

Which DSI Synth Should I Buy?

It all depends on what features you're looking for. The chart below shows how each synth differs.

| FEATURE | PROPHET XL | PROPHET X | PROPHET REV2 | OB-6 | PROPHET-6 | PRO 2 | PROPHET 12 | MOPHO x4 |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| Voices | 8 stereo, 16 mono, 32 paraphonic | 8 stereo, 16 mono, 32 paraphonic | 8-16 | 6 | 6 | mono/4-voice paraphonic | 12 | 4 |
| Split/Stack | 2-way split/bi-timbral | 2-way split/bi-timbral | 2-way split/bi-timbral | | | | 2-way split/bi-timbral | |
| Oscillators per voice | 2 | 2 | 2 (plus sub osc, plus noise) | 2 (plus sub osc, plus noise) | 2 (plus sub osc, plus noise) | 4 (plus sub osc) | 4 (plus sub osc) | 2 (plus 2 sub osc per voice) |
| Oscillator Type | digital with waveshaping | digital with waveshaping | analog DCO with waveshaping | analog VCO | analog VCO | digital | digital | analog DCO |
| Superwaves | Yes, supersaw | Yes, supersaw | | | | Yes | | |
| Linear FM Synthesis (DX-style) | | | | | | | Yes | |
| Digital Samples | Yes. Two 16-bit, 48 kHz multi-sampled instruments per preset | Yes. Two 16-bit, 48 kHz multi-sampled instruments per preset | | | | | | |
| Analog Filters | 2 x analog 4-pole resonant low-pass filter per voice in 8-voice mode | 2 x analog 4-pole resonant low-pass filter per voice in 8-voice mode | 1 low-pass (Curtis) 2/4-pole operation | state-variable (custom discrete) low-pass, band-pass, high-pass, notch | 1 low-pass (custom discrete) 1 high-pass (custom discrete) | 1 low-pass (custom discrete) 1 state-variable (custom discrete) | 1 low-pass (Curtis) 1 high-pass (custom discrete) | 1 low-pass (Curtis) 2/4-pole operation |
| Effects | 2 digital effects per layer (4 Reverb, Chorus, Flanger, Phaser, Stereo Delay, Bucket-Brigade Delay, Distortion, Vintage Rotating Speaker, High-Pass Filter) | 2 digital effects per layer (4 Reverb, Chorus, Flanger, Phaser, Stereo Delay, Bucket-Brigade Delay, Distortion, Vintage Rotating Speaker, High-Pass Filter) | 1 digital effect per layer (Chorus, Flanger, Phaser, Ring Mod, Mono Delay, Stereo Delay, Bucket-Brigade Delay, Reverb, Distortion, High-Pass Filter) | Dual digital effects processor (Chorus, Flanger, Phaser, Ring Mod, Delay, Bucket-Brigade Delay, Reverb - Hall, Room, Plate, Spring) Stereo Analog Distortion | Dual digital effects processor (Chorus, Flanger, Phaser, Ring Mod, Delay, Bucket-Brigade Delay, Reverb - Hall, Room, Plate, Spring) Stereo Analog Distortion | 3 Digital Delays 1 BBD emulation 5 Character FX (Girth, Air, Hack, Decimate, Drive) Feedback Stereo Analog Distortion | 4 Digital Delays 5 Character FX (Girth, Air, Hack, Decimate, Drive) Feedback Stereo Analog Distortion | |
| Mod Matrix | 16 x 2 28 sources 88 destinations | 16 x 2 28 sources 88 destinations | 8 x 2 22 sources 52 destinations | "X-Mod" 2 sources (Filter Env, VCO 2) 5 destinations (Freq 1, Shape 1, PW 1, LPF, HPPF) | "Poly Mod" 2 sources (Filter Env, Osc 2) 5 destinations (Freq 1, Shape 1, PW 1, LPF, HPPF) | 16 x 2 50 sources 140 destinations | 16 x 2 26 sources 100 destinations | 4 x 2 20 sources 43 destinations |
| LFOs | 4 per voice | 4 per voice | 4 per voice | 1 global | 1 global | 4 per voice | 4 per voice | 4 per voice |
| Envelopes | 4 (1 filter, 1 amplifier, 2 auxiliary) | 4 (1 filter, 1 amplifier, 2 auxiliary) | 3 (1 filter, 1 amplifier, 1 auxiliary) | 2 (1 filter, 1 amplifier) | 2 (1 filter, 1 amplifier) | 5 (1 filter, 1 amplifier, 3 auxiliary) | 4 (1 filter, 1 amplifier, 2 auxiliary) | 3 (1 filter, 1 amplifier, 1 auxiliary) |
| Sequencer | 64-step, polyphonic seq | 64-step, polyphonic seq | 64-step, polyphonic sequencer 16 step x 4 track gated step seq | 64-step, polyphonic seq | 64-step, polyphonic seq | 16 steps x 16 tracks or 32 steps x 8 tracks monophonic/paraphonic | | 16 step x 4 track gated step seq |
| Arpeggiator | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes, programmable | Yes |
