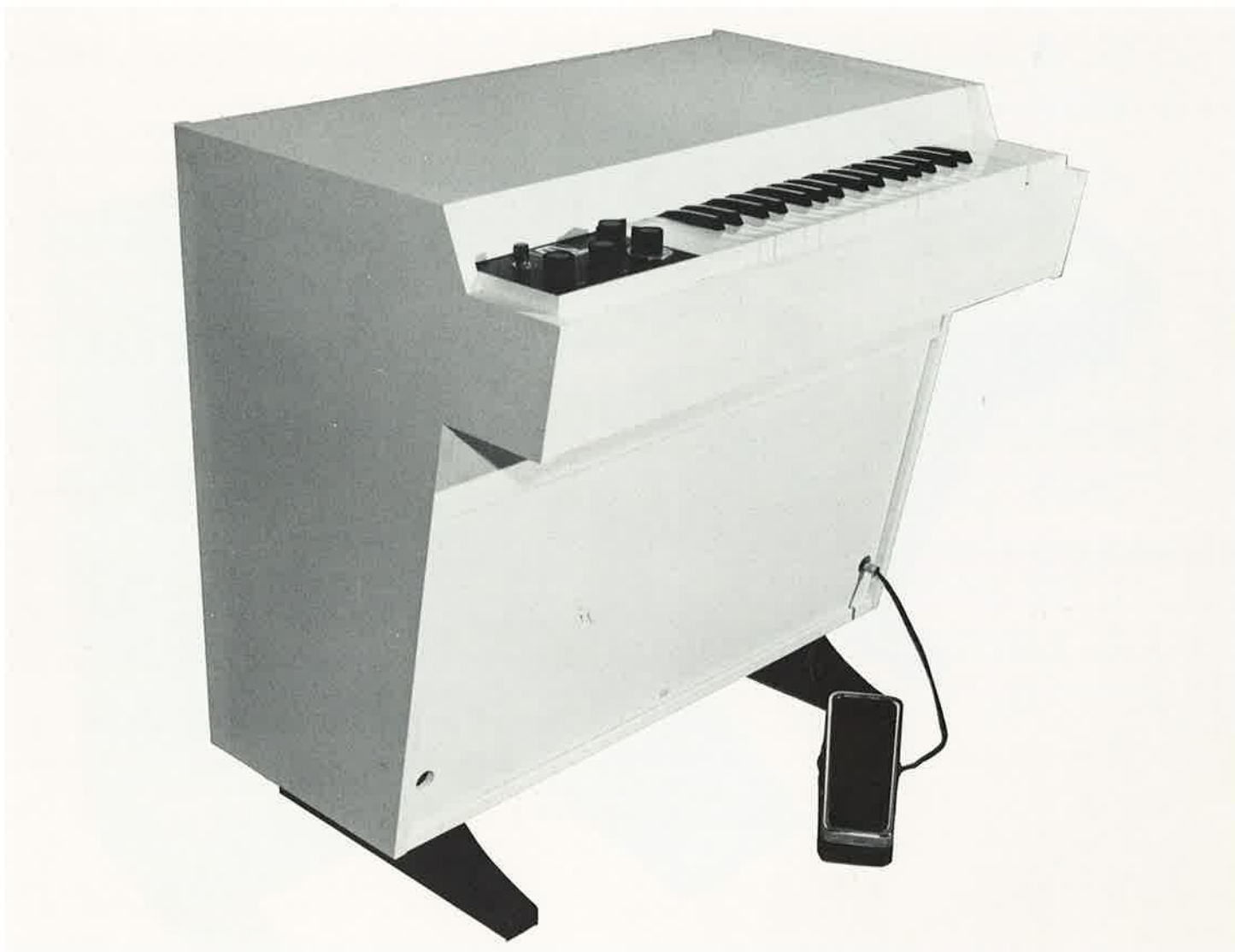
Actually the sounds one Mellotron can make are limitless, including all and any musical instrument, and natural and unnatural sounds. All of these sounds and instruments can be mixed together to form different "sets" of tapes (a set consisting of 35 3-track tapes). These various sets are installed on the "removable tape frame" which will fit any Mellotron. This removable tape frame can be removed from the Mellotron and another set replaced, in a matter of two to three minutes without the use of any tools! This permits you to build a library of sounds and interchange them easily. Our new 1/4 inch tape conversion kit costing less than \$75.00 will enable anyone to make their own Mellotron tapes. This is yet another feature that no other keyboard can offer. Imagine making voice tapes of yourself or your group allowing you to sing a song and play chords and harmonies of your own voice on the Mellotron!

