



USER'S MANUAL

v1.99.19*BETA (pre-2.0) RELEASE* (August 5, 2022)

THE CENTRE



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Part I

Before Start

Software Update

Software Update is the most important process to keep your unit updated with the latest features and bug fixes as well as to keep it safe from breaking during update process. Updating process is fairly simple from user perspective although there might be some issues with downloading files because of specific Internet Browser behaviour during downloading.

1. Download latest firmware release from Github https://github.com/1V-0ct/3318_the_centre_releases/releases
2. Copy downloaded firmware file into SD Card (make sure that the filename is: 'the_centre_v4.fwx' and it is in root directory of your card)
3. Insert SD Card into The Centre
4. Power on The Centre or perform Reset
5. Go to [[System Menu]] and check firmware version.

■ *NOTE: Sometimes Safari, Explorer and other browsers add some extra bits to the filename like '(1)' or '_1' to indicate that it is different file than already downloaded. Please rename the file to the correct name.*

Calibration

TL;DR: I came here to calibrate and not read poems... Here is YouTube video that shows Calibration of The Centre:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEFr7RkuP7k>

2.1 Why Calibrate?

In the ideal world things are well... ideal. Although in real world things are not perfect and this is where term tolerance kicks in. Every electronic component has tolerance. Usually measured in percentage and usually this tolerance is like %1 for resistors and %5 for capacitors. Each circuit contains multiple electronic components and tolerances of those components add together making quite a huge percentage tolerance of the circuit. When circuit is operating the tolerances of this circuit do not change. Tolerance just change component properties at manufacturing stage. Therefore the circuit is always stable but might be slightly off.

Of course there are different ways to deal with the non-ideal circuits. Some of them are expensive (on hardware level) and some of them are quite cheap. One of those methods is calibration.

Calibration allows to establish default values returned by circuit under controlled environment and use them as reference points.

2.2 Calibration of music instruments

Many music instruments need calibration. Even tuning the piano or guitar. For digital or hybrid modules like The Centre the calibration process is to connect a well calibrated source of pitch that will provide stable value of voltages at two or more reference points. Usually two points are enough. The software will recalculate all the values and will apply proper algorithms to always generate correct pitch for voltages.

2.3 Calibrating The Centre

The Centre needs two voltages separated by 2V. In other words, the centre needs a Control Voltage (CV) for two C notes separated by 2 octaves. Ideally that would be C1 and C3 but many current MIDI keyboards supply only voltages between 0V and 5V which translates to C2 and C8. Yep, there is no standard for V/Oct assignemnt of voltage to notes so at 1V/OCT we assume that C2 is 0V. It does not matter anyway, because every V/Oct input has Octave and Note correction anyway.

To calibrate V/OCT inputs press two middle buttons (button 2 + 3) and it will bring System Menu. From there select "Calibrate" and press encoder down (select).

Now every channel can be calibrated individually or 4 inputs at the same time. Use encoder to select channel or all channels (when calibrating all channels use signal splitter to send CV voltage for calibration (pitch) to all inputs).

Now follow instructions on screen. First send any note from your keyboard except note C (we calibrate by C notes) and press Start (button 1). Now press any low octave C note (lets say C3) wait 10 seconds for next instructions, move two octaves up and send note C5. Wait 10 seconds and your unit is fully calibrated.

Now you can Save your calibration settings and enjoy your fully calibrated unit.

What's In The Box

Your Eurorack module comes packaged in the box together with:

Accessory bag

There is tiny bag included with your The Centre.

Inside this bag you will find:

1. 8 small caps for knobs
2. 4 small caps for buttons
3. 5 sets of washer + nut

https://github.com/1V-Oct/3318_the_centre_releases.wiki/images/accessory_bag.jpg

The Buttons

You might want to alternate between black and white buttons. It is very easy to change button caps. Just use pliers to remove the cap and put the other one.

Knobs Caps

The 8 "attenuator" knobs are naked because if you want to change face plate those caps sit very tight and they are hard to remove therefore I haven't installed them. It's very easy to install. Just position the pot in centre and put the cap pointing to the top. Thats it.

Washer + Nut Sets

I haven't put all those under big Level knobs. They are not necessary because there is no pressure applied and 4 already secures plate well. If you want all of them attached that's why they are inside this bag.

BPM

Many modules require clock to ensure synchronisation to given time interval requirements. Whether this is simple Random Note Generator (RNG) or Low Frequency Shaper (LFS) the supplied clock ensures that duration of quarter note in one module equals duration of quarter note in another module. There are multiple standards or just ad-hoc designs defining different number of clock pulses per beat. The most popular one is MIDI standard that established 24 clocks per quarter note (24 PQN).

The Centre by default uses 24 clocks per quarter note (beat) but this value can be changed globally for all modules. That setting can be adjusted in Global Settings and can vary between 24, 12, 6, 4, 3, 2 and 1 clocks per beat.

■ *When using MIDI to control The Centre it is recommended to keep 24 CPQN (Clocks Per Quarter Note) to adhere to MIDI standard.*

Beats Per Minute (BPM) is a measure used in electronic music to define time interval of music. Beat in electronic music is equivalent to quarter note and there are 4 quarter notes to bar (4/4 tempo). The Centre by default configures all modules to work at 120BPM. 120 Beats Per Minute that's 120 beats per 60 seconds and in the end one quarter note duration is half second or 500 milliseconds (ms). To change default tempo it is necessary to provide modules with clock input via Clock CV (CLK) on modules inputs. The clock can be submitted via CVY input, MIDI input or generated internally via Clock Module (CLK). By adding CLK module we can generate Clock for other modules derived from user defined tempo.

Part II

System Overview

Audio Outputs

Audio Outputs is a fundamental mechanism of transferring audio between modules and out of The Centre. There are 4 output channels via **VOUT1** to **VOUT4** 3.5mm jacks that output audio level signal. VOUTs are DC coupled thus capable of sending output of utility modules such as LFS (Low Frequency Shaper - free shape oscillator) or ENV (AHDSR Envelope) or even triggers and gates.

Virtual Buffer Output called in The Centre by shortened name **VBuf** is a concept of transferring audio inside The Centre between modules without occupying outside outputs. VBuf can be understood as a buffer that stores audio that can be then assigned to another module (or a few modules) and further processed individually.

The most important part of VBuf is that every module within The Centre has own VBuf. Furthermore VBuf Output of a module can be used as VBuf input to other modules without being modified.

★ WTO can output to VBuf and then VCF processes WTO input. At the end MIX module takes input from WTO VBuf (original oscillator signal) and VCF Vbuf (filtered oscillator signal) and MIX module can act as Dry/Wet Mixer for those two signals. In such scenario WTO VBuf (oscillator output signal) is being sent unmodified to two modules (VCF and MIX).

Audio Outputs are integral part of almost every module. Audio output of some modules can be configured to **Stereo** or **Mono** while some modules will output only single channel (Mono). Certain modules that take input of **VBuf** will detect if the input is Mono or Stereo and process it accordingly.

CV Internal Outputs

Modules in Thw Centre nopt only output Audio Signal (that can be routed inside the module to other modules or outside of the module). Each module outputs Internal CV Signals that can be routed to other modules and used as CV (Control Voltage) Inputs. See: Module Inputs

★ VCO outputs two CV signals, VCO.OSC (output of oscillator) and VCO.RST (reset signal when phase of oscillator resets). The VCO.RST signal can be used as input of another VCO in Inputs: VCO Hard Sync that resets phase of oscillator. This way two VCOs can run in sync.

Module Inputs

8.1 Overview

Each module in The Centre has configurable set of inputs. Each input is composed out up to 4 components. Those components are either **VALUE** or **CONTROLLER**. The most common input is a triplet Level-Attenuator-CV. Level and Attenuator components can be represented either by VALUE or by assigned CONTROLLER (knob). CV component can be assigned to either external CV input (3.5mm jacks labelled CVY (gates) and CV (Control Voltage)) or to the internal output of another modules.

★ A good example of internal CV connection: ENV (AHDSR Envelope) Module and VCA (Voltage Controlled Amplifier) module connected via Input:Modulation of VCA to the output of envelope module Output:ENV.ENV.

8.2 Changing VALUE and CONTROLLER in input configuration mode

In the Input Screen of each module, we can use encoder (SELECT) to navigate through list of inputs and then use knobs to change VALUE or CONTROLLER of component at the selected Input. Please see below diagram to understand mapping of knobs in the Input Screen.

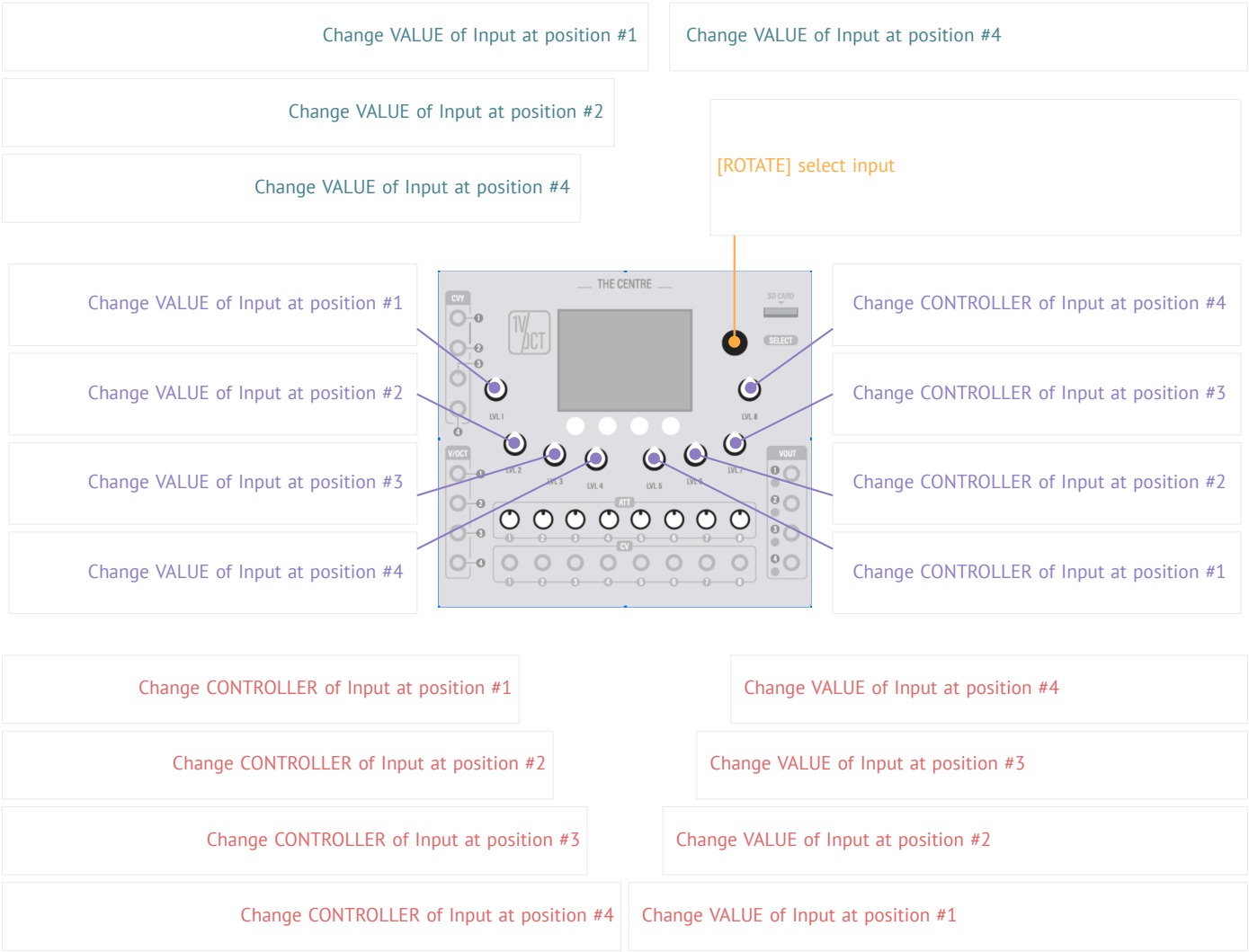
8.3 Individual component configuration

Assigning knobs

Another convenient way of changing knobs assignment is by pressing **Assign** button and switching to individual component setup in Assign Mode. In this mode Encoder (SELECT) navigates through all components of inputs individually and when placed upon Level or Attenuator component it is enough to rotate designated knob slightly to get it assigned to the component.

