

Fritz Noack dead at 86

July 1, 2021



Fritz Noack

Fritz Noack, 86, died June 2. Born in Germany in 1935, he apprenticed in organbuilding with [Rudolf von Beckerath](#) in Hamburg between 1954 and 1958. He would work with Klaus Becker and Ahrend & Brunzema, also in Germany, before coming to the United States, working briefly for the [Estey Organ Company](#) in Brattleboro, Vermont, and later with [Charles Fisk](#), then with the [Andover Organ Company](#) in Methuen, Massachusetts.

In 1960, he founded the [Noack Organ Company](#), then located in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The workshop would move to Andover, Massachusetts, in 1965 for larger space. In 1970, the company moved to its present location, a former schoolhouse in Georgetown, Massachusetts, where an erecting room was added to the building. More than a dozen organbuilders, including the principal personnel of various other firms, have received their training here.

Noack was active in various professional organizations, including service as the president of the [International Society of Organbuilders](#) from 2000 to 2006; he also served two terms as president of the [Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America](#). He taught organ construction and building at [New England Conservatory](#), Boston.

In early 2015, Noack retired from his company, turning its leadership over to Didier Grassin. At that point, the firm had built nearly 160 instruments, installed throughout the United States and abroad in locations such as Iceland and Japan.

From [The Diapason](#) website.