



Electric Druid ENVGEN 8

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Introduction

This chip is a completely modern, microprocessor-based design that provides a fully voltage-controlled looping ADSR envelope generator. The output from the chip is via a 10 bit DAC which produces a genuine ADSR envelope shape.

In addition to full voltage control of Attack, Decay, Sustain, and Release, the chip also has CV control of output level (envelope depth) and an overall Time CV which can modulate the length of the entire envelope.

A Mode CV input allows selection between three envelope modes - a normal ADSR envelope, a gated looping mode and a LFO looping mode. There is also a "Punch" control which adds extra thump to very short percussive envelopes.

The chip improves on the previous generation of Druid envelope chips (VCADSR7B/LOOPENV1B) since it does away with the need for an external crystal, improves the 19.5KHz sample rate to 31.25KHz, and combines the features of both chips into one, allowing both Gate and Trigger inputs on a chip with full looping functionality.

Features

Range of under 1 mSec to over 10 Sec

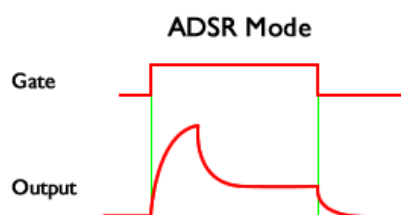
The Minimoog, Sequential Pro-One and SH101 all have a famously quick attack time. I've never measured it, but it's supposed to be around 1 mSec. This envelope generator can also produce times that short.

Most analogue synths can do a slow attack of a handful of seconds, but 10 seconds gives a neat range of 1:10000 to be covered by the control voltages, and allows really slowly evolving sounds to be generated.

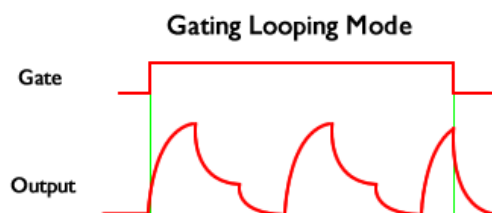
ADSR, Gated Looping, and LFO Looping modes

The MODE CV pin allows selection between three different modes of operation.

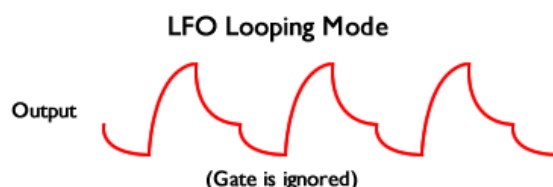
ADSR mode is a normal envelope.



Gated Looping will trigger the ATTACK stage when the GATE goes high, then continue looping whilst the GATE remains high, and will RELEASE to zero when the GATE goes low.



The LFO Looping mode loops continuously and ignores input from the GATE. It is easy to provide a switch to select these modes.



LFO frequencies to 300Hz

Since the segment times can be as short as 1ms, it is possible to produce LFO waveforms up to around 300Hz. This is above Middle C!

Exponential and Linear Envelopes

The chip can produce classic exponential ADSR curves suitable for volume control with a linear VCA, or can produce linear envelopes typical of early digital synths. These can be more suitable for use with exponential VCAs, but are also useful for modulation control duties, or when using the envelope as an LFO.

Gate and Trigger available

The chip can be used with just a Gate, but also has a Trigger input to retrigger the envelope whilst the Gate is high. Additionally, a range of AD, AR, and ASR envelopes can be produced by using Trigger alone.



Time CV for envelope/LFO modulation

The TIME CV input shortens the entire envelope, providing global modulation of ATTACK, DECAY and RELEASE times. Since this input works in LFO mode too, it can also provide frequency modulation of the LFO waveforms. Don't forget that modulation of the Sustain CV also provides LFO shape modulation!

Level CV for voltage-controlled envelope depth

The chip also includes a LEVEL CV input which controls the output level of the envelope. This offers a very simple way to provide voltage-controlled envelope depth and saves a VCA. The Level CV is implemented using the reference voltage of the output DAC, so no resolution is lost at reduced amplitude.

8-bit resolution on the control voltages

The Sequential Prophet 5 used a 7-bit control resolution, so this is going slightly better. Whether a standard potentiometer actually has the accuracy to directly produce 8 bit resolution is another question.

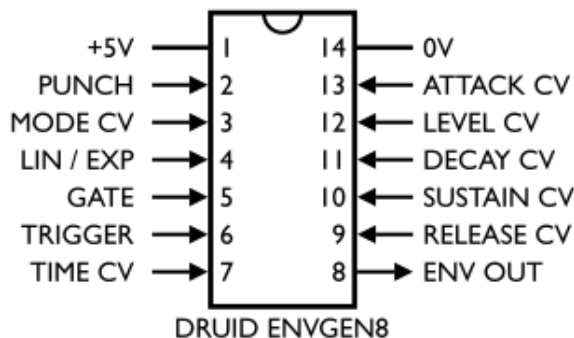
Sample output rate improved 31.25KHz from 19.5KHz

The DAC output sample rate is 31.25KHz. This means that there is plenty of detail to describe even the shortest curves.

Logarithmic time control response over 1:10,000 range

The A, D and R control voltage inputs give the full range from 1 mSec to 10 Secs in four even decades, eg 1-10mSecs, 10-100mSecs, 100-1000mSecs, and 1-10Secs. Since the response of the CV inputs is logarithmic, this is possible with simple linear potentiometers.

