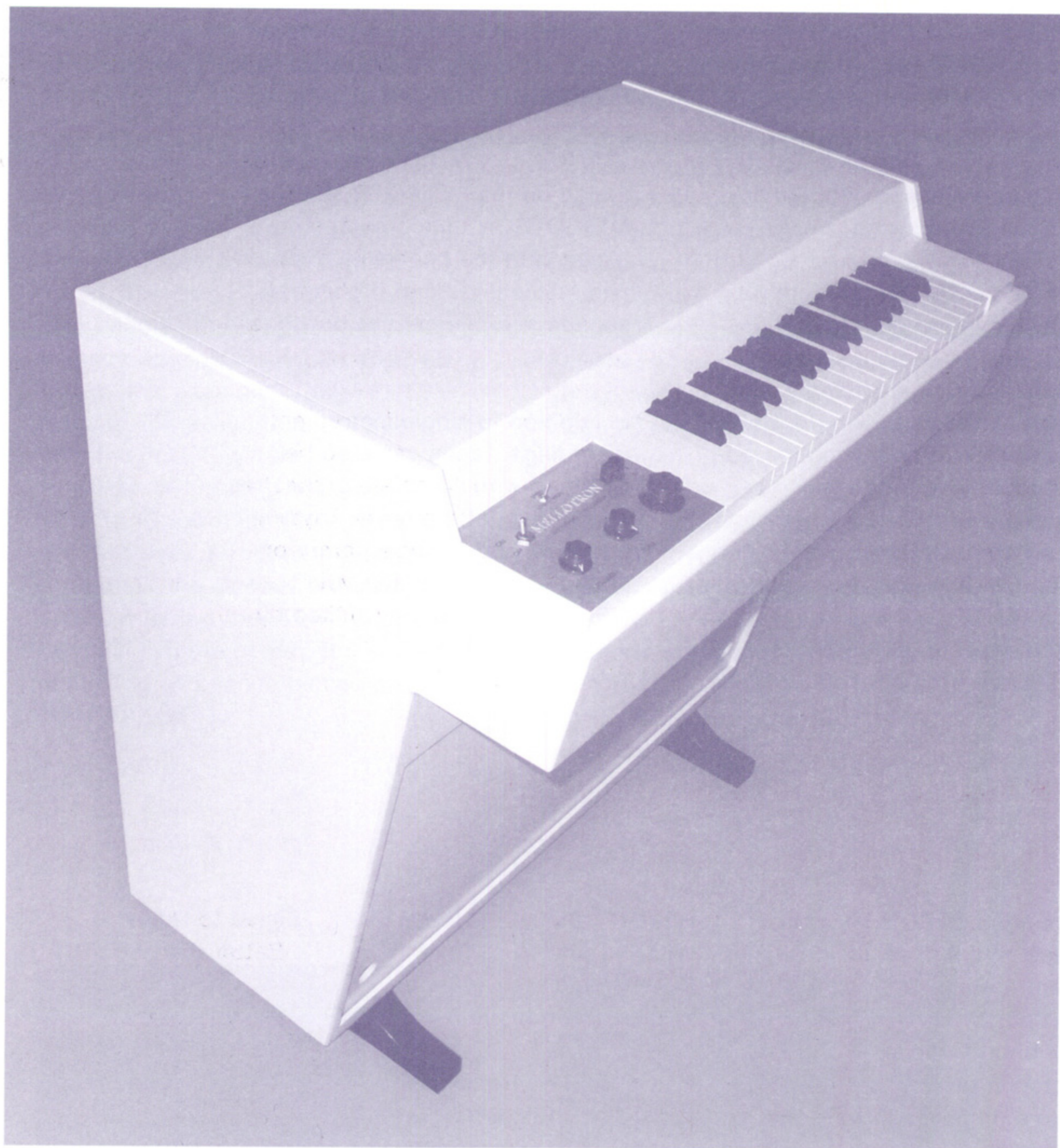


Mellotron



Mellotron®

Mellotron.COM  
Markus Resch MARKUSR@CHELLO.SE

## INTRODUCTION

Since the first MELLOTRON was introduced in 1963, it has become accepted internationally as a unique musical instrument in its own right and it is as much part of the modern scene as the many famous Groups who use it.

