

Which DSI Synth Should I Buy?

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

FEATURE	OB-6	PROPHET 12	PROPHET-6	PROPHET '08	PRO 2	TETRA	MOPHO	MOPHO KEYBOARD	MOPHO SE	MOPHO x4	EVOLVER
Voices	6	12	6	8	mono/4-voice paraphonic	4	1	1	1	4	1
Split/Stack		2-way split/bi-timbral		2-way split/bi-timbral		4-part multitimbral					
Oscillators per voice	2 (plus sub osc)	4 (plus sub osc)	2 (plus sub osc)	2	4 (plus sub osc)	2 (plus 2 sub osc per voice)	2 (plus 2 sub osc per voice)	2 (plus 2 sub osc per voice)	2 (plus 2 sub osc per voice)	2 (plus 2 sub osc per voice)	4 (two analog, 2 digital)
Oscillator Type	analog VCO	digital	analog VCO	analog DCO	digital	analog DCO	analog DCO	analog DCO	analog DCO	analog DCO	2 analog DCO + 2 digital
Superwaves					Yes						
Linear FM Synthesis (DX-style)		Yes									
Analog Filters	state-variable (custom discrete)	1 low-pass (Curtis) 1 high-pass (custom discrete)	1 low-pass (custom discrete) 1 high-pass (custom discrete)	1 low-pass (Curtis) 2- or 4-pole operation	1 low-pass (custom discrete) 1 state-variable (custom discrete)	1 low-pass (Curtis) 2 or 4-pole operation	1 low-pass (Curtis) 2 or 4-pole operation	1 low-pass (Curtis) 2 or 4-pole operation	1 low-pass (Curtis) 2 or 4-pole operation	1 low-pass (Curtis) 2 or 4-pole operation	1 low-pass (Curtis) 2 or 4-pole operation
Effects	Dual digital effects processor (Chorus, Flanger, Phaser, Ring Mod, Delay, Bucket-Brigade Delay, Reverb - Hall, Room, Plate, Spring) Stereo Analog Distortion	4 Digital Delays 5 Character FX (Girth, Air, Hack, Decimate, Drive) Feedback 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							3 Digital Delays Distortion Tuned Feedback Hack (bit crushing) High-pass filter
Mod Matrix	"X-Mod" 2 sources (Filter Env, VCO 2) 5 destinations (Freq 1, Shape 1, PW 1, LPF, HPF)	16 x 2 26 sources 100 destinations	"Poly Mod" 2 sources (Filter Env, Osc 2) 5 destinations (Freq 1, Shape 1, PW 1, LPF, HPF)	4 x 2 20 sources 43 destinations	16 x 2 50 sources 140 destinations	4 x 2 20 sources 43 destinations	4 x 2 20 sources 43 destinations	4 x 2 20 sources 43 destinations	4 x 2 20 sources 43 destinations	4 x 2 20 sources 43 destinations	4 x 2 24 sources 75 destinations
LFOs	1 global	4 per voice	1 global	4 per voice	4 per voice	4	4	4	4	4 per voice	4
Envelopes	2	4	2	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3 per voice
Sequencer	64-step, polyphonic		64-step, polyphonic	16 x 4 gated step sequencer	16 steps x 16 tracks or 32 steps x 8 tracks monophonic	16 x 4 gated step sequencer	16 x 4 gated step sequencer	16 x 4 gated step sequencer	16 x 4 gated step sequencer	16 x 4 gated step sequencer	16 x 4 gated step sequencer
Arpeggiator	Yes	Yes, programmable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
CV In/Out					Yes, 4 x 4						
Ext Audio Input					Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Performance Touch Sliders		2			2						
Desktop version available?		Yes		Yes		desktop only	desktop synth	Yes (Mopho)	Yes (Mopho)		desktop only
Polychain				Yes, 16 voices max		Yes, 16 voices max	Yes, 16 voices max	Yes, 16 voices max	Yes, 16 voices max	Yes, 16 voices max	Yes, 20 voices max
Keyboard Length	4 octaves, 49 keys	5 octaves, 61 keys	4 octaves, 49 keys	5 octaves, 61 keys	3.5 octaves, 44 keys		5 octaves, 61 keys	2.5 octaves, 32 keys	3.5 octaves, 44 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, Poly Chain	In, Out, Out 2/Thru	In, Out/Thru, Poly Chain	In, Out/Thru, Poly Chain	In, Ou/ Thru, Poly Chain	In, Out/Thru, Poly Chain	In, Out/Thru, Poly Chain	In, Out/Thru, Poly Chain
Pedal Inputs	1 sustain, 1 volume, 1 LP filter cutoff, 1 seq start/stop	1 sustain, 2 expression	1 sustain, 1 volume, 1 LP filter cutoff, 1 seq start/stop	1 sustain, 1 expression	1 sustain, 1 expression			1 sustain, 1 expression	1 sustain, 1 expression	1 sustain, 1 expression	
Recommended For:	Classic big, punchy, analog Oberheim 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. Sets the standard for modern analog poly synths.	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.	Classic big, punchy, 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. Sets the standard for modern analog poly synths.	Classic thick, warm, analog sound. Great for vintage synth tones and more through its flexible modulation matrix. Two-part sound stacking and splitting adds variety and flexibility. A solid analog poly performer in the studio or on stage.	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.	Like a 4-voice, 4-part multitimbral Prophet '08 with additions such as 2 sub oscs and a feedback loop per voice. Same classic warm, analog sound as Prophet '08. Great for vintage synth tones and more through its flexible modulation matrix. Four-part multitimbral operation adds great flexibility. A solid analog poly performer in the studio or on stage. 4-part multitimbral operation makes it great for sequencing multiple parts.	All-analog mono synth. Classic fat sound. Great for vintage synth tones and more through its flexible modulation matrix. Compact and affordable but has a big, powerful sound. Maximum bang for the buck.	All-analog mono synth. Same sound engine as Mopho but with a 32-note keyboard. Classic fat sound. Great for vintage synth tones and more through its flexible modulation matrix. Compact and affordable but has a big, powerful sound. Maximum bang for the buck.	All-analog mono synth. Same sound engine as Mopho but with a 44-key keyboard. Classic fat sound. Great for vintage synth tones and more through its flexible modulation matrix. Compact and affordable but has a big, powerful sound. Maximum bang for the buck.	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.	Monstrously powerful analog/digital hybrid mono synth with true stereo filters and amplifiers. Has both analog warmth and digital grit. Digital waveshapes from the Prophet VS, distortion, tuned feedback, and bit crushing can create edgy, aggressive textures unlike any other synth. A sound designer's dream with a truly massive sound that can go from smooth to threatening with the turn of a knob.