

Singing Cat Services

Service Report

Work Completed: May 2023

Minimoog (poss 78/79 last model?) s/n11549 (last digit could be "0"1-indistinct print)

VG Condition-some casing scratches/gouges. Tested & found 8 x notes mal-triggering/bad-CV. The key-springs & 3 x Bus-Bars were quite tarnished-removed board for pre-soak in IPA then hand-cleaned spring & Bus-Bars/reassemble keyframe & tested AOK.

Remove keyboard frame/ keys for deep-cleaning/check all Key-Bushings & heights post re-assembly... n.b. some keys were cracked around metal frame entry due to age/use but functioning ok.

Replace cut cable-ties on re-assembly.

Several panel controls were noisy & some are sealed-micro-drill to apply IPA & re-lube if necessary (note which ones if any).

Removed panel knobs/nuts for panel surface-clean... some switch hex-nuts were seized & required shakedown. Re-glued 2 x silver spun caps on Octave 1 & 2.

Removed LH Controller panel to de-oxidise main connectors/switched jacks and switches.Clean all internal/external surfaces.

PSU caps are originals-ordered 2 x 1000uf/35V Axial & 1 x 470uf/35V Axial or Radial from Cricklewood Electronics for mains caps board.

Replaced all other electrolytic caps on power supply board (2 x 100uf/62V, 6 x 2.2uf/50V/ 2 x10uf/ 63V.

Remove all boards to clean Edge-Connectors/check for dry/intermittent joints/check ic sockets.Tested VCO Board very fast Thermal start with good tuning of all three well within Factory time.

Checked VCF for possible transistor mis-match-checked ok & found no transistors in the VCF Ladder have been previously replaced (all have blue/white "matched-spot" markings) though 1) the top ladder pair's legs were twisted (fixed ok) and 2),there are 2 x sets of 2 that are covered with heatsink paste & bonded together-both sets are DVM reading/sounding AOK & I recommend leaving them as-is.
VCF Hi End Scale was out via Key CV control-trimmed ok over 12 oct.

Reassembled keyboard after key-removals for cleaning & repairs to age-cracked front plastic "T" hole 10x... All key-heights are AOK & all notes now functioning as normal over 4 x 15 min play-tests after repairs to 3 x CV springs on Keyboard PCB that were stretched/broken where they enter the Contact Puller assembly.Repaired affected CV springs (present on bottom octave only) successfully.

Repeated play-tests over 2 days.

Beeswaxed/tinted scratches/gouges in wood casing+overall polish.

Recalibrations were required after PSU component changes... Usual v-slight pitch change when VCO Modulation switch in ON position, so recalibrated Pitch bender wheel nut to A440/until no pitch change happening when Mod switch thrown after performing additional recalibrations.

Keyboard and VCO x 3 tuning is stable & tunes within 5 mins using Top A at approx 21C, which is 15 mins less than the manufacturer's 1977 tuning guide!

Recommendations-As with all 25+ years old analog equipment, most of the ics/transistors in the Minimoogs are well past their guaranteed Operational life of approx 25 years & the manufacture of these thru-hole components ceased worldwide Nov 2021, so replacements in the future will be Unused New Stock until supplies eventually run out. Most of the transistors and ics in the later Minimoogs are currently available though replacement keys, pitch/Mod wheels, knobs and key-contacts (plus the original pots) have been obsolete/unavailable since approx 2002 & would only be found as 'used' on eBay & etc.