

Hello! I hope you are well! April flew by, and I've been knee-deep with so many projects and feeling quite behind. But doing my best to gain on it. I don't think I anticipated the number of requests one gets when they start doing content online – it's remarkable and rewarding. There is no shortage of content possibilities or ideas to explore. This is especially true with the all-new Nord Stage 4, which I now have my hands on (Compact version). So, it took me a few months to get my head around the beast, to be honest. There is a LOT to it. It has tons of capability and lots of knobs, lights, buttons, sliders, and possibilities! My first thought was, "I wonder if there's a course for this because I need help!" Ok, that's kind of a joke, but there is a small amount of truth to that. Even for me, it's going to take a bit of time to get my head around it and figure out the most efficient workflows.

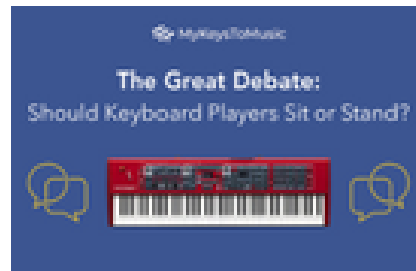
**Some of you may be wondering: a few have asked directly if I plan to make a course for this. That was my plan (for years).** But last night, I started second-guessing why one would pay for a course when they can get the same training for free with the dozens of online videos that will surely spring up in the coming weeks/months on YouTube from every YouTube creator who has their hands on one. This includes the official Nord training videos put out by their UK Distributor with their "speedy tutorials." Is there really a need for me to make a separate paid course? Obviously, I've had success beyond my wildest imagination with the number of students that run through the courses today, but there is a practical side of me that says, "Why recreate the wheel?" My wife and daughter think I'm crazy and should move forward regardless – there's always room for more learning. It just pains me when I see someone create the exact same training online – it makes me think I'm wasting time doing the exact same thing over again. **I'll put some thought into this, and perhaps I can add a different spin on the NS4 course by using more practical examples along with the teaching.** I know many of you are very supportive of this and are ready to sign up today if a course was available.

***In the meantime, here is a list of 6 things anyone who just got their Nord Stage 4 coming from a Stage 3 needs to know:***

1. Get to know the Solo button. You simply can't survive without it – there's too much going on otherwise.
2. There are now shift buttons now – the one on the right allows you to single-handedly adjust effects – too cool for words!
3. Spend some time getting to really learn the new "FX Focus" capability. It will either follow your active engine or you can run independently. Knowing which effect you are on and how that effect tree works is worth spending the time to experiment.
4. For those of you wanting to use the Stage 4 as a multi-timbral instrument driven from a computer, you can independently control all sound engines at the same time, each on their own channel. That's 7 voices – not too shabby.
5. For those of you attempting to use a non-Nord sustain pedal with your brand-new NS4, you may have to set your pedal settings to "Normally Open" for it to work. Note there is a dedicated "Pedal" button in the system settings now because there are so many keyboardist options. I think you need a course just on pedal possibilities!
6. For those of you that find yourself playing "key bass" here and there, experiment with the all-new B3 Bass option. This might allow you to relieve your synth engine from having to supply a sampled bass sound. However, you may need to add additional bass in the EQ to pull it off. I've had mixed results with the B3 bass in a live setting using the Nord Electro 6, but it's worth a try to see if you like it. Doing that keeps all 3 synth engines available for other fun stuff on the program. Perhaps you only need to use it when you absolutely need 3 additional synths for the song you're on.

## Blog: The Great Debate: Should Keyboard Players Sit or Stand?

This post discusses the benefits of sitting versus standing as a keyboard player and shares examples of famous keyboardists' preferences.



[Read Now](#)

## YouTube: The Amazing Sounds of Styx: Fooling Yourself (for the Nord Stage 3)

We explore the amazing keyboard sounds from a song called "Fooling Yourself (The Angry Young Man)" from the rock group Styx. The sounds are programmed by me using the Nord Stage 3 keyboard.



[Watch Now](#)

## Patreon: MIDI Bass Pedals with the Nord Electro 6

Here is a video for those just wondering, "What the heck are bass pedals, and how do they work exactly?" While doing that, I hope it sheds more light on your specific question!



[Watch Now](#)

## Shorts: Will You Be Buying a Nord Stage 4?

About a month ago, I created a survey to see who would buy a Nord Stage 4. Check out the results in this YouTube Shorts.



[Watch Now](#)

