The story of Sequential Circuits, the leading synthesizer manufacturer of the 1980s. One of the great American synthesizer companies, founded and led by San Francisco electronics and computer graduate, Dave Smith, Sequential Circuits Inc. paved the way for music of the future. Smith brought easy, affordable and powerful polyphonic synthesis to all levels of music production in the form of the ground-breaking Prophet-5 synthesizer.

Released in 1978, the Prophet led the new wave movement into the next decade, creating a sonically exciting soundtrack to eighties culture. It expanded the palette of all music genres and was embraced by professionals and amateurs alike.

Particularly revealing is that map showing how many of the American synth companies were (and still are) concentrated in or around San Francisco: Sequential, EMU, Roger Linn Designs, Buchla, Tom Oberheim, SSM, CEM...
The book features many exclusive and highly entertaining and informative stories from ex-Sequential staff, music industry moguls, and famous keyboard players. Includes over 240 photos and illustrations (paperback).

Recommendable!
Book Recommendation: The Prophet from Silicon Valley

The MIDI moment at NAMM, January 1983.

This particular NAMM show proved to be a significant event; it was the first time a practical digital synthesizer was available. At some point in the show, the Sequential Prophet synthesizer was launched.

Dove and Barb in Barb's office, 3051 North First Street, San Jose, California. Photo by Pat Rafton, 1983.

(c) The Prophet from Silicon Valley

(c) The Prophet from Silicon Valley

(c) The Prophet from Silicon Valley
Book Recommendation: The Prophet from Silicon Valley

Pro-One

- Monophonic synthesizer, two oscillators per voice, 36-note keyboard
- Model number: 100
- Designers: Steve Salani (hardware), Dave Smith (software)
- Original retail price: $645
- Quantity made: 10,000

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<tr>
<td>CA3280</td>
<td>VCA</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Book Recommendation: The Prophet from Silicon Valley

The voice allocation has five modes:

- **Normal**, where each keyboard has the five voices of the respective upper or lower 10-note polyphony.
- **Note**, where a total of 10-note polyphony can be used on either keyboard.
- **SingleNote**, where playing the notes of the respective upper or lower keyboard will play the upper or lower 10-note polyphony.
- **TwoNote**, where the upper or lower 10-note polyphony will play when used.
- **Organ**, where each keyboard has the five voices of the respective organ.

**Note:**

- **Polyphonic**, where the upper or lower 10-note polyphony will play when used.
- **Organ**, where each keyboard has the five voices of the respective organ.

Dave Smith carried out further tests and trials, and eventually conceded that two voice boards were not enough to make the machine usable. The Prophets had been made and one board from the Prophet-10s had been made and distributed, and Sequential also offered an upgrade kit for $995, as required. Initially, a few Prophet-10s were coming from Sequential, but it took a while for the production to ramp up.

Dave Smith later recalled that the Prophet-10s had been made and one board from the Prophet-10s had been made and distributed, and Sequential also offered an upgrade kit for $995, as required. Initially, a few Prophet-10s were coming from Sequential, but it took a while for the production to ramp up.
"The Prophet from Silicon Valley - the complete story of Sequential Circuits"
David Abernethy, foreword by Dave Smith

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