



Microstep User Guide

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Digitana Microstep, we hope you get a lot of enjoyment from it, please read through this guide to familiarise yourself with its operation.

The Microstep is a low cost simple 8 stage analog sequencer, it is designed to work with CV equipment such as modular and vintage synthesizers.

In order to keep the cost low the Microstep has a very simple feature set, but as you will learn it can still be a very useful and inspiring device.

Power

Always use only the included power supply to power your Microstep for reliable operation, it is able to work anywhere in the world and provide the correct operating voltage. Simply plug into the wall outlet (if you are not in the UK you will need a convertor plug) and the small tip into the inlet on the left side of your Microstep.

Connections

Starting from the top of the unit left to right:

Trig in – Accepts a squarewave or clock signal, you can also try using a drum machine trigger output, or a positive gate signal. Each positive pulse will advance the sequencer 1 step forward, step is held until 1 cycle is complete. Other waveforms can be input but may cause the sequencer to step in unusual ways (hint!)

Reset – Can be used to shorten the sequence by connecting from one of the 8 pulse outputs, or a trigger can be used to reset to step 1, ideal when used with a drum machine for obtaining more interesting sequences.

Trig Out – The same signal that is input to trig in is sent out here. Can be used as a gate/trigger for a monosynth, envelope generator etc.

CV – Voltages from each stage are sent out from this socket, typically you would connect a VCO or monosynth CV input here, but can be interesting when connected to other CV controlled gear.

Pulse outputs – Each stage has its own socket that will send a pulse the duration of 1 clock cycle, use for resetting the Microstep when connected to reset in, or to fire envelope generators, clock other gear etc.

Controls

CV width – Controls the global range of the CV output, lower settings result in narrower range but with finer tuning, higher settings result in a larger range and coarser tuning.

Power – Use to turn on and off the Microstep, also functions as a manual reset.

Knobs 1 to 8 – Set the voltage to the associated step.

Ideas for use

Try using a very fast clock such as a VCO for interesting results.

Experiment with using a drum machine trigger output to clock the unit, this way you can set up irregular step lengths, also try patching into the reset input.

Connect the step input to a gate output on a monosynth, then patch the CV output to the monosynth filter CV input, each time you play a key the sequencer will step resulting in a different filter setting for each keypress until 8 is reached then the cycle begins again.

Waveshapes other than trigger pulses or squarewaves can cause the Microstep to clock in strange ways, such as random, backwards, skipped steps and more.

The pulse outputs can also be used as CV inputs if the voltage is no more than 5v positive, the input CV will affect the voltage for the step where it is input only. Can be used to add vibrato for example if an LFO is input.

Troubleshooting

The Microstep has been designed to work with a wide range of equipment, and has been tested with many different devices to ensure compatibility, however some equipment that we have not tested may result in undesirable operation.

The most likely cause of incorrect operation will be the result of incompatible signals especially where clocking is concerned. If the unit is not clocking correctly you may need to attenuate or amplify the clock signal, if you have any difficulty please email support@digitana.co.uk