

**Feature** In the final part of the vintage **Synthesised TLC** **News** **Bargain**

## Synthesised Treasures

In the final part of the vintage synth feature, N. RAMA LOHAN has expert advice on how to maintain those old treasures in premium condition.

**A** GREAT number of us take our vintage synthesizers and instruments for granted. They're everywhere, and they're everywhere. But if you're a serious collector, you know that these instruments are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of history. And like any piece of history, they need to be maintained in the best possible condition. Here are some tips to help you keep your vintage synthesizers in premium condition.

**1. Keep them clean.** Dust and dirt are the enemy of vintage synthesizers. They can get into the keys, the circuitry, and the speakers, causing all sorts of problems. So make sure you're keeping them clean. Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the exterior, and a compressed air can to blow out the keys and the circuitry. If you're really into it, you can use a mild detergent to clean the exterior, but make sure you're rinsing it off thoroughly and drying it off completely.

**2. Check the cables.** Cables are another common problem area. They can get frayed, broken, or disconnected. So make sure you're checking them regularly. If you find a frayed cable, replace it. If you find a broken cable, repair it. And if you find a disconnected cable, reconnect it.

**3. Test the keys.** The keys are the most important part of a synthesizer. They're the ones that make the sound. So make sure you're testing them regularly. Press each key and listen for a clear, consistent sound. If you hear a muffled or distorted sound, the key might be stuck or the circuitry might be faulty. If you hear no sound at all, the key might be broken. So make sure you're testing them regularly and replacing any that are faulty.

**4. Store them properly.** Vintage synthesizers are delicate instruments. They can be damaged by moisture, heat, and light. So make sure you're storing them properly. Keep them in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight. And if you're not using them for a long time, consider putting them in a protective case or covering them with a cloth.

**5. Get them serviced.** If you're a serious collector, you know that your vintage synthesizers are worth the investment. So make sure you're getting them serviced regularly. A professional technician can check the circuitry, the keys, and the speakers, and make any necessary repairs. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in premium condition for years to come.

**6. Use them often.** Vintage synthesizers are like any other instrument. They need to be used often to stay in good condition. So make sure you're using them often. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**7. Be patient.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of history. They take time to build, and they take time to maintain. So be patient. Don't expect instant results. It's a process, and it's a journey. But if you're patient and you follow these tips, you can keep your vintage synthesizers in premium condition for years to come.

**8. Have fun.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of fun. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're having fun with them. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**9. Share your knowledge.** Vintage synthesizers are a passion for many of us. So make sure you're sharing your knowledge with others. Write articles, give talks, and teach classes. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**10. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**11. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**12. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**13. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**14. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**15. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**16. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**17. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**18. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**19. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**20. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**21. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**22. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**23. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**24. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**25. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**26. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**27. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**28. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**29. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**30. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**31. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**32. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**33. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**34. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**35. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**36. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**37. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**38. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**39. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**40. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**41. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a musician. Play them, record with them, and experiment with them. This will help you keep them in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**42. Be a collector.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of art. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and 1980s. So make sure you're being a collector. Collect them, display them, and cherish them. This will help you keep your vintage synthesizers in good condition and make the most of your investment.

**43. Be a musician.** Vintage synthesizers are not just pieces of music, they're pieces of music. They're the instruments that made the sound of the 1970s and

**A**ggravated. We expect them to play and sound the way they always should, but there's some degree of maintenance involved if you want your instrument to stay in shape, just start by storing them in the right place.

Where vintage synthesizers are concerned, that would certainly mean a proper flight case and away from the threat of moisture. But let

**POLY PROPOSITION:** If you anticipate playing chords, then a polyphonic synthesiser like this Korg Polysix might be ideal.

highly sought after goodies will be coming from Yamaha Music Malaysia's stable of products. And you're still blinking, right?

Well, that means you'll be entitled to walk away with Yamaha instruments, Sabian cymbals, Ampeg, Laney and Crate amps, Pro Mark and Vic Firth sticks, Remo drum heads and percussion, D'Addario

don't represent the best or even very good value at all, but I have observed, on many occasions,

Later in this interview, we mention some tips on buying, but if I had to suggest anything, then it should be to avoid privately sold synthesizers that have been modified in some way. This is not to say the mods are not complementary, but in my experience, many mods

are poorly and unprofessionally implemented, so inevitably, will have damaged and/or affected the

Could you provide a little buying guide for potential owners of these instruments?