Configuring Components

In individual component configuration pressing buttons Ctrl, Val and Assign switches between operation modes of changing CONTROLLER, VALUE or switching into Assign Mode described above. In those individual mode ANY knob will change either VALUE or CONTROLLER depending on selected mode.



Pitch Control

9.1 Overview

The Centre pitch control affects following modules: WTO, VCO, SMP. Pitch control is generally change of frequency of sound based on configuration of input.

9.2 1V/Oct

1V/Oct is an abbreviation from "1 Volt per Octave" and is a method of controlling pitch (frequency) of oscillator where increase of Control Voltage (CV) by 1 Volt doubles the frequency of oscillator effectively increasing pitch by one octave.

There is no clear standard what voltage results in what note therefore between manufacturers of equipment there are clear differences on what 0V (zero Volt) results in.

Some suggest that 0V should give "Middle C" note but it is also unclear what Middle C is even in MIDI standard (note 48 or 60 are the most commonly suggested) or maybe the 0V should result in frequency 440Hz which is commonly used as tuning frequency for A note.

The Centre follows Moog standard and defines 0V (zero Volt) for MIDI Note C4 and ultimately frequency of 261.63Hz (assuming concert pitch A4 is 440Hz).

9.3 Note Control in Inputs

The Centre Note Control for Note controlled values is configured in Inputs:NOTE:

| | | | | | |
|------|------|----------|------|---|---|
| SD | TL | wto_test | VCO | 8 | 1 |
| Note | | | | | |
| VOCT | OCT | NOTE | FINE | | |
| -- | -- | -- | -- | | |
| 36 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | | |
| AM | | | | | |
| LVL | ATT | CV | -- | | |
| -- | -- | -- | | | |
| 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| Val | Ctrl | Assign | Back | | |

VOCT

1V/Oct input for note control. This input can be either set as value (fixed), get input from external modules or synthesizers by V/OCT 1-4 3.5mm input jacks or get input from any other modules CV output. Mostly the output from internal modules should be named .NTE (like: RNG.NTE Random note generator, note output).

■ VOCT is the only dynamically controlled component that controls pitch

OCT

Tuning note by octaves +/- 8 octaves

NOTE

Tuning note by semitones +12 semitones (one octave)

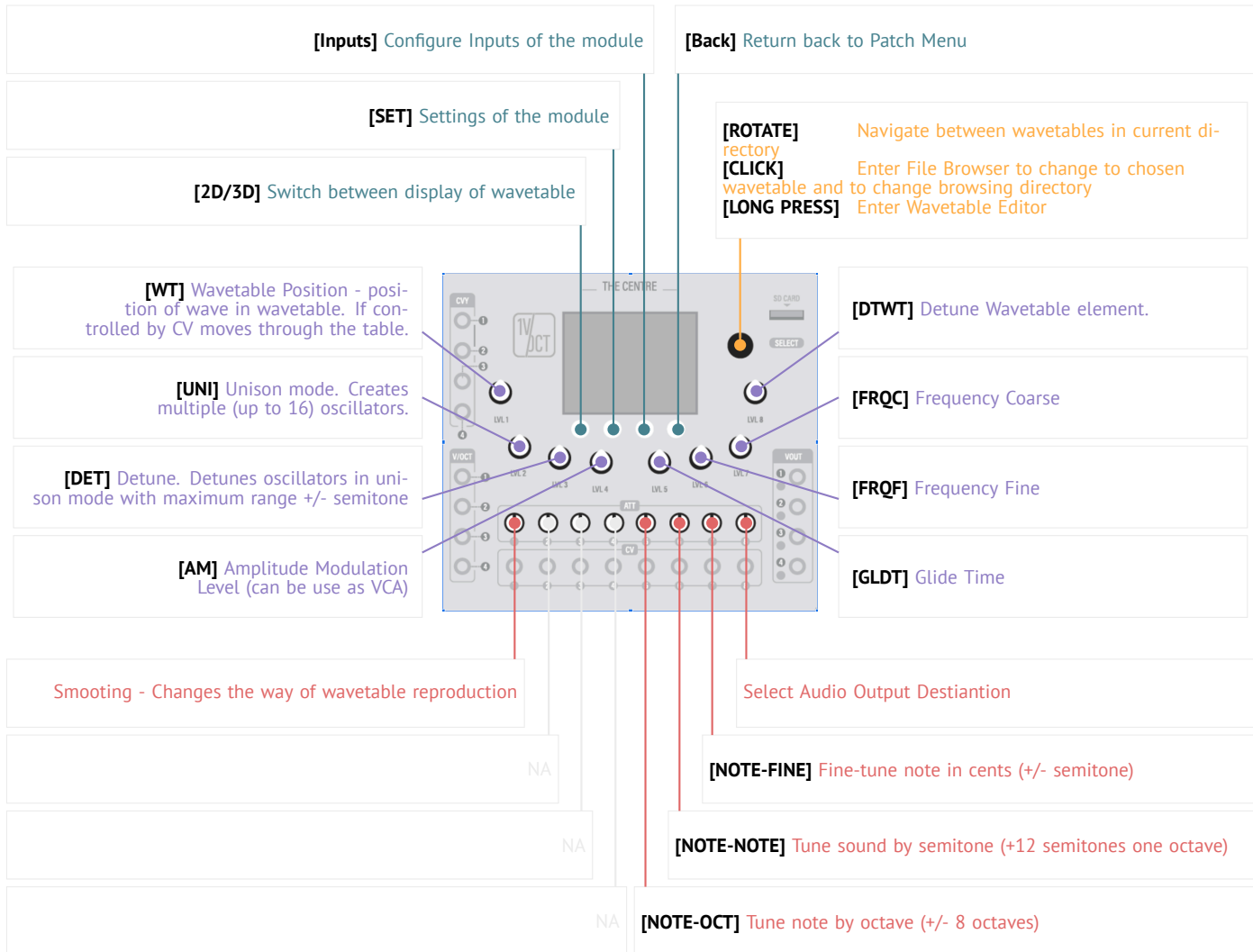
FINE

Tuning note by cents +/- one semitone

Part III

Module Reference

WTO - Wavetable Oscillator



Wavetable Oscillator (WTO) is the main building block of The Centre sound. WTO consists of 1 to 16 oscillators working in Unison mode and reproducing loaded wavetable with possibility to detune pitch of oscillators and detune played waveforms at different positions in wavetable.

WTO - Wavetable Oscillator

Settings

Audio Output *Audio Output of WTO - Stereo*

Selects audio output destination for WTO. All oscillators including Polyphony mode are output through single channel (Mono or Stereo).

See: [Audio Outputs](#)

Polyphony *Paraphony mode for WTO oscillator*

1 Paraphony disabled, one pitch control for WTO

2, 3, 4 Paraphony of 2, 3 or 4 oscillators running different pitch. If oscillator 1 pitch comes from V/OCT1 input then pitch for following oscillators will come from corresponding V/OCT2 - V/OCT4 inputs

Glide Scaled *Scaling of Glide Time by distance of pitch*

Off Glide Time will be same for pitch portamento between any notes

On Glide Time will change depending on distance of pitch. Glide Time set by Input Glide Time (see below in Inputs) will be for distance between pitch of one octave. For notes played within same octave will be in fraction of semitones separating pitch of following notes

Warp Mode *Function used to process waveform during oscillation*

Warp Mode specifies extra function that is used to process waveform according to modulation that is supplied via Input **Warp Mode**. Currently only one function is enabled.

Off No processing of waveform

FM Warp Mode Input will modulate frequency (FM) of waveform

NOTE *Pitch control of oscillator*

Note controls pitch or frequency of oscillator.

See: [Pitch Control](#)

VOCT 1V/Oct input for note control/

OCT Tuning note by octaves +/- 8 octaves

NOTE Tuning note by semitones +12 semitones (one octave)

FINE Tuning note by cents +/- one semitone

Unison *Unison mode (1-16 voices)*

Enables unison mode and controls number of oscillators running in parallel.

Detune *Detune oscillators*

Detunes oscillators in Unison mode by spreading them equally in Detune range. With detune set at maximum the spread range is 2 semi-tones. With odd number of oscillators the centre oscillator will always be following pitch from Note Input. For even number of oscillators there is no oscillator following Note and each oscillator is detuned +/- from the center note.

★ With Unison running two oscillators, detune set to maximum (1.0) and pitch set at note D there is one oscillator playing note C# and one playing note D# (no oscillator is actually playing note C)

Inputs

WTO - Wavetable Oscillator

Inputs

Wavetable *Wavetable position*

Adjusts position of waveform in wavetable. When controlled by CV allows changing texture of sound by scanning through set of waveforms contained in wavetable

Reset Osc *Reset Oscillator CV input*

When connected with CV input and set to high level it resets phase of oscillator to 0. Useful to run oscillators in Sync

AM *Amplitude Modulation*

Amplitude modulation changes sound level. Connected with CV signal of Envelope acts as VCA. Connected with LFO creates ring modulator

Detune WT *Detune Wavetable Position for oscillators in Unison mode*

In Unison mode this parameter will detune position of waveform in wavetable for individual oscillators. Each oscillator will reproduce different waveform thus creating more textured sound.

★ A wavetable with 3 waveforms (triangle, sine, square) and Unison of 3 oscillators and Detune WT parameter set at 1.0, each oscillator will play unique waveform: triangle, sine, square - respectively

Frequency Coarse *Adjust Frequency of oscillator in big steps*

Adjusts frequency of oscillator in range of 0Hz to 100Hz (in frequency mode) or between 1/256 note and 8bar (in BPM/note duration mode)

Frequency Fine *Fine tune frequency of oscillator*

Adjust frequency of oscillator in very small steps

Glide Time *Portamento (pitch glide) time*

Time to glide from one pitch to another upon change of pitch (Note). Glide time is in range of 0s to 1s.

■ This parameter is affected by Setting *Glide Scaled*. With Glide Scaled set to OFF the time that it takes to glide between two notes is constant and defined by Glide Time, with Glide Scaled turned ON, time is determined by pitch distance of notes played.