| CV In/Out | | | | | | Yes, 4 x 4 | | |
| Ext Audio Input | | | | | | Yes | | |
| Performance Touch Sliders | Yes | Yes | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| Desktop version available? | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | |
| Polychain | | | | Yes, 12 voices max | Yes, 12 voices max | | | Yes, 16 voices max |
| Keyboard Length | 6 octaves, 76 keys | 5 octaves, 61 keys | 5 octaves, 61 keys | 4 octaves, 49 keys | 4 octaves, 49 keys | 3.5 octaves, 44 keys | 5 octaves, 61 keys | 3.5 octaves, 44 keys |
| USB | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| MIDI | In, Out, Thru | In, Out, Thru | In, Out, Thru | In, Out, Thru | In, Out, Thru | In, Out, Out 2/Thru | In, Out, Thru | In, Out/Thru, Poly Chain |
| Pedal Inputs | 1 sustain, 1 expression, 1 sequencer | 1 sustain, 1 expression, 1 sequencer | 1 sustain, 1 expression, 1 sequencer | 1 sustain, 1 volume, 1 LP filter cutoff, 1 seq start/stop | 1 sustain, 1 volume, 1 LP filter cutoff, 1 seq start/stop | 1 sustain, 1 expression | 1 sustain, 2 expression | 1 sustain, 1 expression |
| Recommended For: | This is 76-key, semi-weighted action version of the Prophet X is ideal for the studio or live performance. Super versatile, it has the power to modulate both samples and synth parameters. Great for traditional instruments such as piano, electric piano, organ, drums, strings, guitar, and also complex pads, effects, and evolving textures. Nearly endless sonic possibilities | Studio or live performance. Super versatile, it has the power to modulate both samples and synth parameters. Great for traditional instruments such as piano, electric piano, organ, drums, strings, guitar, and also complex pads, effects, and evolving textures. Nearly endless sonic possibilities | Thick, warm, analog sound. Massive 16-voice polyphony. Great for both vintage synth tones and complex sound design through its deep modulation matrix. Two-part sound stacking and splitting provides flexibility and timbral complexity. Two powerful sequencers add vast possibilities for music composition and sound design. Amazingly versatile and a true analog powerhouse. | Classic big, punchy, Oberheim analog sound. Excels at everything a vintage poly synth does, but with a broader tonal palette and greater reliability. Fat tone, ease of use, built-in effects, and portability make it a natural for on stage. Equally well suited to studio work due to its superb sound and ability to sit well in a mix. Along with the Prophet-6, sets the standard for modern analog poly synths. | Classic big, punchy, Prophet analog sound. Excels at everything a vintage poly synth does, but with a broader tonal palette and greater reliability. Fat tone, ease of use, built-in effects, and portability make it a natural for on stage. Equally well suited to studio work due to its superb sound and ability to sit well in a mix. Along with the OB-6, sets the standard for modern analog poly synths. | Like the Prophet 12, a sound designer's dream that performs as either a mono synth or a 4-voice paraphonic synth. It has the depth of a modular and the CV connectivity to interface with one. Sophisticated multitrack sequencer ties into mod matrix and adds vast possibilities. Massive sound is well-suited to leads, basses, effects, complex evolving textures, and more. Nearly endless sonic possibilities. | A sound designer and performer's polyphonic dream synth. Super versatile, it has the depth of a modular but is faster and easier to use. Crystal-clear tone is great for complex pads, effects, and evolving textures, but handles classic synth sounds equally well. Nearly endless sonic possibilities. | All-analog, 4-voice poly synth. Same sound engine as Mopho and Mopho SE. Classic fat analog sound. Great for vintage tones and more. Flexible modulation matrix. A compact and versatile performer in the studio or on stage. |