RS: There are a considerable number of websites on the Internet offering advice and guidance about buying synthesizers so I wouldn't want to replicate the same simple advice as follows:

1. Determine what type of synth you want or need for your own particular music style or musical style – you would be surprised
2. How much you want to spend
3. How much you want to spend
4. How much you want to spend
5. How much you want to spend

SAFE AND SOUND: It would be a good idea to make a custom-fit flight case for your beloved vintage-synth.

Would you have any storage or maintenance tips for these pieces from the past?

KS: The one thing we recommend highly is to ensure you keep your vintage synth from drying out, moisture and extreme temperature.

number of new and wonderful projects underway and details of which will emerge through the website in the coming months, so please keep visiting to keep abreast of things.

KS: KSR will be launching its own website in the next month or so and

Now research that question is something you can do.

2. Find the particular make and model you're interested in buying – the Internet is full of sites that specialise in one make or model or even a particular type of instrument. The Internet forums covering particular vintage models, so grab your mouse and start surfing. One example I can give is an excellent Korg MS and analog range of synths at [www.korganalogue.net/korg/index.html](http://www.korganalogue.net/korg/index.html).

3. Try to get a demo on the model you want by asking friends or visiting a studio. Locate a good local dealer and email him/her or call him at RL Music. You'll find a lot of good information that way.

4. Avoid modified or "specials" as there is a very good chance owners

collectible instruments, so there must be a good reason for them to want to let it go.

5. If buying from overseas, then ensure the synth is well packed and expect to pay a small fee to get it packed and shipped. Generally, if a small number of instruments arrive, from Japan particularly, in several pieces because the postal services were not careful when handling the instruments, they are suspect.

6. Also, if buying from overseas, don't forget the shipping and import tax charges etc.

7. The world is full of thieves who can fraud you out of your money quite easily, so always try to buy from a reputable dealer who will manage all of the above requirements.

8. If you're buying from the States, this doesn't mean you can't be a victim. If you buy from a dealer, they should be trustworthy, but prolonged exposure to extremes of temperature will eventually create problems. This actually applies to pretty much any electronic instrument. If you buy from an individual, they may be more susceptible to damage and wear.

*General use (day to day) tip:* You can prolong the full working life of your synth by having a good clean prevent dust from getting into the sliders and pots on the front panel. Direct sunlight will over time panel the lustre of the wood cabinets and the metal decal as well as heat the internal workings to a point where dry joints can occur on the circuit boards, so avoid these situations.

*Longer term storage tips:* Buy a dry storage container. Use a plastic flight case or a metal one. Use a plastic flight case with a moisture vapour synthesiser in a moisture-resistant bag within the flight case and place some silica gel in the bag. If possible, store your synth flat in a dry, dark, cool place. Remember that 20-30 year-old electronic instruments are like classic cars – they don't like being left unattended so try to take them out for a spin every 3-4 months. If you're allowed around 30 minutes for them to warm up.

**What are the future plans for RL Music?**

RL: We plan to keep doing what we do best and that is to supply the best condition examples of vintage instruments. We will continue to offer the same information and

it will be presenting some new information to you. We will continue to offer the restoration perspective of vintage synthesizers – details of this site will be announced at [www.rlmusic.co.uk](http://www.rlmusic.co.uk).

**How can I get more information and quick insight into the world of vintage analogue synthesizers?**

RL: Vintage analogue synthesizers have been of interest to your readers and may I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest. You can contact us by email at [info@rlmusic.co.uk](mailto:info@rlmusic.co.uk) to our newspaper and website.

If anybody has any questions or requires more information on the subjects discussed, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can find our contact details as follows: **RL Music** at [rlmusic@openworld.com](mailto:rlmusic@openworld.com) or **Kent Spang Restorations** at [kent@openworld.com](mailto:kent@openworld.com).