# MELLOTRON<sup>®</sup>

## 400SM

### Mellotron 400 SM

- Single keyboard, compact size, versatile, great for concert tours
- 35 note keyboard, three track tapes
- New Servo Motor System, stable pitch over range of loads and voltages
- New "I.C." pre-amps, clean amplification head phone monitoring
- Dual outputs (high and low) can be used together or separately
- Redesigned mechanical arrangement (ease of operation)
- Volume, tone, 5 position track selector
- 5 to 1 geared pitch control for variable tuning and transposing



# MELLOTRON<sup>®</sup>

## MARK V

### Mellotron Mark V

- 70 Note keyboard range, 35 left, 35 right
- Two completely independent channels with high and low outputs for each channel
- Stereo panning across each channel
- Stereo reverb and stereo headphone jack
- Includes custom made tape selections for left and right, with dual swell pedals
- Includes all metal cripple creek case
- Reinforced extra strong cabinet construction
- Volume, tone, reverb, and panning control each channel
- Master pitch control, both keyboards, work off single capstan drive





## Using and Operating the Mellotron

The Mellotron is a basically simple mechanical instrument. Depressing a key simply drives a tape by means of the rotating capstan and the tape, being spring loaded, will return to start instantly upon release of the key. This mechanical system makes it very much unlike any synthesizers or electronic organs. There are no complicated electronic controls which might take weeks or months to learn how to operate. The Mellotron control panel consists of a master volume control for mixing used with swell panel; a high-low filter tone control; a variable geared pitch control; a multiposition track selector and the illuminated on/off switch.

Because the Mellotron action is controlled under the key similar to a piano, this eliminates any contact switching used with flimsy plastic keys as in all synthesizers and organs. The Mellotron keys are made from real pine manufactured especially for the Mellotron. Keys are covered in "Ivorette", the same as that used by many piano companies. This enables the Mellotron to have a unique "feel" when played. The keys even have individual adjustment for action enabling the player to control the "touch" of the Mellotron. When operating, you must consider that you are playing real instruments and the style of playing will vary according to the instruments being played. Certain instruments have a better "action" than others. For example, sustained violins have a slow smooth action, while all percussive instruments like vibes, bells, synthesizer, organ, etc., will have a very fast lead or action.

Your imagination is the only limit to what you can do with your Mellotron, as so many instruments and sound effects are available to you.

## Playing the Mellotron and Installing Sound Systems

The Mellotron has a built-in pre-amp for headphone monitoring and dual level outputs, but no main amp or speakers are included. (Selection of an amplification system is an important consideration and should be chosen to suit the Mellotron's application.) Outputs

provided enable the Mellotron to be run thru virtually any system from a small home stereo to a massive P.A. system. The two outputs are as follows:

**Attenuated output (Low Level):** This output is used with any system that normally accepts guitars, mikes, or anything that does not have its own pre-amps.

**Direct output (High Level):** Used with slave type power amps, or to mixer being driven by power amps.

Both outputs can be used together such as low level to amps and high level to recording equipment or monitors and P.A. simultaneously.

Mellotron tapes are recorded "Dry"; that is, no reverb or echo is added. To achieve "Live" sound, it is important that this be added. Built in Reverb is available for M 400 SM and is standard on the Mark V.

Echo units also have great effect on all Mellotron tapes. Other recommended attachments that "enhance" the Mellotron for certain effects are graphic equalizers, phase shifters, or other similar sound modification devices.