Warp Mode *Modulation parameter for waveform modulator*

Warp Mode is modulation parameter usually via CV to be used with Warp Mode function selected in Settings Warp Mode parameter

Outputs

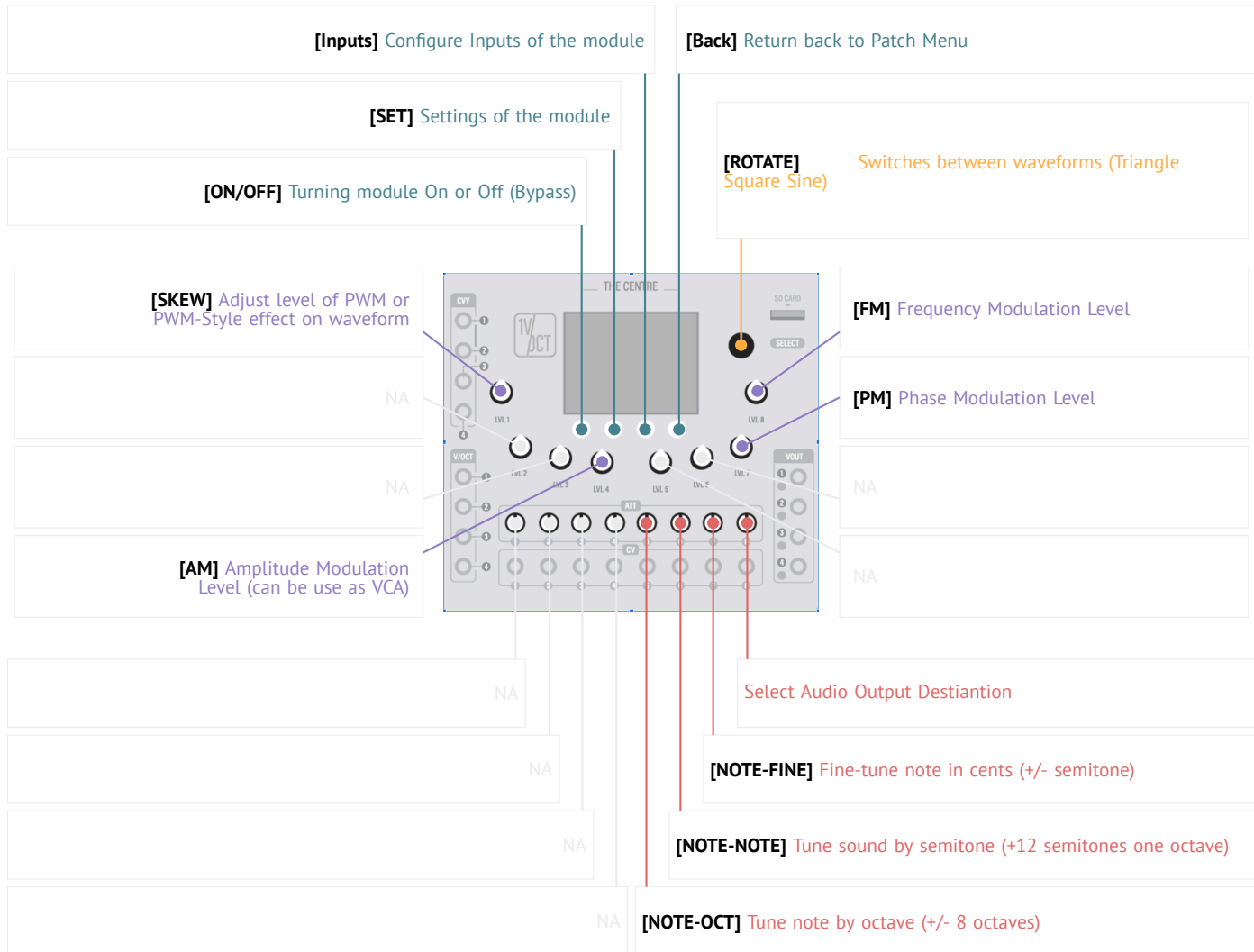
OUT *Output of WTO*

Output of wavetable oscillator

RST *Oscillator reset*

Set to high when oscillator phase resets

VCO - Voltage Controlled Oscillator



Wavetable Oscillator (WTO) is the main building block of The Centre sound. WTO consists of 1 to 16 oscillators working in Unison mode and reproducing loaded wavetable with possibility to detune pitch of oscillators and detune played waveforms at different positions in wavetable.

VCO - Voltage Controlled Oscillator

Settings

Audio Output *Audio Output of VCO*

Selects audio output destination for VCO.

See: [Audio Outputs](#)

Waveform *Selection of Waveform*

Triangle

Standard triangle waveform. The waveform is affected by Input: Skew and changes from Ramp through Triangle to Saw

Square

Standard square waveform. The waveform is affected by Input: Skew that modifies PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) of the waveform

Sine

Standard sine waveform. The waveform is affected by Input: Skew that modifies it to two assymetric sine phases.

■ Adjusting certain ratios of negative and positive half sines by modifying Skew parameter will add very interesting harmonics that go well with Diode Ladder filter.

NOTE *Pitch control of oscillator*

Note controls pitch or frequency of oscillator.

See: [Pitch Control](#)

VOCT

1V/Oct input for note control/

OCT

Tuning note by octaves +/- 8 octaves

NOTE

Tuning note by semitones +12 semitones (one octave)

FINE

Tuning note by cents +/- one semitone

AM *Amplitude Modulation*

Amplitude modulation changes sound level. Connected with CV signal of Envelope acts as VCA. Connected with LFO creates ring modulator

FM *Frequency Modulation*

Frequency modulation is a change of frequency by modulation.

■ Adding a modulator to CV input of FM and having it running at certain ratio of frequency to the actual VCO will create interesting sound texture

Skew *Modify assymetry of waveform*

Skew affects assymetry of waveform by turning Triangle into Saw or Ram or modifying PWM of Square wave. See above in Settings: Waveform

Hard Sync *Reset phase of oscillator*

Resets phase of oscillator and starts oscillating from the beginning of waveform.

★ By connecting two VCOs detuned slightly through VCO1 Ooutput: Reset to VCO2 Input: Hard Sync we can create ver rich texture of simple oscillation

PM *Phase Modulation*

Phase modulation allows modulator to modify phase of oscillator. Unlike FM (Frequency Modulation) Phase Modulation can operate oscillator in reverse mode by turning its direction.

OSC *Output of VCO*

Output of oscillator signal

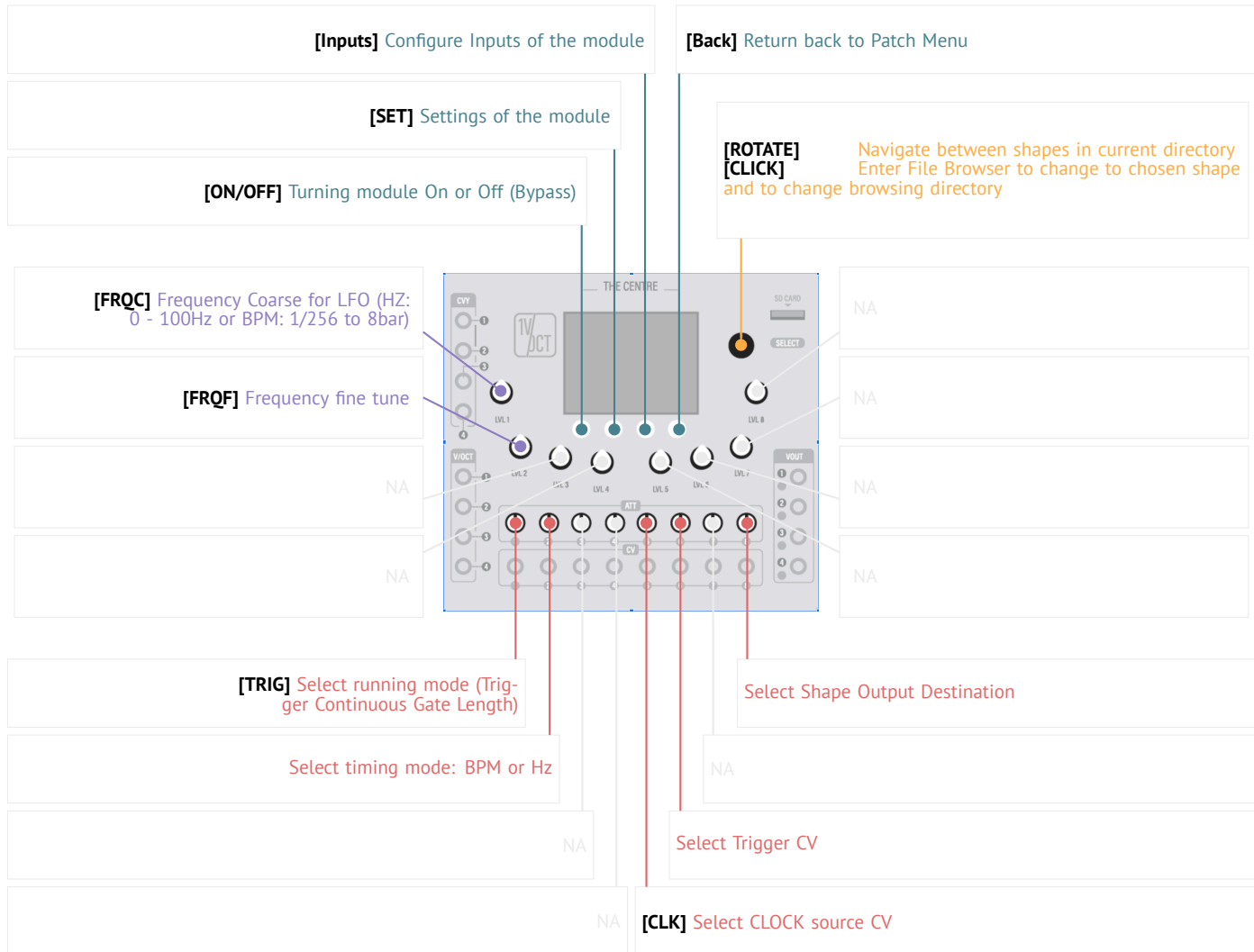
RST *Oscillator reset*

Set to high when oscillator phase resets

Inputs

Outputs

LFS - Low Frequency Shaper



LFS Low Frequency Shaper (Low Frequency Oscillator generating irregular shapes)

This module creates low frequency oscillations of irregular shapes. The shapes can be either edited by user or imported from .shp (Serum) and .vitallfo (Vital) formats.

To load a shape press **[SELECT]** (Encoder down) and navigate in file browser to directory with shapes and press **[SELECT]** again to load the desired shape.

Rotating Encoder cycles through shapes in current directory.

LFS - Low Frequency Shaper

Settings

Running Mode *Select type of running mode of low frequency shape*

- Continuous** Oscillator keeps running and never stops. Gate High (Trigger) signal will reset oscillator phase to 0.
- Trigger** Oscillator runs once upon the gate signal high and runs complete shape once and stops generation when phase of shape ends. Another trigger signal will reset phase to 0.
- Gate length** Oscillator runs as long as gate signal is high. Stops immediately when signal goes to low.

Timing Mode *Select timing mode for LFS*

Timing for LFS can be either selected to be calculated in Hz for more time based experience or tied to BPM and measured in length of notes or bars.

