

VORTEX

A collaborative effort between Club No-No and Pladask Elektrisk. VORTEX is an experimental synthesizer aimed for use as both a rhythmic and arrhythmic noise and texture generator. It can be triggered by an external sequencer or be played on its own. Many of its parameters are highly interactive with one another, making VORTEX challenging to master and exciting to explore.

ON / GATE:

In the ON position the synthesizer is active and independent. In the middle position the synthesizers power supply is heavily starved. In the GATE position the power starvation can be controlled by an external device connected to the gate input jack.

HOLD & NORM/INV:

For use when VORTEX is triggered by an external clock signal or impulse response. In NORM (normal) mode a trigger input causes the synthesizer portion of the circuit to be powered for a duration set by HOLD after which its supply is starved. In INV (inverse) mode this operation is inverted. Charge from the power supply is temporarily stored in a capacitor. Starving the power causes this capacitor to discharge. Depending on the parameter settings this can be heard as a gradual power-off (a tail).

V/S (Internal DIP switch):

Chose between Voltage Trigger and Short-Circuit Trigger for the gate input. Among others V-Trig is used by Roland while S-Trig is used by Moog, Korg & Yamaha.

VOLT:

Setts the amount of voltage starve when VORTEX is active. Highly interactive.

FREQ & 1 / 2 / 3:

FREQ sets the general pitch of the synthesizer. In its most basic form the synthesizer generates a rhythmically phasing arpeggio sequence set by the 1, 2 & 3 knobs. The frequencies of which can be set to create rhythms (below 20Hz) or voicing (above 20Hz). Highly interactive.

MODE:

Chose between three general modes of operation. The upper and middle modes creates different flavors of arpeggio, while the bottom mode produces a more steady tone-generator.

FEED:

Feed the synthesizer back into itself. This parameter might require some getting used to. As with many other parameters FEED is highly interactive. Higher feedback settings can cause anything from gated rhythms to silence to high pitch melodies. Explore how MODE and FEED work together.

Octaves (- / 0 / +):

Activate a combination of three different octaves.

TONE & VOL:

An active low pass filter with just a touch of resonance. Rotating the knob adjusts the cut off frequency from 220 Hz to 22kHz. VOL sets the synthesizers master volume. The TONE and VOL circuits are not starved by the VOLT and GATE functions. VORTEX has a *lot* of volume on tap. Take care not to damage your equipment and hearing.

GATE:

Gate input from external sequencer. The jack or mini-jack sockets are interchangeable. Use one to connect to the external trigger source and the other to link the trigger signal to another VORTEX or other device. Both mono and stereo cables can be used. The socket doesn't care.

OUT:

Standard mono output.

Technical Specs

Output Impedance: ~1k Ω
Current Draw: 30mA
Voltage: 9V DC center negative (Normal Boss/Ibanez/1Spot power supply)
Does not support battery operation
Weight: 525g
Dimensions: 145mm x 125mm x 65mm