## Conversions, Updating

To many of you the Mellotron may seem like a brand new instrument. Actually it is not. Mellotrons have been in existence since 1963 in very limited production. The new Mellotron 400 SM and Mark V are now the fifth generation Mellotron Products and we've come a long way in their development. This new generation of Mellotrons boast modern integrated circuit design. The servo-motor system is the most stable ever; it holds true to pitch under all kinds of temperature, voltage and load changes! The "I.C." pre-amps provide clean reproduction of the tapes, and matching outputs eliminates any need for line transformers or attenuators. Changes in cabinet construction and internal metal frame work make it very dependable for the road, home, church or studio.

Best of all, any existing Mellotrons manufactured before the SM models can be modified to new SM specifications. Conversion includes the latest improvements, completely rebuilt inside, all electronics replaced, and we have an unprecedented warranty offer for any converted Mellotron. Assigning a new SM serial number to a converted Mellotron warrants the unit the same as a new Mellotron.



### Tapes Available, Options, & Rentals

All Mellotron tapes are custom made with the exception of the standard tape, which is included with the 400 SM. The standard tape is Track A: 8 pc. choir, Track B: 3 violins, Track C: flute. The Mark V offers 2 sets of custom tapes. Tapes are ordered from the instrument library by filling out a tape ordering form (both enclosed). The tape ordering form allows you to order each key exactly to your specifications. All tapes are three tracks, but as many instruments as you desire can be mixed on each track. Or, you may break up the keyboard with different instruments or sound effects.

Sound Sales, Inc. stocks a wide selection of special tapes, Mellotrons, both 400 SM's and Mark V's are always available for demonstrations at our workshops in Connecticut. Also, any of our equipment is available for immediate rentals. This way you can try or hear anything you're interested in and we will assist you in setting up or selecting tapes. Service for all Mellotrons new or old is always available in Connecticut.

### Optional Equipment, Accessories, Parts, Service

Our service department is always open for suggestions and we do custom modifications and built-in accessories. We will add reverb or power amps and even build in speakers. Call for appointment for SM Conversions, repairs, or custom modifications. Any replacement parts are always available and can be shipped to you direct. (Instructions are included.) All parts are warrantied for a full year.

### Mellotron Accessories

- Replacement parts (See parts cost sheet)
- Protector Muff Cover (Padded Cover)
- Cripple Creek all metal hard shell cases for Mellotron M400, M400SM, Mark V
- Swell Pedals, stereo dual pedals for Mark V
- 1/4" tape conversion kit (allows you to make your own 2 track tapes and play them in Mellotron)
- Empty tape frames
- Multitude of special tapes
- Fiber case for tape frames
- Reverb add-on kits

### Terms & Conditions of Mellotron Warranty (M 400 SM and Mark V only)

Your new Mellotron 400 SM or Mark V is covered against all or any defects in workmanship, including mechanical or electronic failures, for a period of one year. Any labor to repair or replace any defective parts is covered for 90 days from date of purchase or conversion. This warranty covers every part in your Mellotron (excluding tapes) and can be renewed at no charge after expiration date if your Mellotron can pass a rigorous factory controlled test. If all systems are go, then you can renew the full warranty for another year!

This test must be conducted by a factory representative, and any modifications or changes done to your Mellotron by an unauthorized technician will result in cancellation of warranty. No warranty work will be done if, in our opinion, failure is a result of something other than normal use of your Mellotron.

### Technical Specifications

HEIGHT: 34" (86cm)      WIDTH: 34" (86cm)  
DEPTH: 22" (56 cm)      WEIGHT: 122 lbs (55kg)  
POWER SUPPLY: Transformer tapped at 115V, 220V, 240V  
50 or 60 cps. Single phase.  
Consumption: 75 VA

OUTPUTS: Attenuated output (Low Level)  
This output is used with any system that normally accepts guitars, mikes, or anything that does not have it's own pre-amps.  
Direct Output (High Level)  
Used with slave type power amps, or to mixer being driven by power amps.