- BPM** Timing based on note duration
- Hz** Timing based on frequency

Polarity *Polarity of output*

- Bipolar** Outputs shape in range -5V to +5V. Good for Ring Modulation or FM
- Unipolar** Outputs shape in range 0V to +5V. Good for VCA

Inputs

Trigger *Trigger CV input*

Trigger or gate signal that initiates or resets oscillator

Clock *Clock for timing oscillator's phase duration in BPM mode (otherwise 120BPM is used)*

Frequency Coarse *Adjust Frequency of oscillator in big steps*

Adjusts frequency of oscillator in range of 0Hz to 100Hz (in frequency mode) or between 1/256 note and 8bar (in BPM/note duration mode)

Frequency Fine *Fine tune frequency of oscillator*

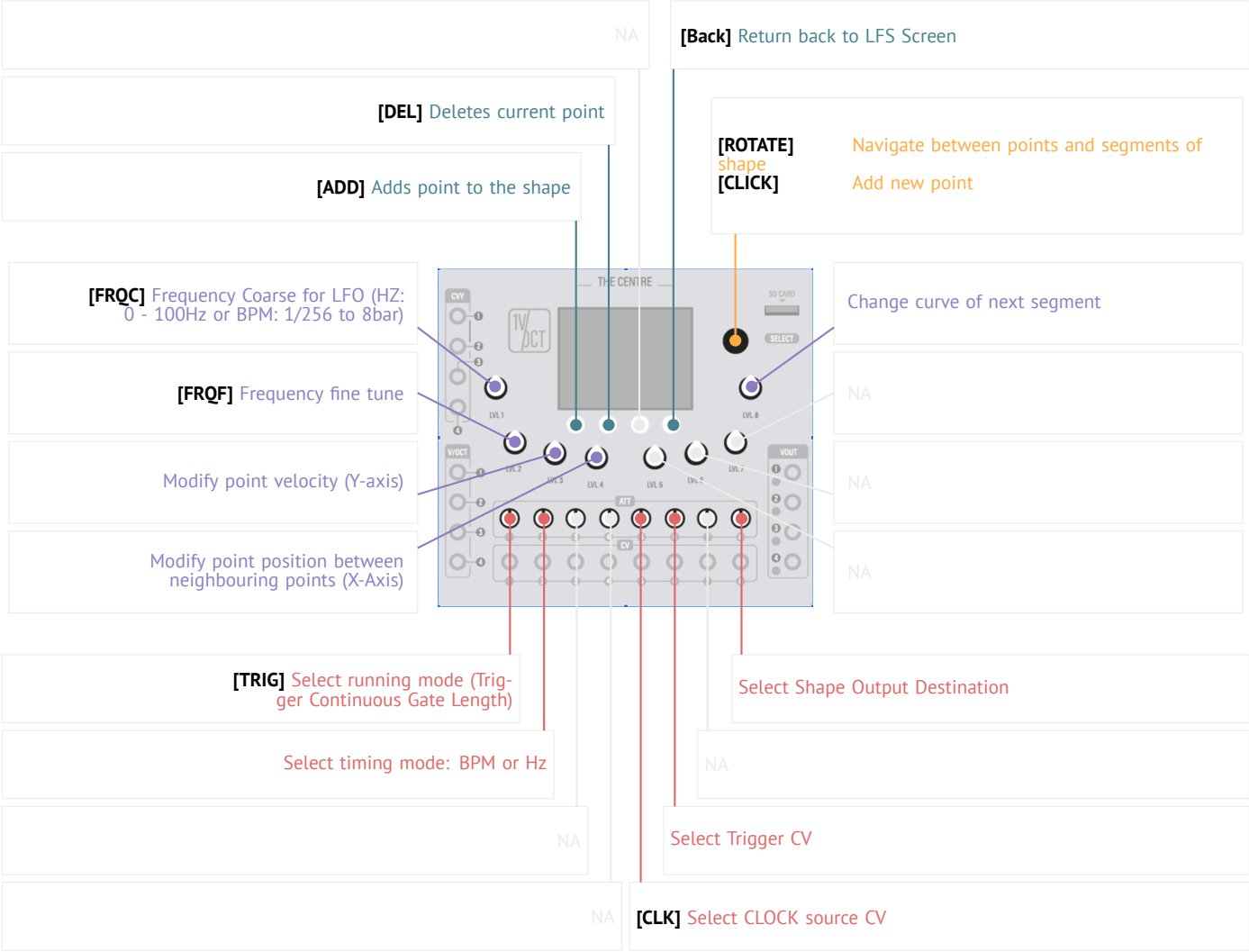
Adjust frequency of oscillator in very small steps

Outputs

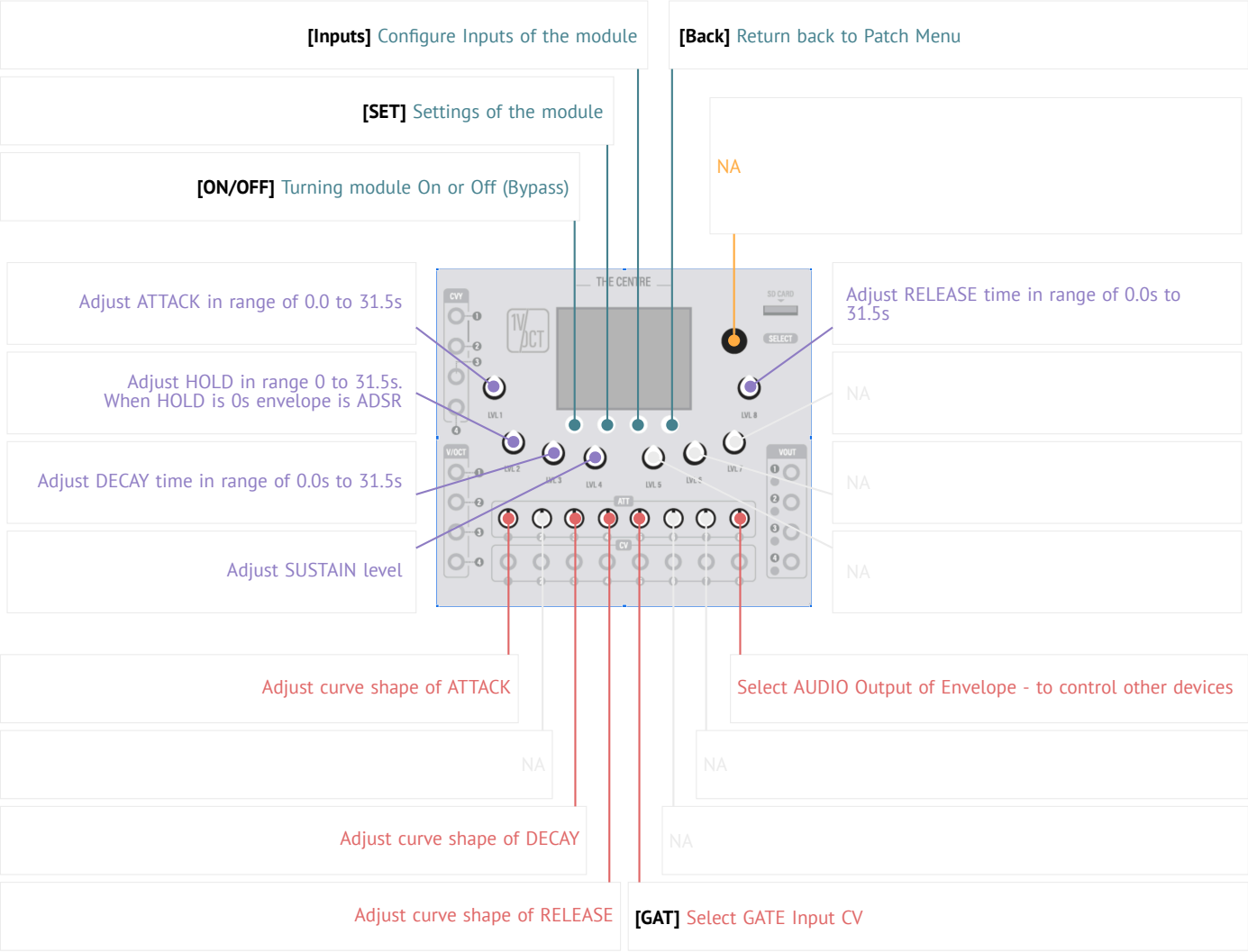
SHP *Output of*

Output of shape oscillator that can be used to modulate other signals

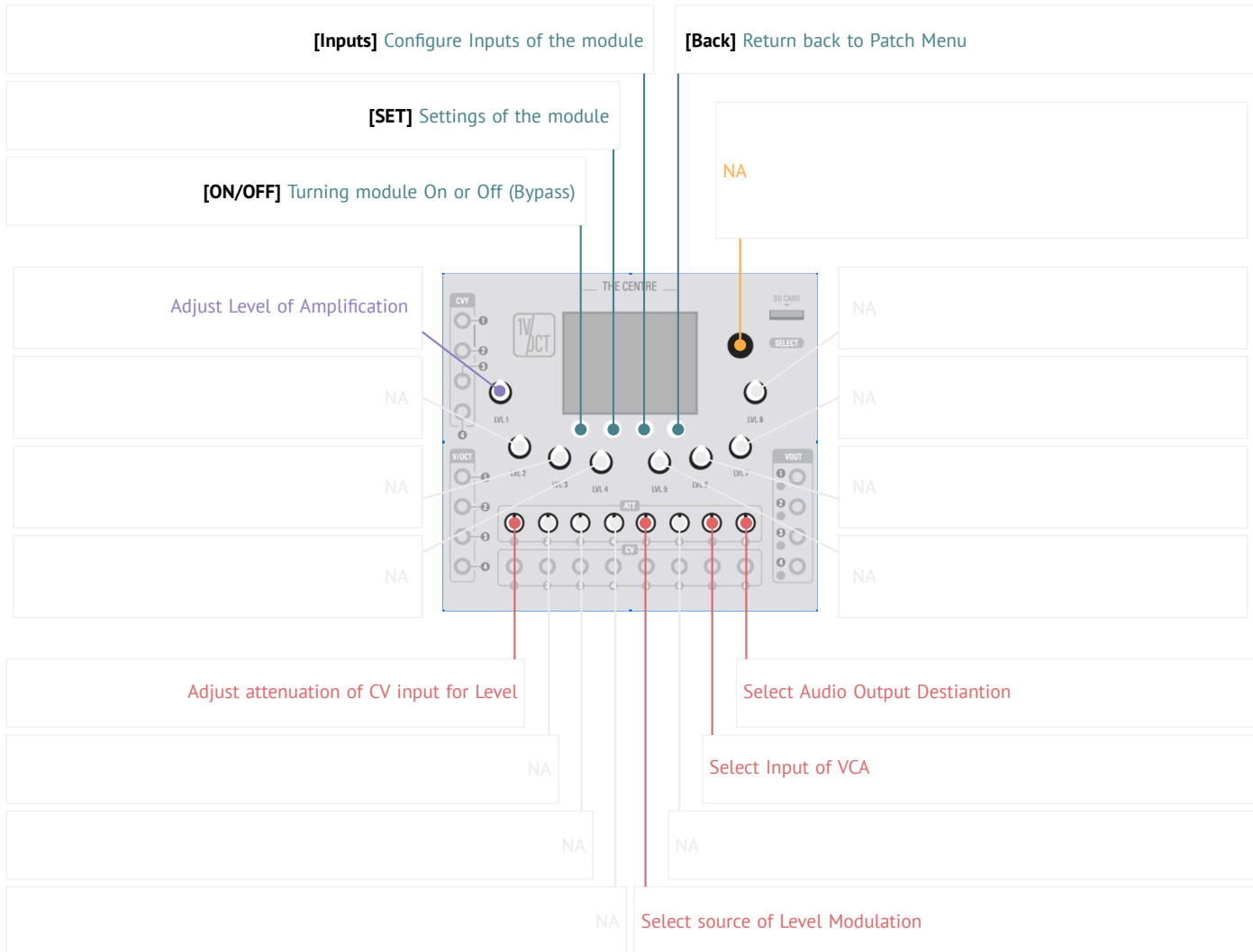
LFS - Shape Editor



ENV - Envelope Genereator



VCA - Voltage Controlled Amplifier



Voltage Controlled Amplified modulates level of signal with level of modulator. VCA performs simple Amplitude Modulation of those signal resulting in reduced volume (level) of audio signal.