The MELLOTRON falls into no known category but is perhaps best described as a series of controlled tape machines manipulated by keyboard. Each key relates to and when played, activates a tape on which has been pre-recorded a single note of an orchestral instrument. For example: if the player has chosen say, FLUTE, and one key is depressed, he will hear the sustained note of one FLUTE-

a real FLUTE! If then a five note chord is played, the sound of five FLUTES will be heard playing in harmony. The same applies to VIOLINS or any other pre-recorded sound on the MELLOTRON. The MELLOTRON thus provides the player with the capability of playing and fashioning "live" orchestral sounds in a manner not previously possible.

In addition to single instrument recordings, tapes can also be obtained with complete orchestral sections, choir patterns, rhythm patterns, and a whole library of sound effects. You and your MELLOTRON are only limited by your imagination.

## MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES AND SPECIFICATIONS

### The Electronic Pitch Control

The MELLOTRON Mk VI is fitted with a specially designed Electric Pitch Control. In the center position, all instruments will be at Concert pitch.

Rotation of this control will give a pitch variation of  $\pm 30\%$ . The purpose of this control is not only to allow the MELLOTRON to be tuned accurately, but also to give the facility for special effects and dramatic changes of key and pitch.

### Amplification

The MELLOTRON Mk VI has no built in main amplifier or loudspeaker system but is designed to connect directly into any external amplifier system or a mixing console. A direct Line Output jack is provided for this purpose.

HEIGHT: 34" (86 cm)  
 WIDTH: 34" (86 cm)  
 DEPTH: 22" (56 cm)  
 WEIGHT: 100 lbs. (45 kg)

Power supply: Transformer tapped at 115V, 230V  
 50 or 60 cps. Single phase.  
 Consumption: 75 VA

Outputs: Balanced/Unbalanced line output jack, 3 volts into 600 Ohms with or without foot swell pedal.

Panel Controls:

ON/OFF SWITCH  
 TRACK SELECTOR CONTROL  
 GAIN CONTROL  
 TONE CONTROL  
 ELECTRONIC PITCH CONTROL  
 HI/LOW SPEED SWITCH

Signal to Noise:  
 Better than -50 dBm

Tape Velocity:  
 Normal 7 1/2 i.p.s.  
 Variable speed range  $\pm 30\%$

Reproduce:  
 50 Hz-12kHz  $\pm 3$ dB

Frequency:  
 Reproduce characteristic modified NARTB standard.

Tone Control:  
 10 db cut at 10 kHz

Reproduce Heads:  
 Low impedance  
 3 MH: 35 in total.

## TAPES

The standard MELLOTRON Mk VI provides three basic sounds namely; FLUTES, VIOLINS and CELLO recorded on three tracks of an 3/8" wide magnetic tape. Any one of these sounds may be immediately selected by means of the Track Selector located on the Control Panel. The Track Selector Control also enables the player to mix and balance sounds placed on adjacent tracks. For example: If the FLUTE track is first selected and played only the FLUTE will be heard. However, by rotating the Track Selector Control gradually, VIOLINS will be slowly introduced. Further rotation of the Control will give the effect of fading the FLUTE until only the VIOLINS are heard. The same applies to all sounds placed on adjacent tracks.