Pinout Diagram

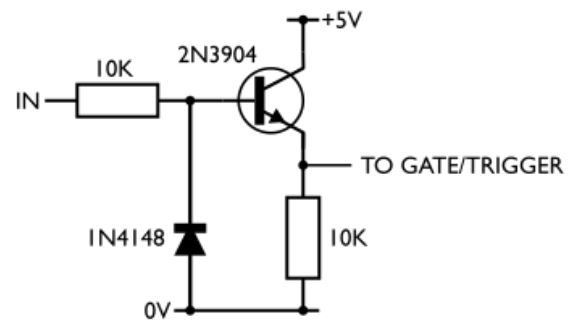


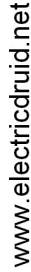
Pin	Function	Details	Notes
1	+5V	Power supply	
2	PUNCH	0-5V digital input	Adds extra Punch stage between Attack and Decay. 0V = Punch on, 5V/NC = Punch off
3	MODE CV	0-5V analogue input	Selects envelope mode: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-1.25V: Normal ADSR • 1.25-3.75V: Gated Looping • 3.75-5V: LFO/Looping
4	EXP/LIN INPUT	0-5V digital input	0V = Linear envelope, 5V/NC = Exponential envelope
5	GATE INPUT	0-5V digital input	Envelope goes to RELEASE stage on falling edge of 0-5V pulse.
6	TRIGGER INPUT	0-5V digital input	Envelope goes to ATTACK stage on rising edge of 0-5V pulse.
7	TIME CV	0-5V analogue input	Shortens A, D, and R times by x1 to x0.01
8	ENV OUT	0-5V analogue output	10 bit DAC envelope output
9	RELEASE CV	0-5V analogue input	Release time from 1msec to 10 secs
10	SUSTAIN CV	0-5V analogue input	Sustain level from 0 to 100%
11	DECAY CV	0-5V analogue input	Decay time from 1msec to 10 secs
12	LEVEL CV	0-5V analogue input	Reference voltage for multiplying DAC
13	ATTACK CV	0-5V analogue input	Attack time from 1msec to 10 secs
14	0V	Power supply	

NC = Not connected (pin has an internal pull-up and can be left open)

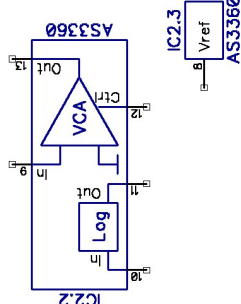
Protecting the Gate and/or Trigger inputs from external signals

If the Gate and Trigger inputs are exposed to the outside world, for example in a modular system, then the inputs should be protected from negative voltage and over-voltage. An example circuit is given on the right.

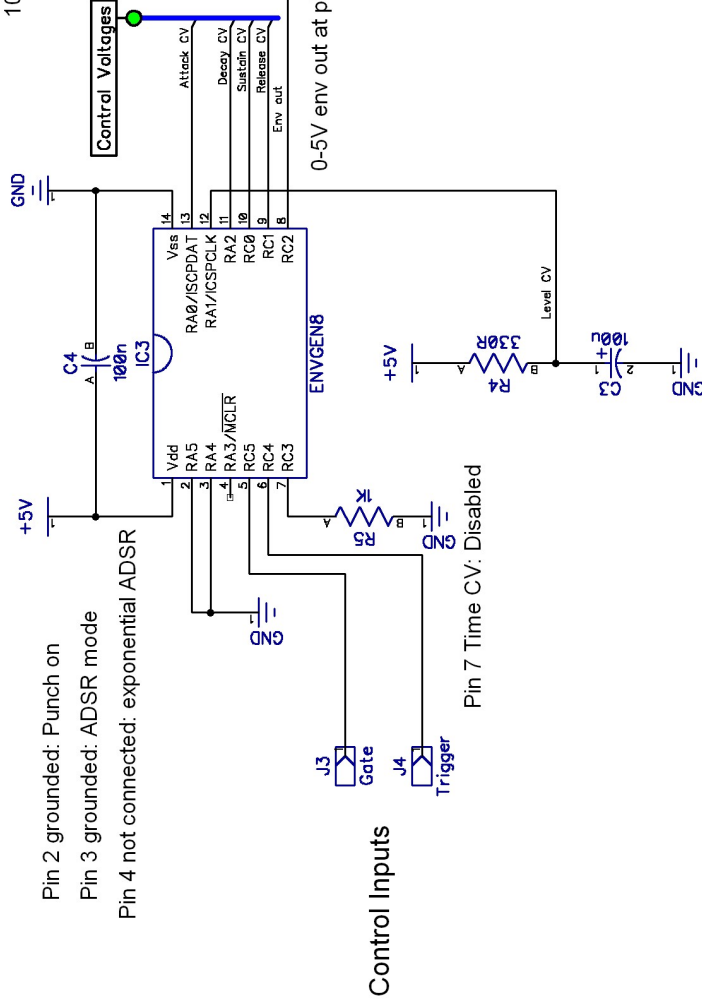




Not used in this example



Linear VCA
100p/47K = 33.9KHz



Note use of +15/-5V power for 3360
This is as per the 3340 VCO

Title	ADSR Envelope and Linear 3360 VCA		
Size	Model	Rev	
A4	ENVGEN8		1
Date	22 Feb 2018	Drawn by	TMW
Filename	ENVGEN8VCA.dch	Sheet	1 of 1

Electric Druid ADSR Envelope + Linear VCA

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