SIGNAL TO NOISE: Better than -55 dBm  
TAPE VELOCITY: Normal 7 1/2 i.p.s.  
variable speed range ±20%

REPRODUCE FREQUENCY: 50HZ-12KHZ ±3DB  
Reproduce characteristic modified  
NARTB standard.

TONE CONTROL: 12dB cut at 10KHz  
REPRODUCE HEADS: Low impedance: 3MH: 35 total

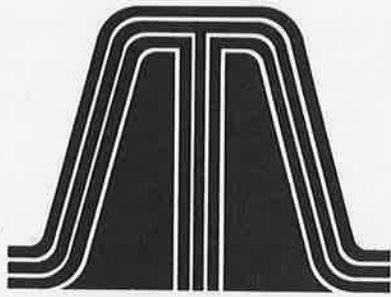


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## PRICE LIST

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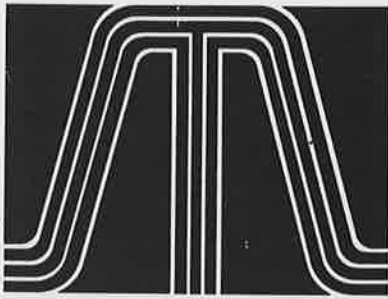
### Mellotron

January 1, 1976

Mellotron 400 SM w/Swell Pedal & Protector Muff w/Standard BB Tapes	\$3,500.00
Mellotron 400 SM w/Swell Pedal Cripple Creek Hard Shell Case, 1 Standard Set of Tapes, 1 Set of Special Tapes, (of your choice) on frame and w/case	\$4,500.00
Mellotron Mark V w/Cripple Creek Case 2 Sets of Special Tapes	\$8,500.00
<u>Tapes &amp; Frames</u>	
Set of Special Tapes	\$ 270.00
Tape Frame — no tapes	\$ 270.00
Set of Special Tapes on Frame	\$ 540.00
Set of Standard BB Tapes (Flute/Violin/Cello)	\$ 140.00
Set of Standard BB Tapes on Frame	\$ 410.00
Set of Standard Tuned Tapes (Choir/3Violins/Flute)	\$ 170.00
Single BB Tapes	\$ 6.00
1/4" Conversion Kit	\$ 75.00
<u>Cases</u>	
Protector Muff	\$ 150.00
Cripple Creek Hard Shell Case (for Mellotron 400 & 400 SM)	\$ 470.00
Tape Frame Carrying Case	\$ 50.00







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## MELLOTRON COMPONENT COST SHEET (Parts in alphabetical order)

Bottom Roller Assembly	\$ 2.30	Pinchroller Assembly	\$ 4.60
Bulgin Mains Socket	\$ 1.70	Pad Arm (Long)	\$ 1.30
Bulgin 3-Pin Socket + Plug	\$ 3.25	Pad Arm (Short)	\$ 1.30
Bulgin Mains Plug with Lead	\$ 7.35	*Pre Amp IC Card	
Control Plate	\$ 8.20	Program Track Index Block Assembly	\$ 22.00
Coaxial Plug with Wire	\$ 3.50	Program Track Selector Plate	\$ 4.70
Control Knobs (Set)	\$ 6.70	*Replay Head with Collar	\$ 15.00
Coaxial Socket	\$ 1.20	*SMS 2 Servo Motor System (Replaces CMC4 & CMC10)	
*Capstan Motor Assembly	\$170.00	Storage Box Lid Locating Pin	\$ .30
*Carbon Brush for Motor	\$ 15.00	Socket and Plug (9 Pin)	\$ 13.25
Circuit Socket (including Bracket)	\$ 4.30	Tape Storage Box Separator	\$ .50
Drive Belt	\$ 6.50	Tape Housing Spring	\$ 1.00
Felt Strip	\$ 4.00	Tape Storage Box Lid	\$ 10.50
Fuse Holder with Capacitor	\$ 2.85	Tape Return Housing Assembly	\$ 2.40
Fuses (5 amp)	\$ .30	Transistor—Type BD142	\$ 4.75
Head Block Roller	\$ .55	Transistor—Type 2N3055	\$ 7.00
Knurled Screw	\$ 2.20	Voltage Selector Plug	\$ .50
*On/Off Switch Assembly	\$ 9.80	Voltage Selector Socket	\$ .50
Power Lead (Complete)	\$ 7.35	Zener Diode—Type LS1520A	\$ 7.60
3 Pin A.C. Cord (American)			

\*Installed cost

Additional parts not listed—Cost available on request.