★ Usually modulator signal is coming from Envelope Generator (ENV) in from of AD, ADSR or AHDSR envelopes and applied to the uadio signal coming from audio source like oscillator will result in the plucking or raising sound.

Sidechain is the technique to duck (reduce) audio signal when another audio signal needs to be more prominent. The sidechain modulator is an envelope of the prominent signal and is substracted from envelope of audio signal coming to VCA to reduce level of the secondary signal.

★ Sidechaining is used to reduce level of bassline when kickdrum is being played. Very often both kickdrum/bassdrum and bassline share the same low frequencies and if mixed together they result in muffled sound. By loweering the amplitude of bassline at the point kickdrum plays, kickdrum envelope is send to sidechain input of VCA and VCA will reduce level of bassline by the amount of sidechain. This way low frequencies of kickdrum will be heard over the bassline.

VCA - Voltage Controlled Amplifier

Settings

Audio Output *Output of VCA*

Audio Output of processed signal by VCA. Signal has amplitude modulated by sum of two modulators: Level and Sidechain.

See: Audio Outputs

Audio Input *Audio signal to be modulated*

Audio signal (can be any signal) that will have amplitude (level) modulated with modulator Input: Level

Level *Modulation of sound level*

Modulation of level of sound. Amplitude modulation with Unipolar (only positive) modulator (usually envelope)

Sidechain *Opposite modulation of level*

Sidechain is a reverse signal to damp the level of primary signal modulation.

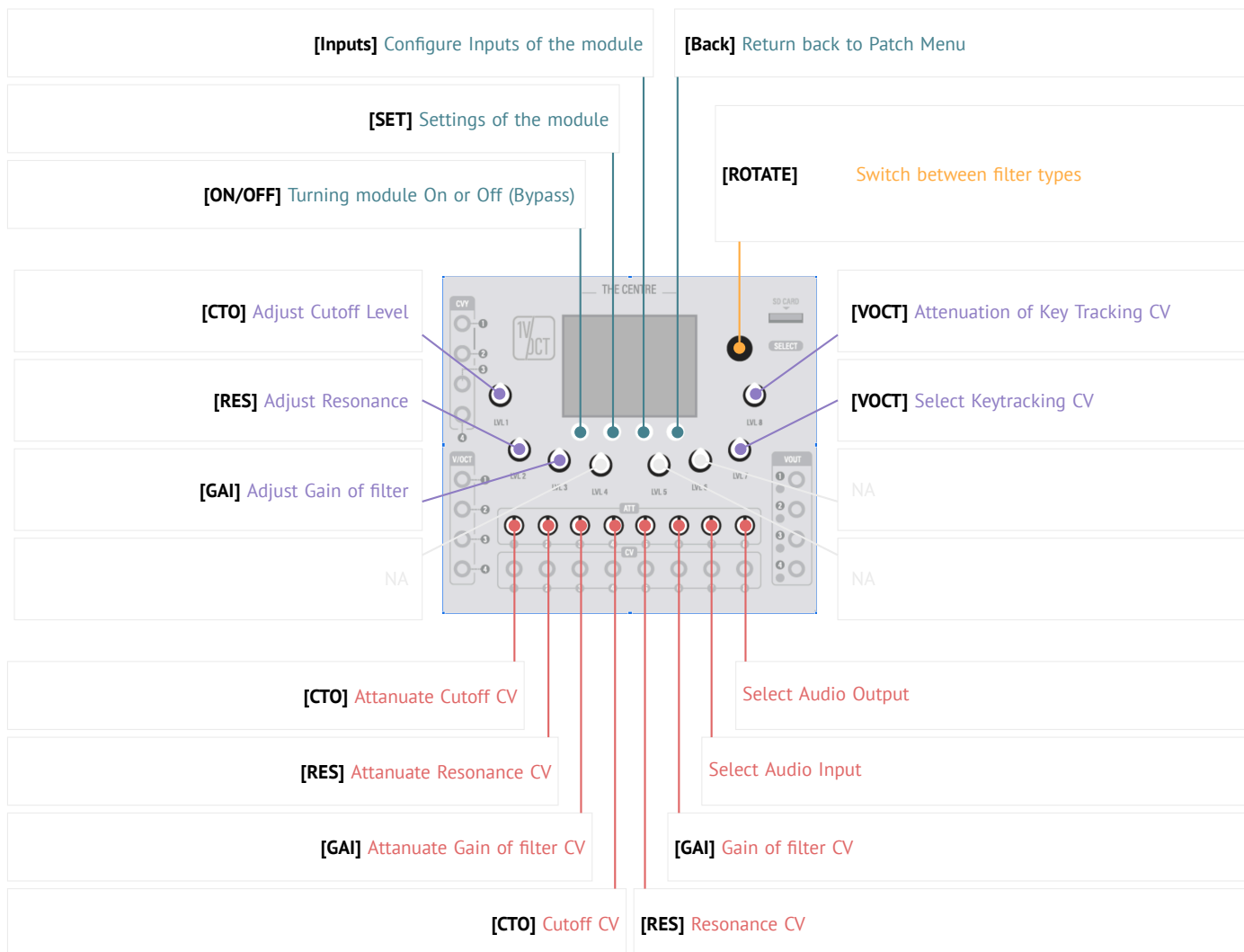
★ Usually used to duck the amplitude of bassline when kick drum comes in to remove interfering frequencies

