The Korg Wavestate: An interesting synthesizer concept with 64 voices, 4 layers and a 3-octave keyboard (with velocity). This instrument is the great-grandson of Sequential's Prophet VS and the next-generation Wavestation, with a virtual MS-20 / Polysix filter and the ingenious Wave Sequencing RANDOMIZE function ...



The keyword of the day is surely "Wave Sequencing 2.0". While the wave sequences of the old Wavestation were *static*, the Wavestate now allows for *dynamic* wave sequencing.

"Wave Sequencing 2.0 splits apart the timing, the sequence of samples, and the melody, so that each can be manipulated independently. Also added are new characteristics including shapes, gate times, and step sequencer values. Each of these is a "Lane," and each Lane can have a different number of steps and its own start, end, and loop points." (Korg.com)

- Wave Sequencing 2.0
- Extensive modulation with hands-on control
- Gigabytes of samples
- Modeled filters, including MS-20 and Polysix
- 64 stereo voices
- 4 Layers with Vector control
- 14 simultaneous effects
- Set Lists and Smooth Sound Transitions
- Randomization
- Compact. Great design. 37 full-size keys.
- Designed by Korg R&D in California

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wavestate

WAVE SEQUENCING SYNTHESIZER

Keyboard	37 keys (velocity and release-velocity sensitive)	
Sound generating system	Wave Sequencing 2.0	
Maximum Polyphony	64 stereo voices	
Sounds	Ships with over 240 Performances, 740 Programs, and 1,000 Wave Sequences Storage for tens of thousands of user Performances	
Structure	**Performance**	4 Layers, Reverb, EQ; all edits are stored in the Performance, DAW-style (saving as separate Programs, Wave Sequences etc. is supported but not required)
	Layer	Program, Arpeggiator, Key and Velocity Zones
	Program	Wave Sequence, Filter, Amp, Pre FX, Mod FX, Delay
Filters	2-pole LPF, 2-pole HPF, 2-pole BPF, 2-pole Band Reject, 4-pole LPF, 4-pole HPF, 4-pole BPF, 4-pole Band Reject, Multi Filter, MS-20 LPF, MS-20 HPF, Polysix	