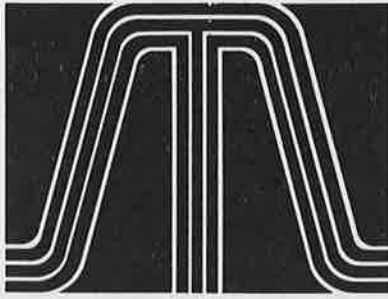
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## Improvements & Modifications Needed on M-400 to Convert to Mellotron 400-SM Specifications

### Pitch & Stability

Old style CMC-10 or CMC4 circuit removed and replaced with SMS-2 (servo motor system) will provide for stable pitch over wider range of voltages, temperatures, and varying loads.

Mellotron motor removed, cleaned, brushes replaced, modified to accept SMS-2, and renovated in a stable and firm position. (Remount wood boards inside.)

Control panel replaced, all new knobs including 5:1 vernier knob for fine tuning adjustments, new unbreakable inset on/off switch.

### Audio Changes

Remove old style preamp and line amp. Replace with new integrated circuit. One card replaces both amps; IC circuit provides cleaner, more efficient amplification.

Install new cannon type plug output (3 pin). Gives you high and low impedance outputs for correct matching to amps or mixers (eliminates need for attenuation).

### Mechanical Changes

(For sure operation of tape transport)

Remove tape storage box.

Replace felt strip, realign to capstan.

Remount in exact position with metal brackets to hold in position.

Reset linkage on track selector, install new design track selector plate.

### Improvements & Modifications

Resupport all weak spots, i.e., legs, cabinet corners, motor boards, etc.

Install 60 cps strobe tuner.

Add two more pressure rollers to keyboard to press down on and roll with headblock.

Replace AC cord (3 pin).

### Cost of Mellotron Conversions According to Serial Number

101 – 290	<b>\$650</b>
291 – 499	<b>600</b>
500 – 1000	<b>550</b>
1001 – 1233	<b>500</b>
1234 – 1400	<b>450</b>
1401 – 1470	<b>400</b>
1471 – 1499	<b>400</b>
All teak models	<b>\$550</b>

Prices may vary according to condition of unit. See Mellotron Component Cost Sheet for additional service if required.

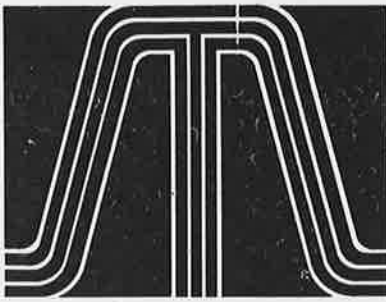
All of the above may not be necessary for each conversion.

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## Mellotron Tape Library

### Live Bank Programs

- Violins (3 in unison)
- Viola (solo)
- Cello (solo)
- Honky Tonk Piano
- Clavinet
- Fender Rhodes
- GC3 Brass
- GC3 Sax Section (2 tenor - 2 alto)
- Piano Bass (grand piano)
- Acoustic Guitar
- Flute (solo - all purpose)
- Clarinet
- Oboe (solo)
- Bassoon (solo)
- Brass (Trumpet, Trombone and Sax in unison)
- Trombone (solo)
- French Horn (solo)
- Tenor Saxophone (solo)
- Church Organ (including bass pedal)
- Pipe Organ (3 Diff. Stops)
- Mandolin
- Marimba
- Vibraphone (with vibrato)
- Vibraphone (without vibrato)
- \*Tubular Bells
- \*Glockenspiel
- \*Tympani Roll
- \*Tympani Hit
- Single Percussion Effects, e.g., Chinese gong, cymbal crash, etc.