Inputs

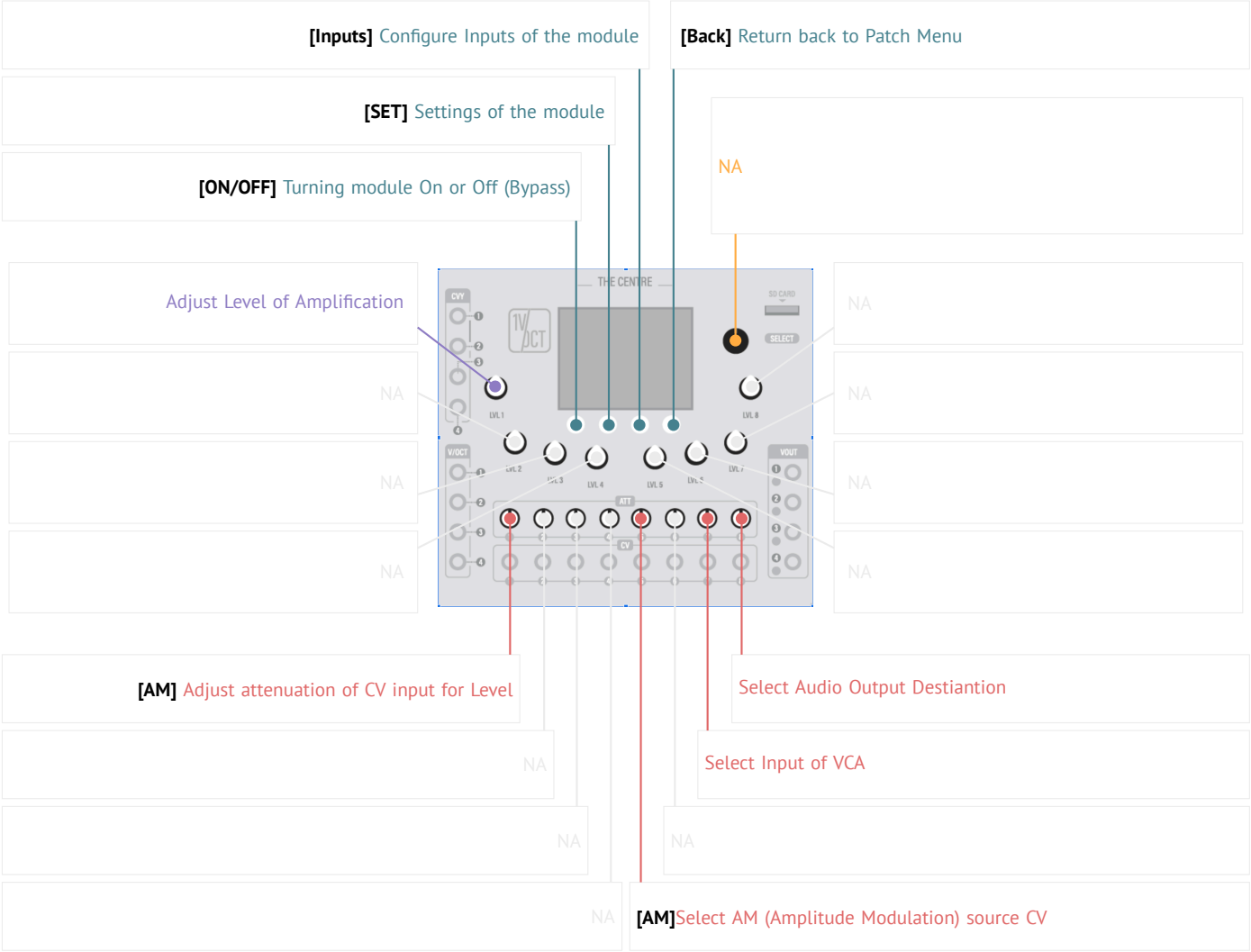
Outputs

NONE

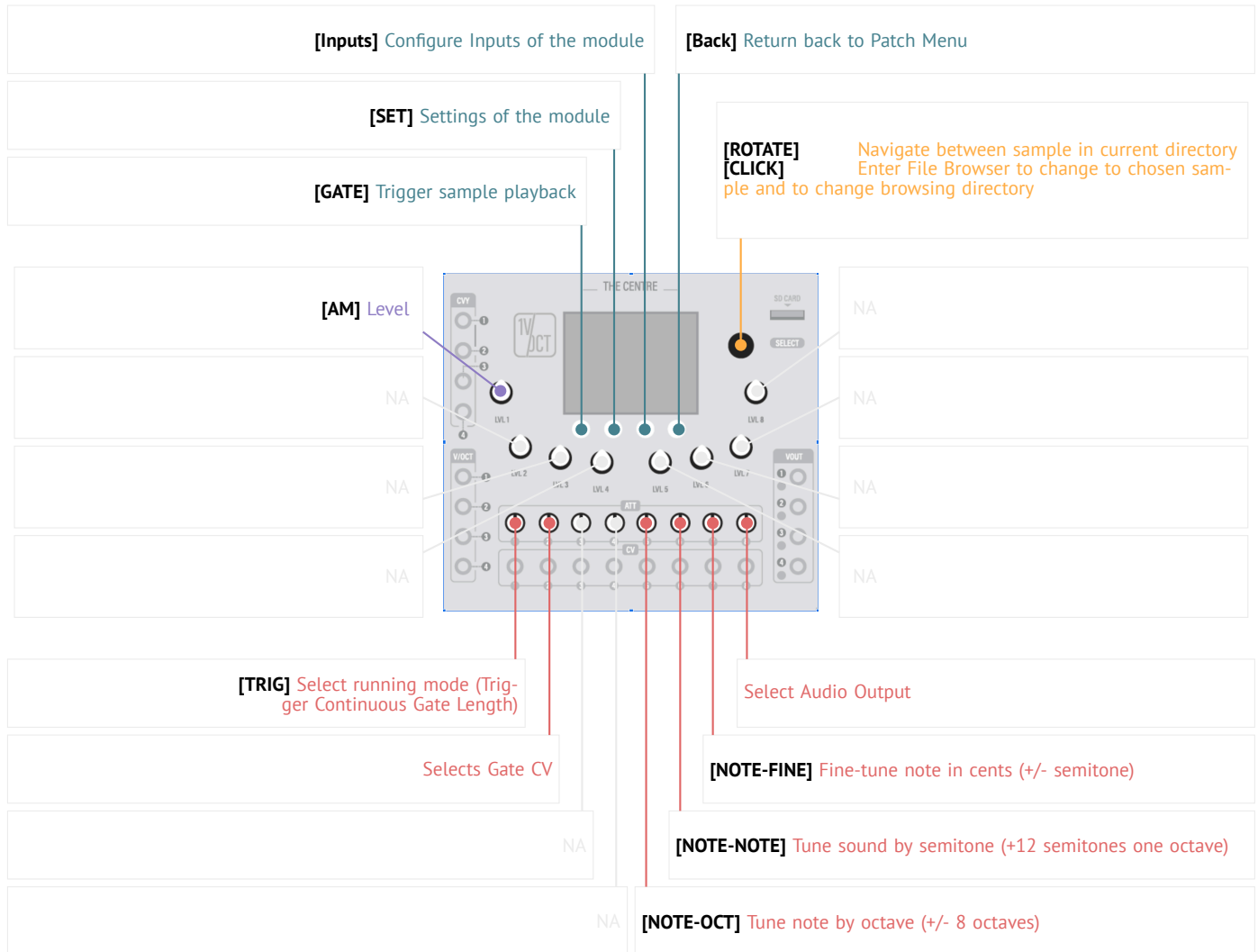
VCF - Voltage Controlled Filter



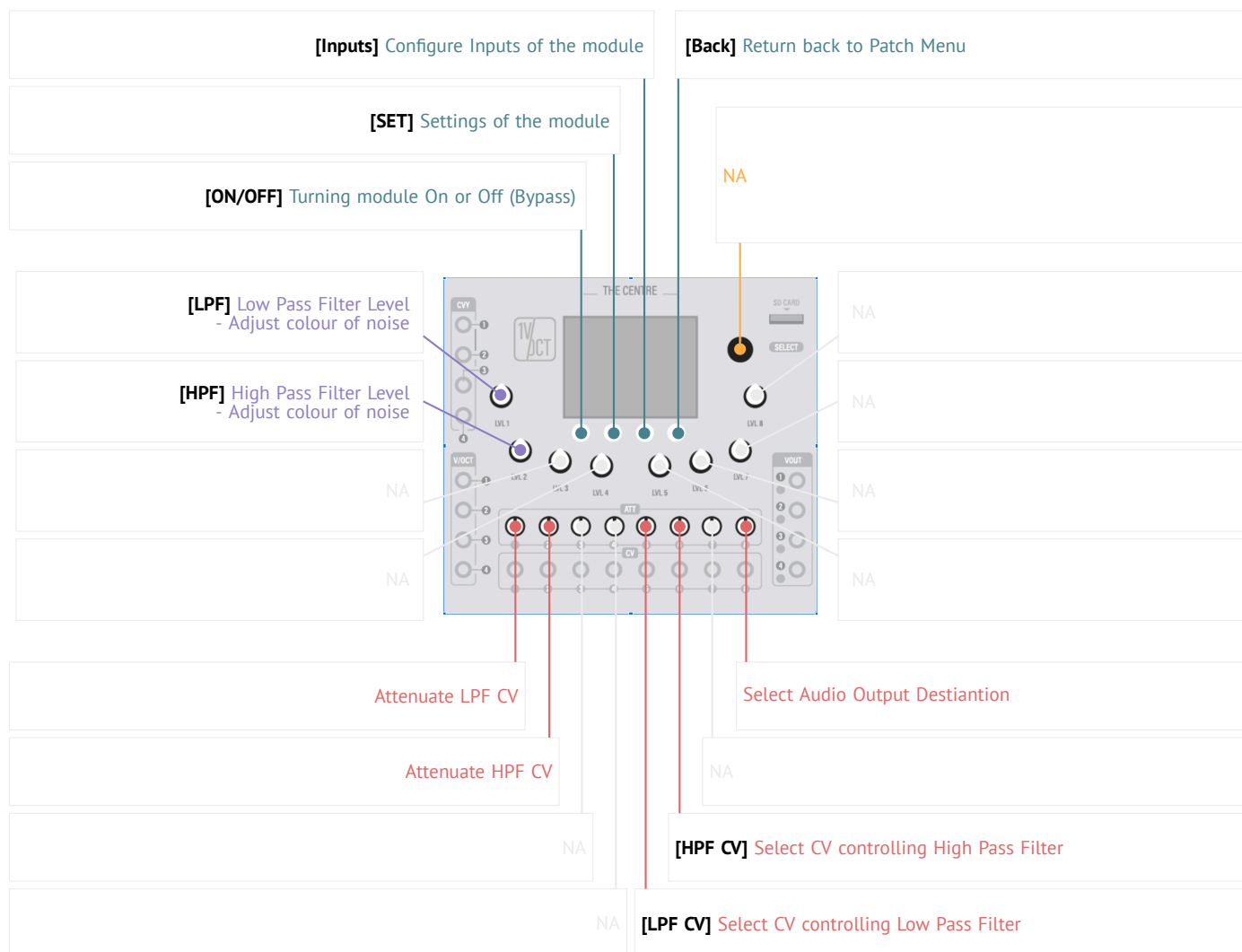
BRM - Balanced Ring Modulator



SMP - Sample Playback



NOI - Noise Generator



DLY - Delay

[Inputs] Configure Inputs of the module

[Back] Return back to Patch Menu

[SET] Settings of the module

[ON/OFF] Turning module On or Off (Bypass)

[CLICK] Exit

[DLY] Delay time 0s - 4s

[ECH] Percentage of echo added after delay time

NA

NA

NA

NA

NA

NA

NA

Select Audio Output

Select Audio Input

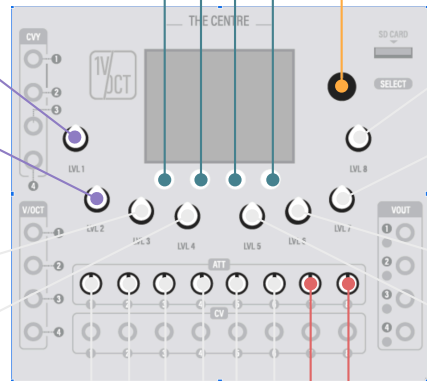
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NA

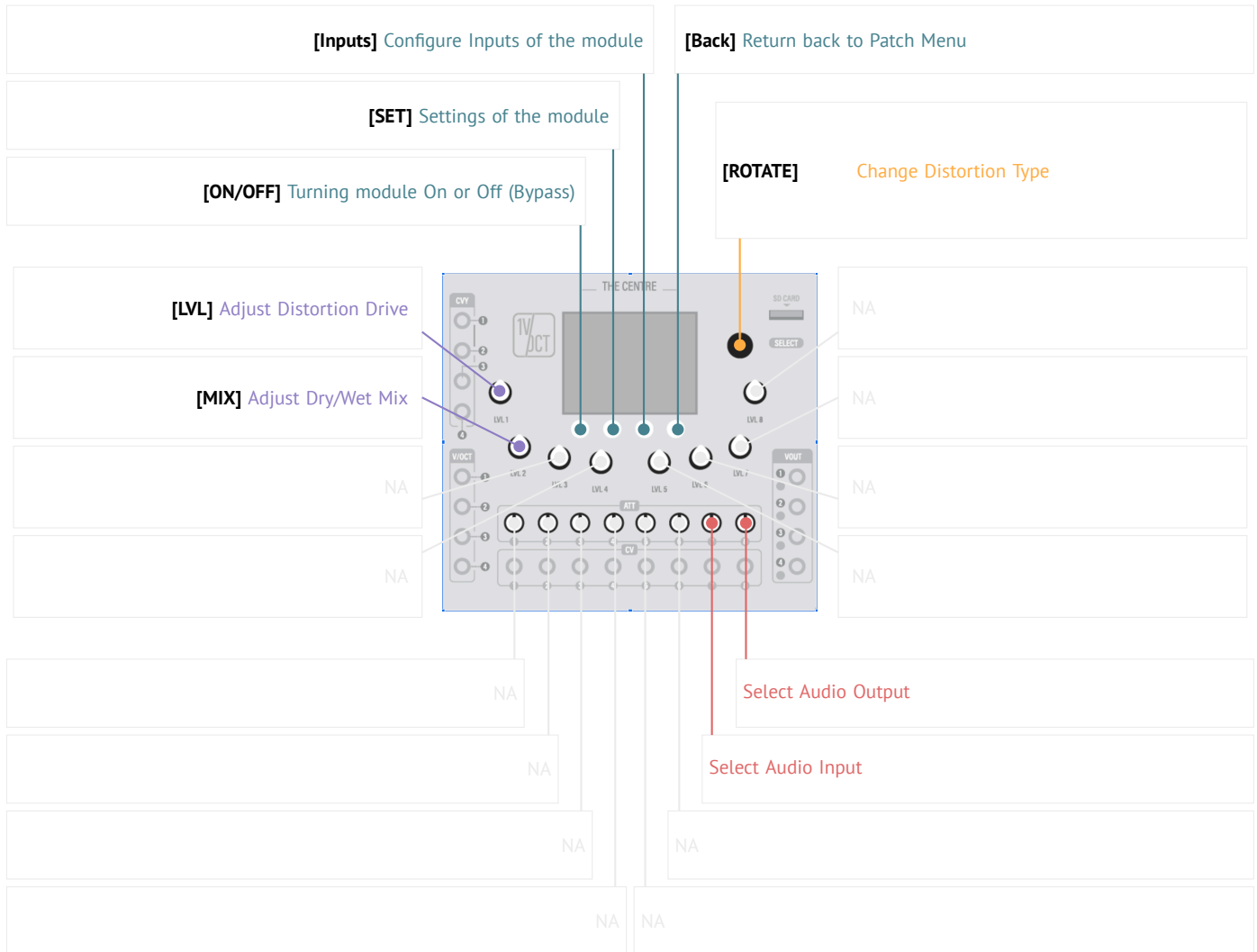
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NA