These tapes are mounted on a vertical frame known as the Removable Tape Frame. Any number of these tape frames may be purchased so that a library of sounds can be built up as required. The MELLOTRON Mk MR VI has been so designed that a tape frame featuring a whole new "bank" of sounds can be replaced in two minutes (without the need for any tools). In addition to the standard sounds of VIOLIN, CELLO and FLUTE, the following instruments and combinations are available: SAXOPHONE, CHOIR VOICES, CHURCH ORGAN, VIBRAPHONE, TYMPANI, STRING SECTION, SYNTHESIZED BRASS, SOUND EFFECTS, and many others. Also the complete CHAMBERLIN ARCHIVE is available together with the complete original MELLOTRON sound library.



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## IMPROVEMENTS OF THE NEW MELLOTRON MkVI COMPARED TO THE M400:

- Keyboard action is much lighter and more responsive to the playing technique.
- Non-warping high quality wood keys with ebony semitone keytops.
- High quality tape pinch rollers with bronze center gives reliable tape transport without wobble.
- Precision adjusted tape heads abolishes need for readjustment (erratic adjustment on the M400 made many notes muffled).
- Equally balanced mix of adjacent tracks when the track selector is between the tracks.
- Balanced tube output stage for great tone.
- Stronger and much more stable motor and motor control eliminates pitch drag during chords and constant retuning. Low speed switch drops the pitch by an octave for half-speed effects.
- Improved cabinet made of stronger but much lighter Baltic Birch Plywood Hinged lid without loose blocks. M400 cabinets were of brittle and very heavy fiberboard and had a too thin bottom panel.
- Improved servo motor control gives better pitch sweep characteristics and increased sweep range.
- Improved preamp circuit eliminates radio reception, noise and hum (often a problem in the M400).
- Mainframe of thicker aluminum makes the unit much more sturdy and roadworthy.
- Same standard of tape frames, old frames fit the MkVI and new frames fit older machines.
- Stainless high-precision unmagnetic capstan that is wear resistant.
- Standard parts (try to get BA thread hardware and a Bulgin power cord like the M400 had).
- Higher precision tape guide slots gives better tape travel and improved sound quality.
- We have exclusive access to the complete original Mellotron sound library and are making tapes that are true to the source - the same great tone as the original machines of the 60 s and 70's.

## GROUPS USING MELLOTRON

Rolling Stones	Elton John	Spirit	Peter Yarrow
Moody Blues	Genesis	Kinks	Argent
Jefferson Airplane	David Bowie	Traffic	Bobby Goldsboro
Yes	Raspberries	Procul Harum	Ray Stevens
KIng Crimson	ELP	Ground Hogs	Savoy Brown
Chicago	Wings	Led Zeppelin	Stories
Alice Cooper	Beach Boys	Fleetwood Mac	Al Kooper
Richie Havens	Hollies	John Lennon	Santana
Todd Rundgren	Strawbs	Cat Stevens	Felix Pappalardi
Mahavishnu Orchestra	Pink Floyd	Stevie Wonder	Kraftwerk
Rick Wakeman	T Rex	Mike Pinder	Beatles
Ten Years After	Jethro Tull	George Harrison	Tangerine Dream
Aerosmith	Jon Brion	Robby Longley	R.E.M.
A-HA	The Cardigans	Monster Magnet	Smashing Pumpkins
Air	Dido	Oasis	Sparklehorse
Anekdoten	Nelly Furtado	Linda Perry	Talk Talk
Fiona Apple	Lenny Kravitz	Radiohead	U2
Big Elf	Mark Linkous	Red Hot Chili Peppers	Pearl Jam

This material has been inspired by a 1973 product folder from DMI, the US Mellotron distributors back then. Only minor details in the text have been changed. For a full selection of sounds available, please visit our website and go to the Listening Room. There is also a dual manual version available, called the MkVII. Pictures of that model can also be found on our website. For a complete list of products & prices from Mellotron.com visit our website. For further information on the Mellotron please email: [markusr@chello.se](mailto:markusr@chello.se) or call: +46 70 424 0221

The Mellotron Mark VI and VII - "WHEN ONLY THE REAL THING IS GOOD ENOUGH"