Choose from nine different programs of poly-phonic moog synthesizer sounds.

### Tapes & Frames

Set of Special Tapes	\$ 270.00
Tape Frame - no tapes	\$ 270.00
Set of Special Tapes on Frame	\$ 540.00
Set of Standard BB Tapes (Flute/Violin/Cello)	\$ 140.00
Set of Standard BB Tapes on Frame	\$ 410.00
Set of Standard Tuned Tapes (Choir/3Violins/Flute)	\$ 170.00
Single BB Tapes	\$ 6.00
1/4" Conversion Kit	\$ 75.00

\*Limited range.

### Voice Programs

- Voices (4 female)
- Voices (4 male)
- Choir (4 male, 4 female)
- Choir (15 voice mixed)
- Boys Choir (16 voices)

### Recommended Program Mixes

1. String Section (Violins, Viola, Cello)  
-full bodied rich string sound
2. Brass Section (includes synthesized brass)  
-thick biting effect
3. Woodwind Section (Bassoon, Oboe, Flute)
4. Church Organ & Choir
5. String Section & Choir
6. Violins & Organ (Church) with bass pedal
7. Viola & Cello
8. Electric Piano and Honky Tonk Piano
9. Pipe Organ

A large sound effect library is available, details on request. Any effects or number of effects can be inserted on any position on the Mellotron Keyboard. For example: laughter, applause, drum roll, etc.

Any of the above sounds can be mixed together on one track

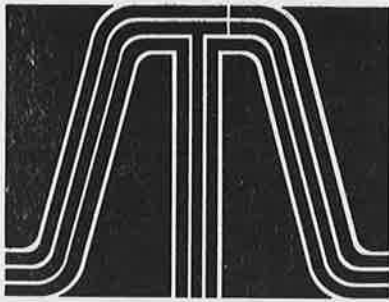
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## Tape Ordering Chart For Mellotron 400SM and Mellotron Mark V

Ordering Tapes:

In the Mellotron Tape Library, each sound is called a "program".

All Mellotron tapes are 3 tracks, A, B, and C.

To order, write out: Track A – any program  
Track B – etc.

Now remember, 2 or 3 "programs" can be mixed on one track. e.g., Track 'A' – flute, oboe. (will be in unison, equal volume)

"Programs" can also be split on one track. e.g., Track 'A' – #1 to 18 – cello; #19 to 35 – violin-viol. (will be 'split' – left, cello; right, strings)

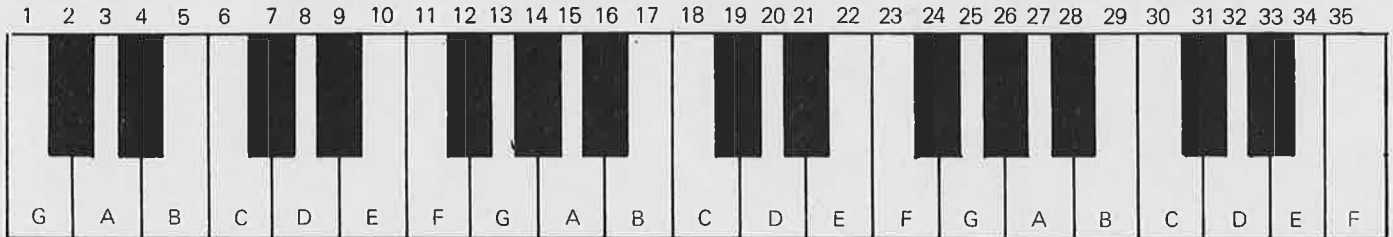
Remember 35 notes per track; 3 tracks per set of tapes.

Any program can be put on in any order or mixture.

Sound effects programs can be put on any one track or partial track. e.g., Track 'A' – violins;

Track 'B' – male choir

Track 'C' – #1 to 18 – Sound Effects  
#19 to 35 – vibes



A																																				
B																																				
C																																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	

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