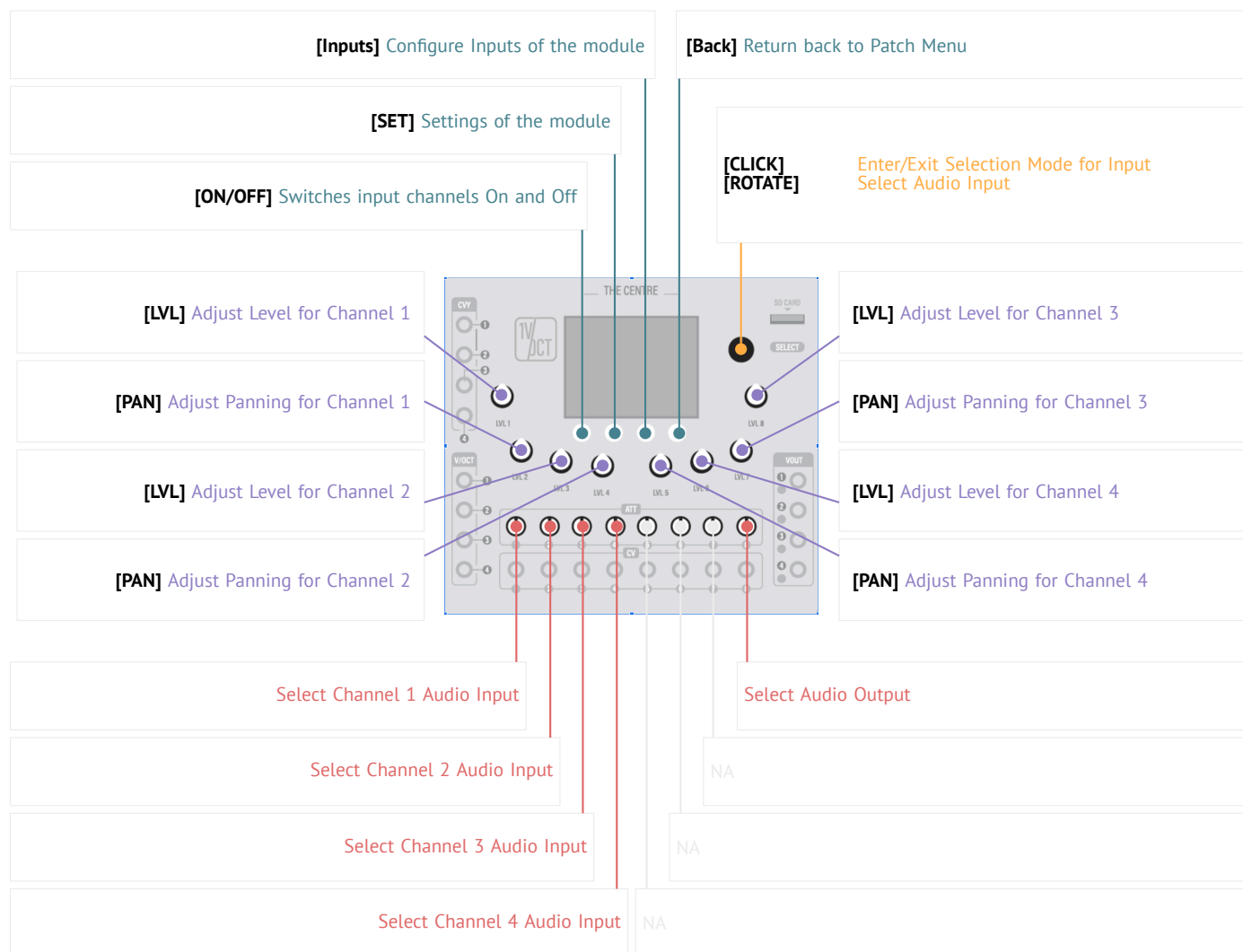
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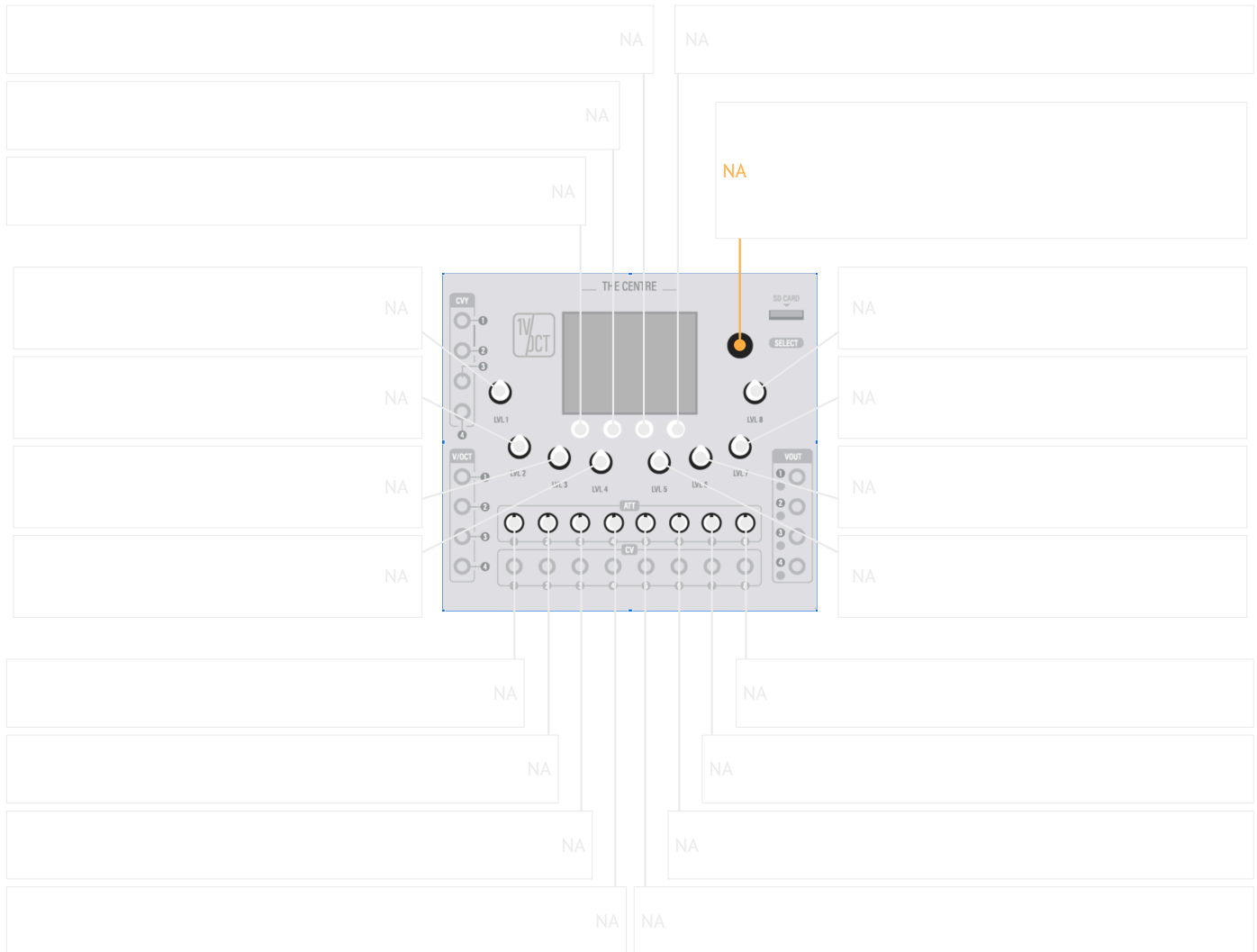
DST - Distortion