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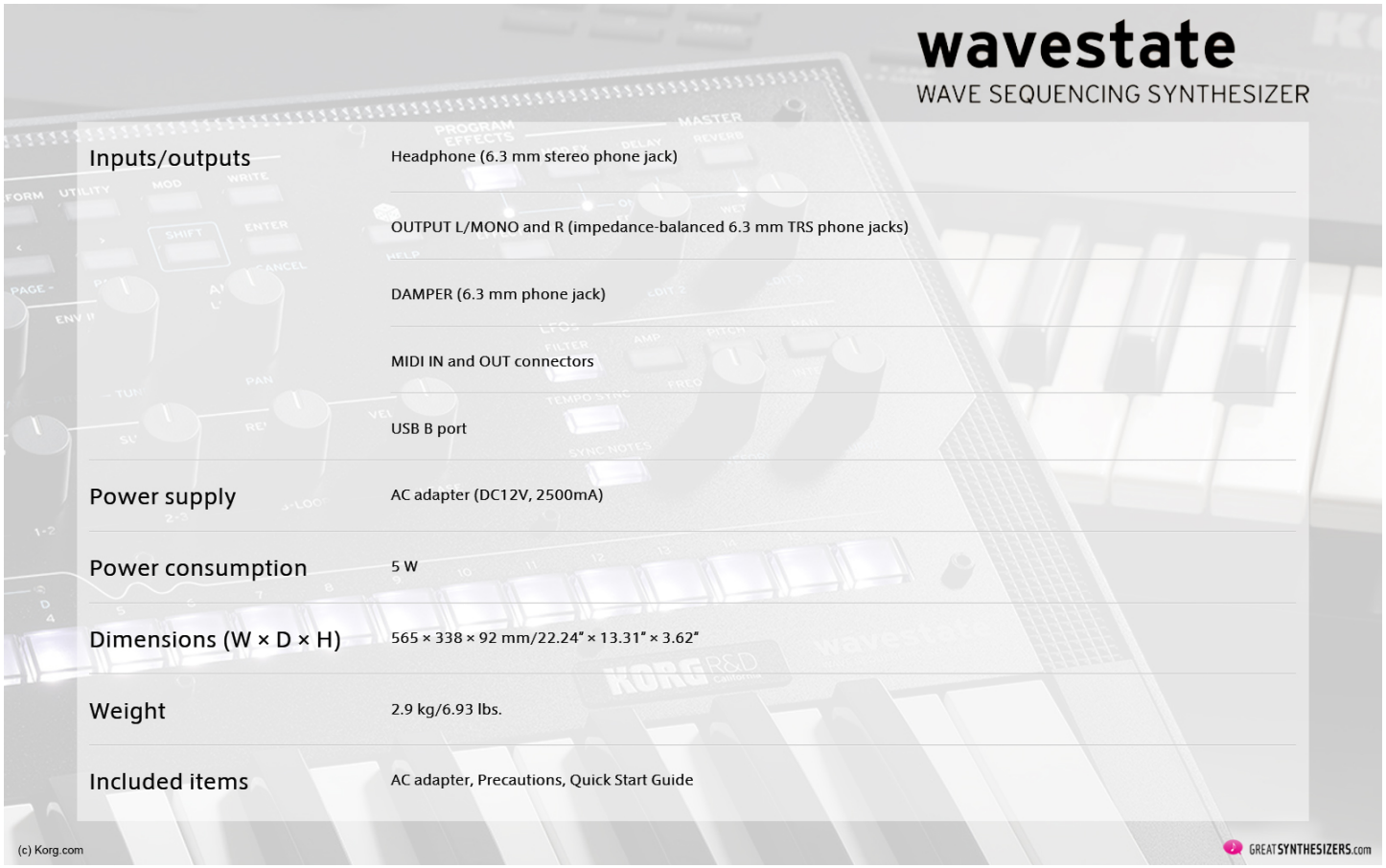
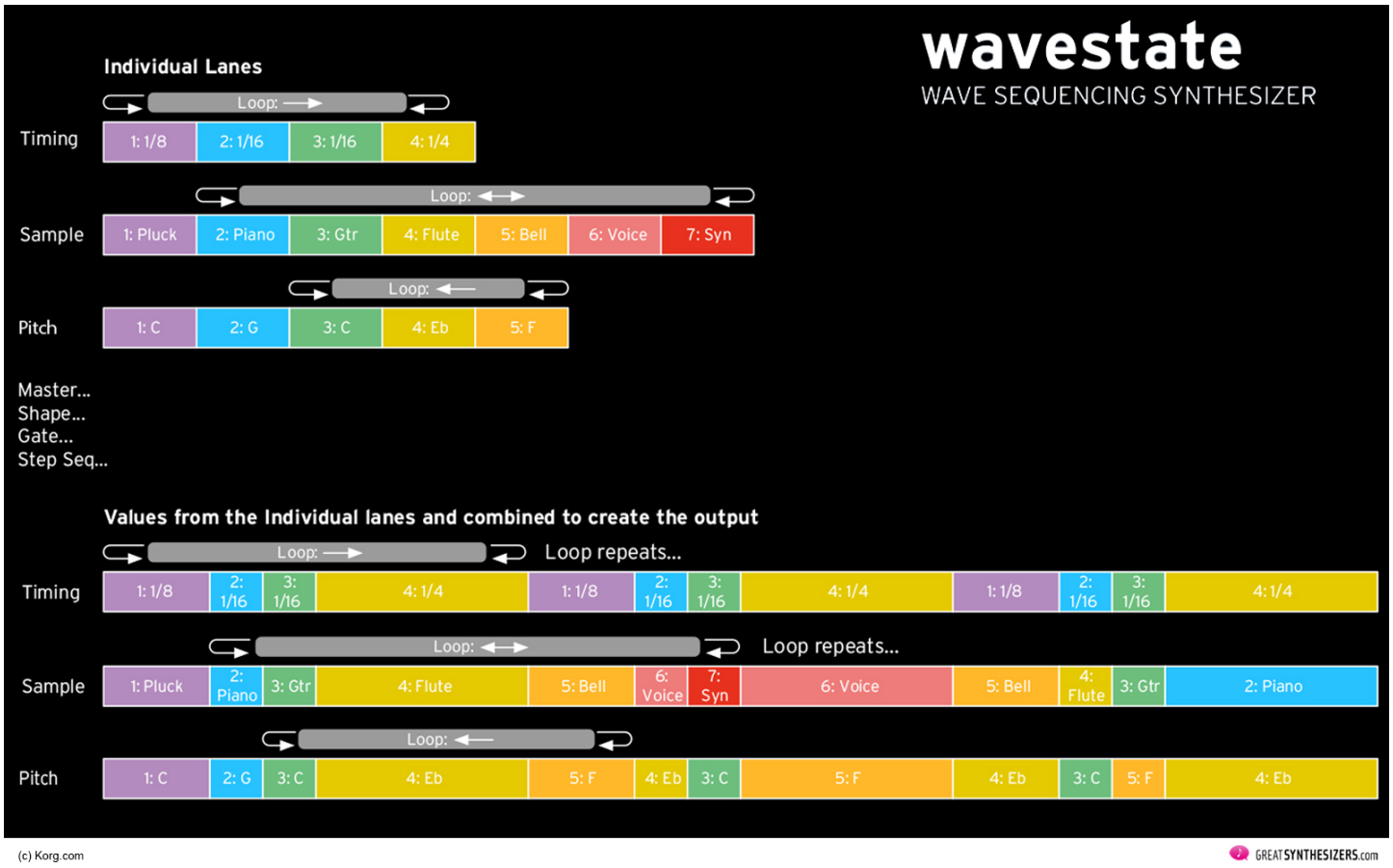


