



LEAD SYNTH WORKSHOP - BOOKS

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There are several books about synthesizer performance and related topics worth exploring. Don't forget your local library (we have a great system here in Austin) that may well loan ebooks as well as physical titles.

BEST OVERALL SINGLE BOOK

Stuff! Good Synth Players Should Know, by Mark Harrison, published by Hal Leonard, 2009

<http://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=311773>

availability: Amazon, APL

Mark Harrison (<http://www.harrisonmusic.com>) is a musician, educator, and prolific author of books about keyboard technique, instruments, and music theory. His book about synthesizers is a collection of short topics with music examples (notation in the book, audio on the included CD). The topics **Lead** and **Pitch Bend** are obvious but others are helpful such as **DX7**, **Effects**, **Glide**, **Minimoog**, **Modulation Wheel**, **Samletank**, and **Trill**. He includes music theory discussion with many of the examples

SYNTHESIZER HISTORY

Analog Days, by Trevor Pinch and Frank Trocco, published by Harvard University Press (!), 2002

<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674016170>

availability: Amazon, Kindle, APL

Analog Days is a history of Moog Music and its synthesizers. Chapter 11 details the development of the Minimoog including a couple of pages about how pitch bend and modulation wheels came to be.

EFFECTS

Guitar Amps and Effects for Dummies, by Dave Hunter, published by Wiley, 2014

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118899997.html>

availability: Amazon, Kindle, Google Play, APL/Overdrive

Chapters 13-15 are detailed descriptions of effects (e.g., chorus and overdrive) and how the devices are used with guitars (although the information is relevant to keyboards).

Power Tools for Synthesizer Programming, by Jim Aikin, published by Hal Leonard, 2015

<http://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=131064>

availability: Amazon, APL

While this book is mostly about programming synthesizer sounds in general it does include a comprehensive chapter on effects processing.

SYNTHESIZER PERFORMANCE

Playing Synthesizers, by Helen Casabona and David Frederick, Alfred Publishing Co., 1988

<http://www.alfred.com/Products/Playing-Synthesizers--00-4110.aspx>

availability: Amazon, Kindle, Google Play

Part III of this book is for Performance Controls with chapters on pitch-bending, the modulation wheel, and pedals/preset switches. Notation examples include specific performance techniques.

Progressive Rock Keyboard, by Dan Maske, published by Hal Leonard, 2007

<http://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=311307>

availability: Amazon

Dan Maske is the keyboardist for the progressive rock band Far Corner (<http://www.far-corner.com/band/maske.htm>) that one might consider to be in the Rock in Opposition camp. The end of Chapter 6 includes a few pages about lead synth techniques (note bends, vibrato/tremolo) with audio examples on the included CD.

Jazz-Rock Keyboard, by T Lavitz, published by Hal Leonard, 2007

<http://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=290536>

availability: Amazon

The late T Lavitz was a long-time keyboardist with fusion supergroup The Dixie Dregs in addition to being a product of the University of Miami School of Music. The end of Chapter 9 includes six pages about synth leads including three notated examples with audio on the included CD. The leads and notation are fast, complex, and advanced...start with something else!

AVAILABILITY NOTES

Amazon – physical book at amazon.com

Kindle – ebook through the Amazon Kindle store

Google Play – ebook through Google Play Books

APL – physical book loan at Austin Public Library

APL/Overdrive – ebook loan through the Overdrive service, Austin Public Library version

Lead Synth Workshop at Voyager Music Festival 2016

<http://www.voyagerfest.org/2016/08/14/performing-lead-synth>