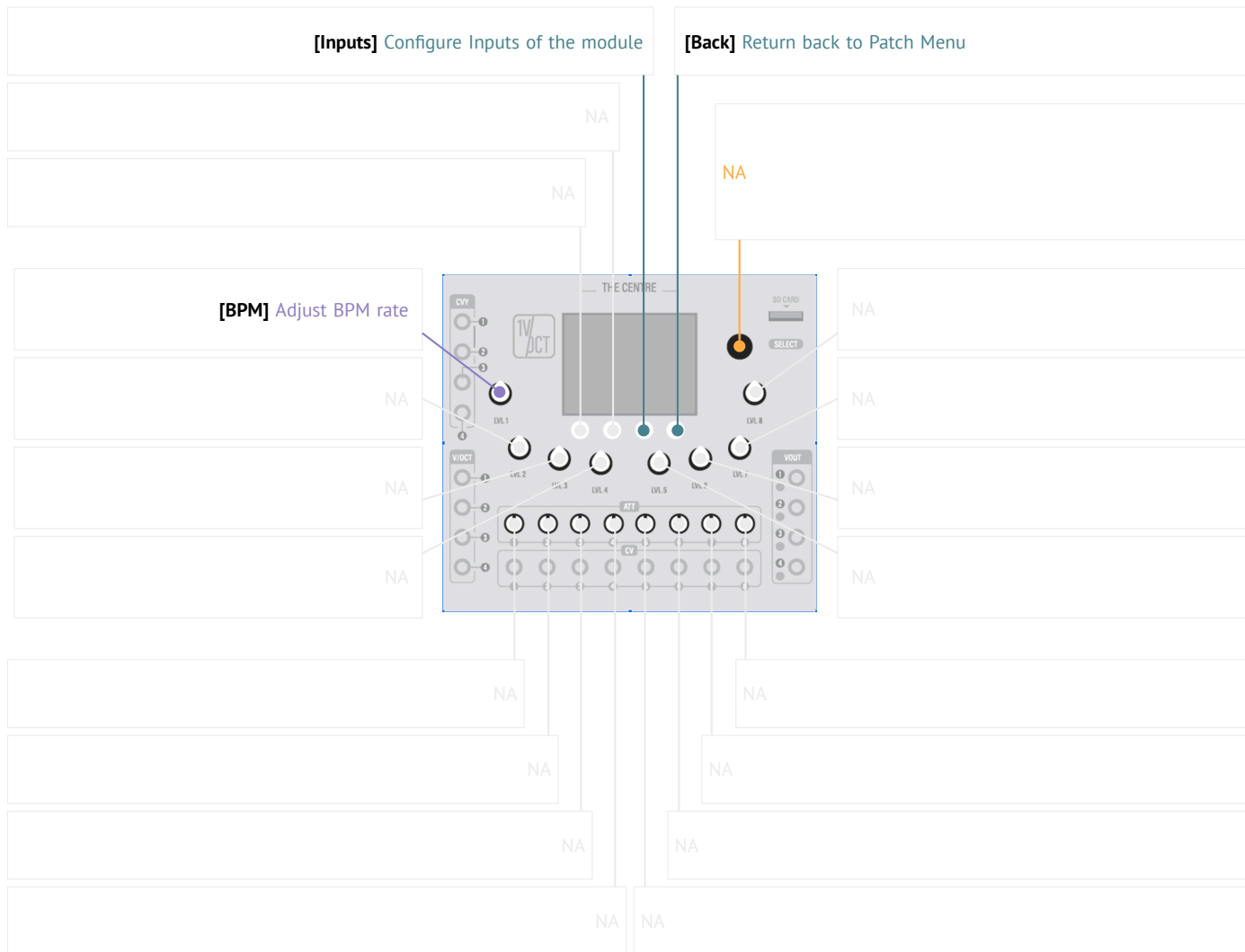
MIX - Voltage Controlled Panning Mixer



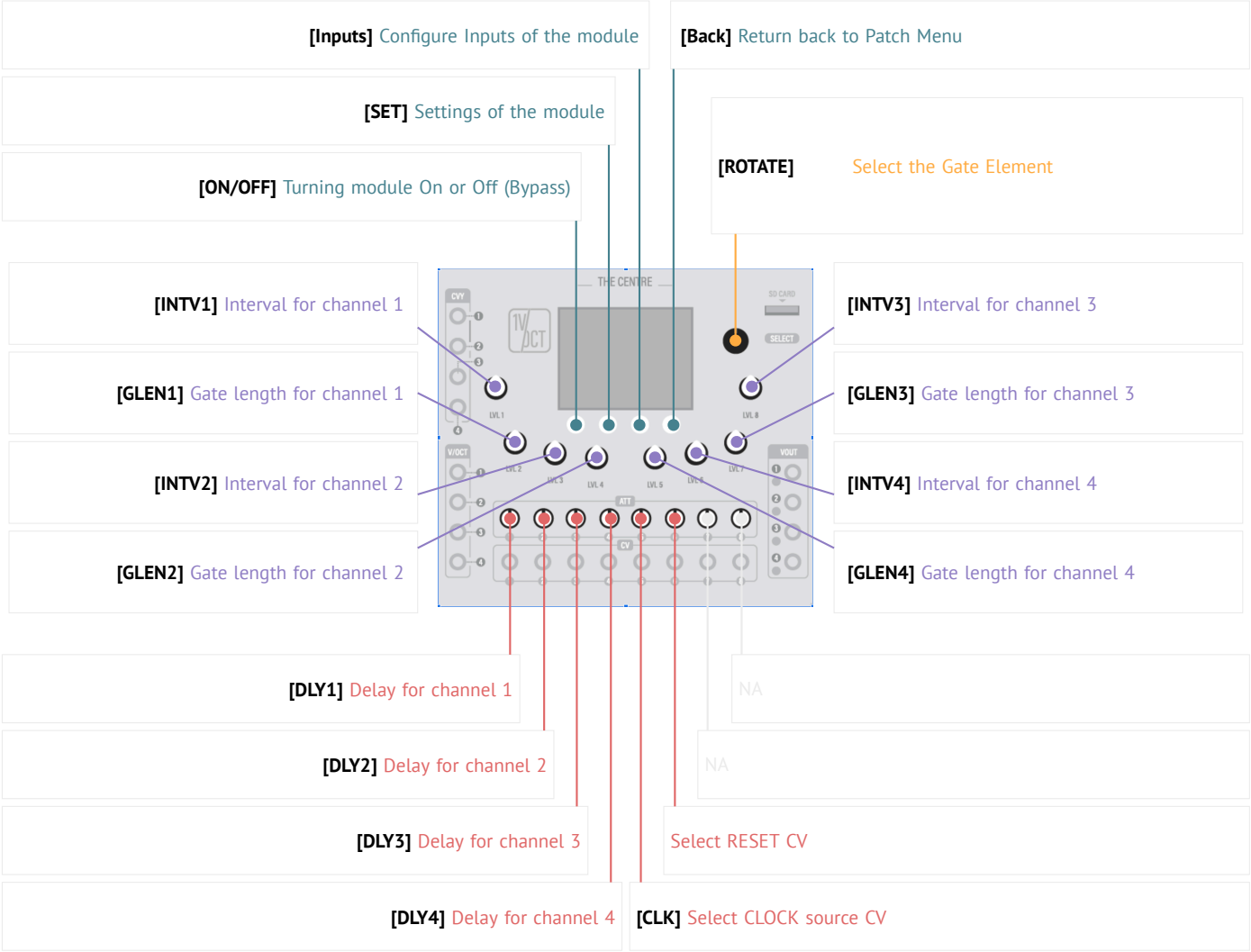
CVM - CV Mix and Multiple



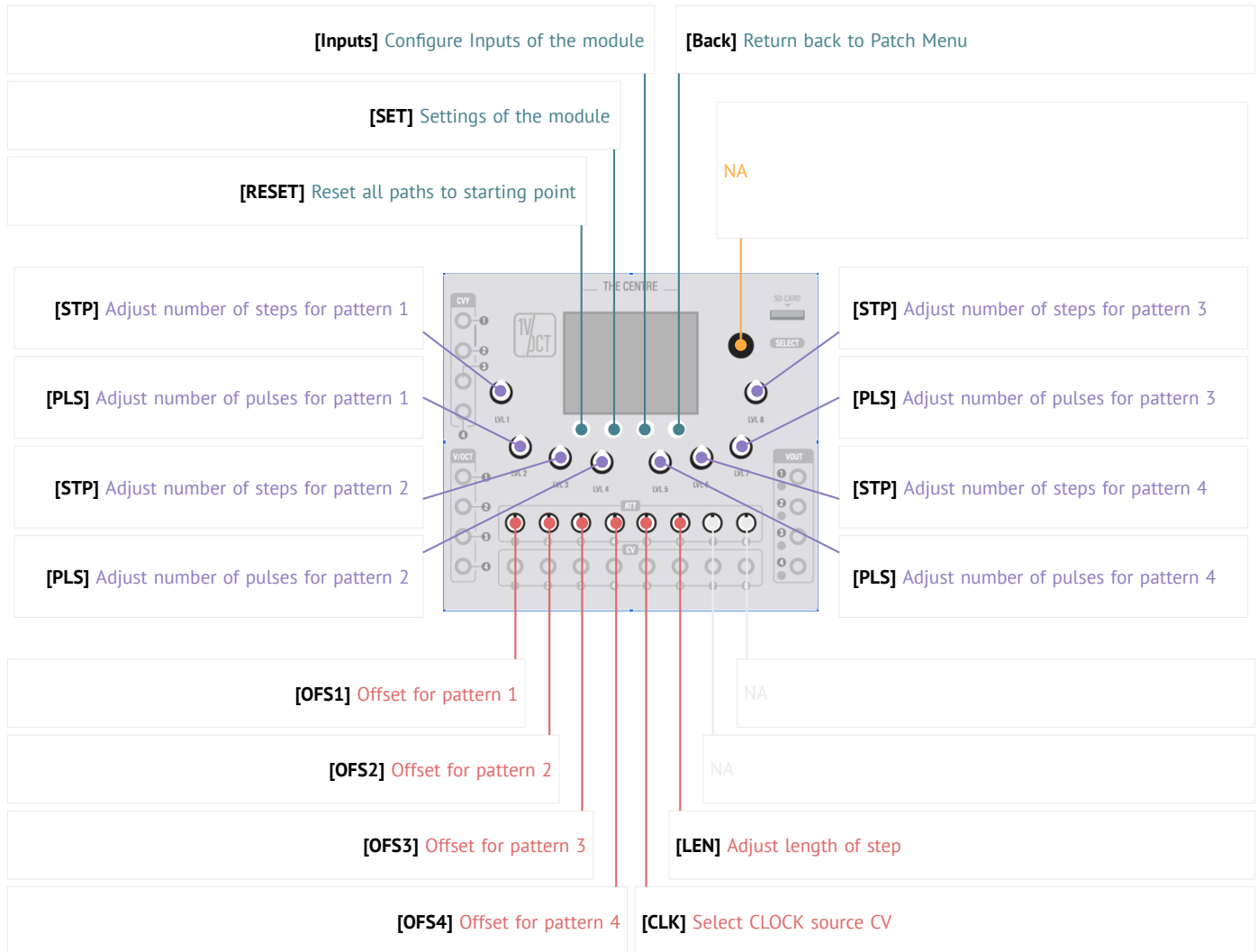
CLK - Clock Generator



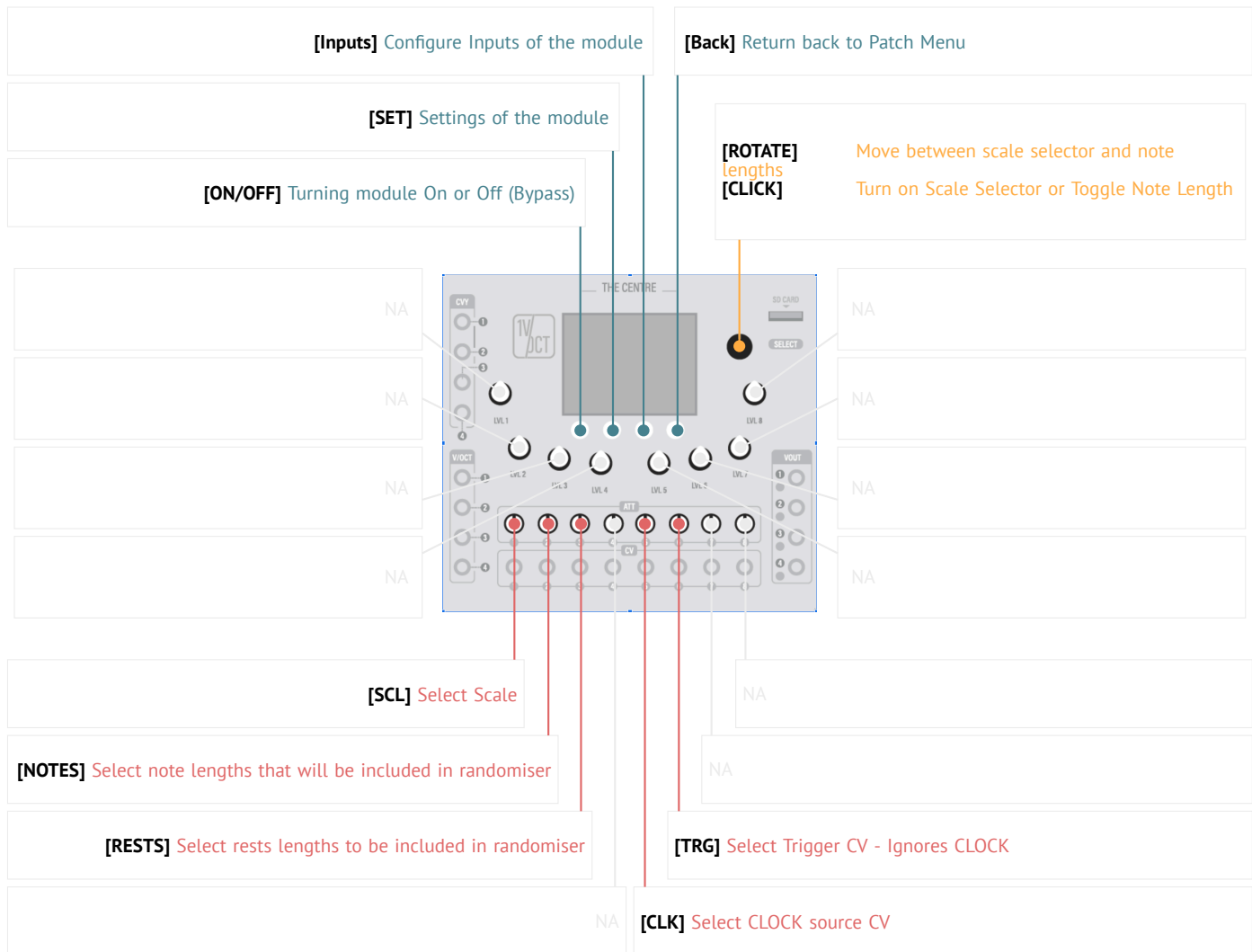
GAT - Clock and Gate Divider



EUC - Euclidean Rhythm Generator



RNG - Random Note Generator



QNT - Quantiser

