by **Kevin Lightner**

As for checking out a Mini, I'd suggest a few tests:

1. Place the pitch wheel in the center and perfectly tune one VCO against the A-440 signal.
Then move the wheel some and place it again in the center.
If the Mini is no longer exactly in tune with the A-440, the pot may be bad.

2. Hold a high note on the keyboard, then play notes below it.
This can help indicate if the key contacts are dirty. (dirty contacts will "glitch")

3. Tune all three VCOs to the same pitch, then change the octave selectors one by one.
If they do not perfectly land on octave intervals, the instrument may need calibration.
If your Mini was an early unit, it could also be that it lacked a later update known as a buffer board.
But Zombie's Mini appears to be a more recent model which came with a buffer board already installed.

4. Check all switches for glitching or noise.
The switches most common to have problems are the two orange switches on the left and the noise's pink/white switch.
The A-440 and main output switch can also make noise when switching, but usually it's normal.

5. It's normal for the overload lamp to flash when the instrument is turned on, but it should not stay on.

6. Verify all pots for any noise when turning.

7. Check all keys for physical noise (clacking when pressed or quickly released.)

There are more tests one could perform, but this can give a rough idea what condition a Mini is in.
This particular Mini appears to be a later model and this is a good thing in regards to wear.

Fwiw, this below is a sheet I've used to evaluate Minis that arrive here for service.
It's not terribly gorgeous, but just helps document problems.

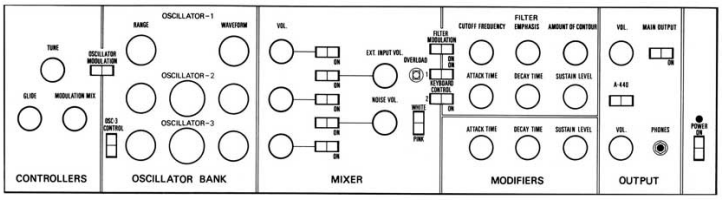
Minimoog Evaluation Sheet
Received By:

Client:
Date:

Serial number

Date of manufacture

Client Desires
____Minimum service (repairs and curative)
____Maximum service (restoration and preventative)
____Emergency spot repair(s)



Overall visible condition
____Scratches
____Rubber feet present
____Original screws missing
____Badges present
____Operative
____Replace external jack hardware

Rust visible? Y / N

A - Bad jack normal
B - Bad trimmer
C - Broken
D - Distorted
E - Intermittent
F - Low volume
G - Missing screw
H - Needs repair
I - No input
J - No output
K - Noisy
L - Repaired
M - Scratchy
N - Out of Tune
O - Missing Knob
P - Clean
R - Replace
S - Resolder
T - Tested

Oscillators
____Newer
____Older
____Ancient

Power cord
_____Clean
_____Replace
_____Missing 3rd prong

External input tested
_____Audio
_____Oscs
_____Filter
_____VCA

A440
_____Verified
____In tune

Headphones
____Verified
____Repair

Knobs
____Clean
____Missing
____Replace
____Some
____All

Hardware needs
___Replacement
___Tightening

___ Boards need resoldering
___ Replace keyboard CJ connector
___ Needs calibration

Panel
____Good
____Scratched
____Bubbled
____Ignore
____Refurbish

Noise source
____Good
____Level adj required

Switches
Range switches
____Clean
____Replace
____Mod
Waveform switches
____Clean
____Replace
____Mod
Toggle switches
____Clean
____Replace
____Mod

Fuses
____Values verified

Miscellaneous Notes: