Performance Notes

Notes regarding the SOLO features
There is a confusing bit about the two "SOLO" features. The SOLO in the menu-screen is slightly different than the SOLO hotkey. In the menu-screen, it's a feature that lets you try out new voices where you can silence the rest of the channels, so you can hear what you're doing.

The SOLO setting from the Hotkey is rather the opposite. It's intended to work with a multi-zone setup on the fingerboard. When you select a Zone and apply SOLO to it, the Zone is expanded to fill the entire fingerboard so you can play a solo with it. Likewise, if you select several zones and hit the SOLO button, they will all be layered and expanded to fill the fingerboard. This is a quick way to try out new combinations of sounds.

Regarding Open-Strings

Open-strings are available in the Guitar/Trigger Mode (One-Note-per-String/Strumming On). Open string may also be set up as pedal tones in either of the Piano (Triggers Off or Tapping style) modes by assigning the proper notes to the strings in the Sensor menu of the VRX. This makes use of the Chord-Memory feature.

Regarding the joystick

In accordance with the MIDI spec, the ZTAR joystick outputs the full bend range from 0 to 7F. The actual pitchbend range in musical pitch is set inside the receiving Synth to correspond to the joystick full-scale output.

Hammer-ons/ Pull-offs

Technique-wise, be aware that the fingerboard keys move quickly and that contact is made when the key is fully depressed. This means that when performing pull-offs in Guitar/Trigger mode, the pulled-off note comes out as soon as you raise your finger, note when you've cleared the string as with a real guitar string. The Ztar gives you separate control over hammer-ons and pull-offs in the Hammer-menu. For best performance, always keep your fingers as close to the keys as possible to minimize the finger travel. This is good practice for the guitar, too.

Fast strumming of chords

When strumming chords quickly without muting anything, as in a Flamenco-style rasqueado motion, some voice-stealing may occur in your synth as some samples will not send Note-Offs until the sample has fully played out. Without muting anything you'll be issuing lots of Note-ons with possibly no Note-offs. Consequently, when the maximum allowable notes (for a given patch) have been entered into the synth, the older notes will start to drop out to make room for the newer notes.

Tune up the Ztar and your synth to a piano or other fixed pitch instrument
Program the Volume pot or Mod Wheel (if you have one) to Pitchbend and adjust the pitch until you're in tune! That's it!

Pedal steel
Set up the fingerboard in six channels, one per string. Now set the KeyTriggers or TriggerPads to PitchbendUp in this way: KeyTrig#1 bends Strings1 and 2, KeyTrig#2 bends strings 2 and 3, KeyTrig#3 bends strings 1 and 3, and so on. By setting up combinations of strings, which are bent, and setting up the right tuning, you can emulate the pedals of a pedal steel. A simpler approach just bends each string from its corresponding KeyTrigger.

Regarding the Octaves Tuning

The Octaves tuning puts the adjacent strings in a one-octave offset relationship. Each string on the fingerboar d is a duplicate of the others, note for note. Only the octaves vary.

What this means is that it will take two hands to play a full one octave scale. That is, you can not play a full scale in one hand position.

But that can work to your advantage in other ways. Because all of the strings are tuned the same, (but for the octave), your fingering does not change when you move from string to string. With two hands on the fingerboard you can really fly as you move across the strings without having to change you hands' positions.

Try it and you'll discover some awesome arpeggios and scales sitting under your hands that can sweep from the high register to the low register in the blink of an eye!