

# MUSICAL

# NEWSICALS

## — ACCESSORIES —

Electronic Music Labs (P.O. Box H, Vernon, Ct. 06066), who make the Syn-Key synthesizers, have introduced the EML Poly-Box (\$475.00) which is



a device designed to give polyphonic capabilities to monophonic synthesizers. The Poly-Box is a digital/analog device which is programmed via a one-octave keyboard to produce harmony notes or chords whenever a single note is played on the main synthesizer keyboard. The harmonic intervals of these additional notes are set via the Poly-Box keyboard, with a range of three octaves above to one octave below the original note. The Poly-Box's output precisely follows the main synthesizer's oscillator through portamento, vibrato and keyboard transpositions. Manual tuning, variable phasing and a low-pass filter are included in the Poly-Box to give maximum control and wide variability of the sounds produced. The unit interfaces directly with patchable synthesizers, and smaller, non-patchable instruments may be simply modified to interface.

CIRCLE 8 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Star Instruments, Inc. (P.O. Box 71, Stafford Springs, Ct. 06076) has an interesting product in their "Synare" Percussion Synthesizer (\$795.00). Four rubber pads are provided on the front of the unit to trigger the synthesizer; each of the four pads is individually tunable. In addition, each pad has three depth "zones" which can be set individually so that different sounds are produced from a combination of a triangle/square/pulse voltage-controlled oscillator, white noise generator and pink noise generator. The VCO signal can be processed with a ring modulator with its own triangle/square-pulse oscillator, and the VCO-plus-noise signal is processed through



a VCF with variable resonance and a dual VCA. The 24 dB/octave VCF is controlled by any combination of manual control, triangle/square LFO, and envelope generator with lag, and the VCF becomes a sine-wave oscillator at the maximum resonance setting. The entire unit is packaged in a compact eighteen-pound housing which is

designed to mount on a tom-tom stand.

A lesser-known name in road cases is Bobadilla Cases (2302 East 38th Street, Vernon, Ca. 90058) who offers a full line of foam-lined fiber cases in addition to the plastic-coated plywood models for the budget-minded. The Bobadilla catalog lists an extensive selection of standard-size cases in their standard construction, which includes ABS-clad plywood in one of six colors, polyester foam lining, riveted construction and heavy-duty recessed hardware. Bobadilla's specialty, however, is their extensive custom-design program. Even for standard-size cases, custom design offers the ability to specify exactly the features and construction you want and need, ranging from extra-thick foam with crushed velvet lining in a guitar case to piano hinges and heavy-duty corners on an amplifier case. One construction detail unique to Bobadilla cases is their "Double Edge" corners. Most other road cases use butted corners which are actually held together by rivets driven through the metal edging strip and plywood at the corners. Double Edge cases use an extruded aluminum channel with an edge on the inside as well as the outside of the case; the edges of the ABS-clad plywood are mitered at a 45-degree angle to fit into the groove in the edging channel, and the case is constructed by gluing the panels into the edging. This

type of construction is said to result in a stiffer, stronger case which is almost totally watertight if the optional watertight valence is ordered. As an additional service, Bobadilla maintains a file of dimensions for all custom cases they build so that it is a simple matter to replace or duplicate a custom design at a later date.