

Digitana

Micro Punk Robot

User guide

Thank you for purchasing a Digitana product, please print out and keep this user guide for your reference on care and use. Be sure to read it through before using your new Micro Punk Robot.

Introduction

The Digitana Micro Punk Robot is a small voltage controlled stepped tone generator, it consists of 2 square wave oscillators, one of which is cyclic and the other is a one shot, the cyclic oscillator is constantly retriggering the one shot oscillator. The 2 controls Freq1 and Freq2 control the pitch and pulsewidth respectively, moving these controls results in interesting stepped tones.

Below the Freq1 and Freq2 controls there are 2x 2 way switches controlling the overall range of each oscillator, there are also 2 CV inputs and a reset input for controlling your Micro Punk Robot externally with modular or other CV equipment such as the Digitana MicroStep or similar.

Power

The Micro Punk Robot has a 3.5mm power socket, you can connect a PP3 9v battery using the supplied lead, or alternatively you can use a 9v power supply with a 3.5mm jack positive tip. Always use a high quality power supply for the best performance.

If you want to get creative you can use a CV signal to power the Micro Punk Robot for interesting results, the voltage can range from anywhere between 5 and 15 volts positive voltage, negative voltage could damage the unit so make sure you know exactly what range your CV source is sending. The voltage will affect the pitch of the

unit, lower voltages can result in interesting power starve effects.

Using it

Using a mono 3.5mm jack lead connect the Micro Punk Robot to your mixer, modular synth or amplifier whilst the volume on your equipment is turned down, then slowly raise the volume to a comfortable level with both Freq1 and Freq2 controls set in the centre position, and both range switches set to the "HI" position, once you are happy with the volume you can then play as required.

Interfacing

Your Micro Punk Robot is designed to be used with external equipment for best results, using the 2 CV inputs, power input and Reset input many cool sounds and textures can be achieved, all the inputs are designed to accept voltages in the range of **0v to 15v positive DC voltage only** deviation outside this range may damage your unit so be absolutely sure you are aware of what voltage you are using. We have tested the Micro Punk Robot with lots of common CV and Gate equipment including Doepfer, Roland, Blacet, Korg and Moog with no problems, but if you are in any doubt that your equipment is suitable for connecting to the Micro Punk Robot consult the user manual or contact the manufacturer just to be sure.

Lets take a look at the various input jacks and their function

CV1 and CV2 affect the squarewave generators, these are NOT 1v per octave so do not expect anything like normal pitch tracking, however using an analog sequencer to drive these inputs can result in melodic results. The Freq1 and Freq2 knobs will have a direct result on how the CV signal affects the sound, you can input LFO's or analog sequencers for pitch and tone changing results, or try using VCO's or other audio sources for really cool waveshaping/cross modulation/FM type results. Don't be afraid to experiment as some very unusual things can occur.

Reset input acts like a gate function when sent a Gate signal, but you can also experiment with CV and audio as well for interesting results.

Power input is normally where you would connect the battery or a suitable power supply, however the choice of a 3.5mm jack for the power input means it too can be used as another source of modulation.

Tips

The Micro Punk Robot is designed for the experimental user, so remember these points:

The CV and Reset inputs can be used for voltage or audio signals but you may need to boost some audio sources for best results.

The power input can be used for power starve or pitch changing results, just remember to stay with 5-15v positive DC, the jack is wired for positive tip, ground sleeve.

The audio out jack can be used as a modulation source, try sending it into a VCF or VCO CV input.

Sometimes the CV or audio from the sending device may benefit from attenuation or boosting for the optimum performance.

The Micro Punk Robot responds very well to filtering, waveshaping and FX, a typical example is using a low pass filter with a low cutoff frequency for huge bass sounds, but again experimentation is encouraged.

With even a small modular system or semi modular synth the Micro Punk Robot can add lots of great options, try it and see. We hope that you will find many interesting and useful combinations, during product testing we were able to come up with lots of new sounds and fx from a very simple set-up.

Care and cleaning

Please do not use any chemical cleaners on your Digitana product, to clean simply wipe with a dry or slightly damp cloth.

Contact

If you have any questions or comments about your Digitana product please visit www.digitana.co.uk where you will find up to date contact information.

We are always interested to hear our users music, feel free to send us some audio or video of your work, we may even put it on the website if you'd like.

Please consider registering with the mailing list, as a valued customer we would like to keep you up to date with developments and offer you discounts, see the website for further details.

Thank you again for choosing a Digitana product, we hope you get many years of enjoyment from it.