The crux of the matter is the new RANDOMIZE function:

"Every time the sequence moves forward, the individual Lanes are combined to create the output. For instance, a sample may be matched with a different duration, pitch, shape, gate length, and step

sequence value every time that it plays. You can modulate each Lane's start, end, and loop points separately for every note, using velocity, LFOs, envelopes, Mod Knobs, or other controllers. Each note in a chord can be playing something different!

Lanes can also randomize the step order every time they play, with realtime control over the range of included steps. Finally, individual steps can be randomly skipped, with a modulatable probability from 0 to 100%. The result is organic, ever-changing sounds that respond to your control. The four onboard arpeggiators can interact with Wave Sequences for even more possibilities." (Korg.com)



Anyway, we're somewhat irritated that this instrument comes with just an 3-octave keyboard. Small, handy, portable, hip – these are obviously the new synthesizer requirements of the present:

"Far from a nostalgic reissue, the wavestate is designed from the ground up for a new generation of musicians, producers, and composers, taking cues from sources as diverse as modular synths, groove boxes, and algorithmic composition. The compact form-factor, with 37 full-size keys, transports easily and fits neatly into any stage, studio, or desktop setup." (Korg.com)



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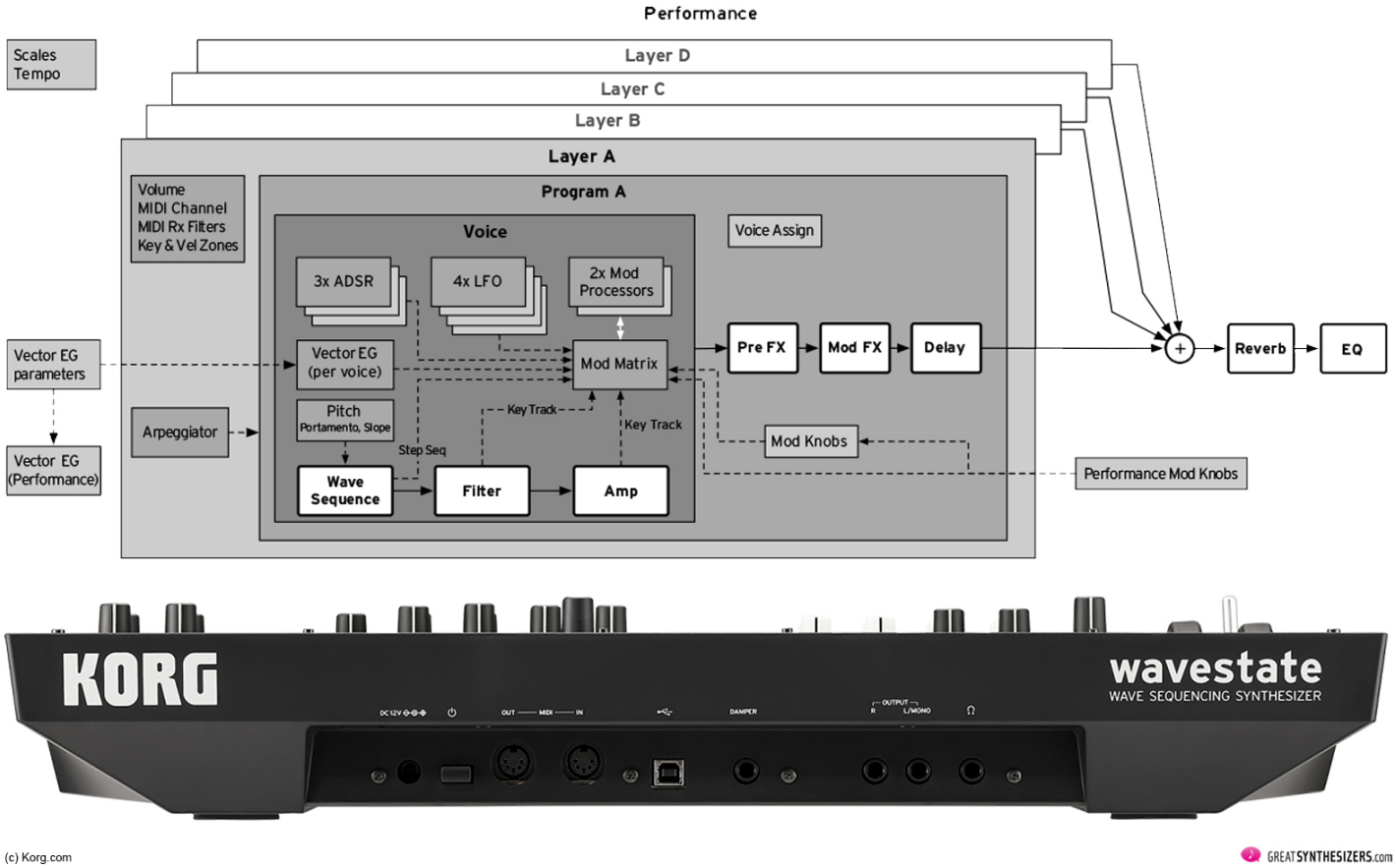
As to the Wavestate connections, the instrument is provided with most essential Ins/Outs. It’s a pity, however, that there seems to be no connectivity to the modular / analog world. A simple CV MOD IN socket or the (analog) SYNC IN – typical for Korg’s analog synths – would have allowed for basic *interactive* wavetable sequencing across various synthesizer systems.

Nevertheless, the overall package of the Korg Wavestate is impressive. We are therefore looking forward to the new handy Wavestation of the upcoming 20s ...



Korg Wavestate

Polyphonic digital Synthesizer
with Vector-Synthesis, Wave Sequencing 2.0, Arpeggiator
and 64 Voices / 4 Layers

Link:
www.korg.com/de/products/synthesizers/wavestate

Youtube: