

The VAKO ORCHESTRON was developed by David Van Koevering as a way to license the optical disc technology of the Optigan and Talentmaker to utilize in a professional keyboard instrument to compete with the tape-playing Mellotron. The chord buttons and rhythm sections were jettisoned and only the 37-note keyboard was retained. Though production was limited, several different models were released, including various one-off custom builds for select clients such as Patrick Moraz. Only eight sound discs were originally released for the Orchestron, severely limiting the palette of the instrument and contributing to its failure to catch on. Probably the most well-known users of the Orchestron were Kraftwerk, who featured its distinctive "Vocal Choir" and other sounds on several albums in the late 1970s.

Since 2010, Optigan.com has been making new discs for the Orchestron, significantly expanding its range of sounds.

**HANDLING!**  
HANDLE DISC FROM EXTREME EDGE AND CENTER, AVOIDS FROM TOUCHING LASER OPTICAL SOUND TRACKS. WHEN INSERTING DISCS, HOLD UPRIGHT SO THAT VAKO LOGO CAN BE READ.

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SAN DIEGO, CA, 92105  
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**CAUTION**  
LEAVING THE ORCHESTRON'S DISC DRIVE LEVER IN "OFF" POSITION AFTER SOUND DISC HAS BEEN INSERTED IN DRIVE SLOT COULD CAUSE DAMAGE TO SOUND DISC IF JUICE SWITCH AND LAMP ARE LEFT ON! DUE TO EXCESS HEAT IN ONE AREA.



panoptigon



This disc is compatible with Orchestron and Panoptigon players.

BRASS ENSEMBLE is an entirely NEW sound for the Orchestron. It's a composite of three different trombone recordings and two different trumpet recordings, all taken from the original Optigan/Orchestron master tapes, but never used back in the day! The trombones and trumpets are an octave apart, producing a nice rich brass section sound. Please excuse my awful playing here, which is just a quick noodle to demonstrate the sound!

PLEASE NOTE: This disc WILL NOT play properly in an Optigan! They WILL play, but the sounds will NOT be mapped correctly to the keyboard- they will be mapped mostly haphazardly across the chord buttons. Please don't order this disc expecting to easily use it in an Optigan.

## Disc Care and Handling

- Handle your discs with care to ensure maximum life. Like a fine phonograph record, take precautions to prevent the disc from being scratched.
- Always return the program disc to its sleeve and jacket when it's not being played, and store it flat.
- Although you can hold a disc with your fingers, they should be clean and free of contaminants.
- If a disc does become contaminated, NEVER USE WATER TO CLEAN IT. Clean it with a microfiber cloth, supplemented by a high-quality commercial film cleaner containing a lubricant. Read all usage instructions carefully! Some film cleaners dry rapidly, some slowly, and some have potentially dangerous chemicals that require ventilation when being used.
- If a disc does become wet with liquids containing water, absorb the moisture by blotting with a soft lint-free cloth. Allow the disc to dry thoroughly before use.
- Wipe discs with a microfiber cloth to remove dust.
- Although you can mount warped, creased, or otherwise damaged discs into the Panoptigon, they may not play properly. This might be acceptable for creative or experimental purposes, but for the best performance from your machine, always use quality, undamaged discs.

**Quilter Labs, LLC distributes Optigan, Orchestron, and Talentmaker discs according to a licensing agreement with Pea Hicks who can be reached at [Optigan.com](http://Optigan.com)**

### **All discs are subject to the following licensing arrangement.**

- You MAY use any and all sounds on our Optigan/Orchestron discs to create derivative works for commercial or private use without any further licensing fee beyond the original purchase price of the discs. No credit to optigan.com is required. If your Optigan/Orchestron resides in a commercial studio which you operate, this license also extends to your clients.
- You MAY NOT simply copy the sound contents of the discs and distribute the material directly as sample loops, either commercially or privately.
- You MAY NOT make physical copies of the actual discs themselves, other than for private use/experimentation.

For questions, or more information contact  
Pea Hicks at  
[www.optigan.com](http://www.optigan.com)