Erogenous Tones — VC8

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[VC8 Manual (PDF)](#)

Using the Erogenous Tones VC8 to Create Full-Length Eurorack Songs

The **Erogenous Tones VC8** is a high-density, 8-channel, DC-coupled VCA module designed for versatile voltage control and mixing tasks in eurorack modular setups. While creating catchy sequences, grooves, and noises is one part of modular music, transforming these into full-length, structured songs requires clever patching and creative parameter automation. The VC8 is uniquely positioned to facilitate this transition thanks to its multiple VCAs, offset controls, and sub-mix functions.

Below are strategies and patch ideas to leverage the VC8 for dynamic, evolving, and performable song structures:

Key Features Recap

- **8 Linear DC-coupled VCAs**
- **CV Level and Offset on every channel**
- **CV Offset can open VCA without external CV**
- **White LED to visualize CV activity**
- **Optional dual sub-mix (channel 1-3 mixed into 4, 5-7 mixed into 8)**
- **Skiff-friendly, low power requirements**

Song Structure Techniques with the VC8

1. Automated Mutes and Scene Changes

- Assign each VCA to a different sound source: kick, snare, chords, bass, lead, hats, effects, etc.
- Use dedicated gate sequencers, clock dividers, or manual switches for the CV input to create rhythmic mutes, allowing sections (like breakdowns, drops, or bridges) to be arranged on the fly.
- CV Offset knobs can be used for smooth fades instead of abrupt cuts.

2. Dynamic Level and Accent Automation

- Apply envelopes, LFOs, or sequencer CV tracks to CV level inputs for accents, swells, dynamic changes, and mixing automation.
- Use attenuators before the VC8's CV inputs for fine control of these dynamic changes.

3. Sub-Mix Grouping for Section Control

- Group related elements (e.g., all drums on 1-4, melodic elements on 5-8).
- Employ VC8's sub-mix feature: engage the sub-mix on channel 4 and 8, using these channels as master VCAs for their respective sub-groups.
- This allows for performance-friendly one-knob control over entire sections, ideal for breakdowns, verse/chorus changes, and dramatic build-ups.

4. Morphing Textures and Layer Blends

- Patch different modulation sources to each VCA's CV input (e.g., random voltage, slow LFOs, stepped sequencers).

- Use VC8's DC-coupled inputs for both audio-rate amplitude modulation and CV mixing, turning static drones or chords into evolving sonic landscapes.

5. Performance Macros with Offset and Mixing

- Utilize CV Offset to "punch in" layers (e.g., bring in FX or transitions at key moments).
- Stack multiple sound sources through VC8 and sum their outputs for custom blends during a performance.
- Quickly snap between arrangements by mixing or muting parts using the VC8's intuitive aluminum knobs.

6. CV Routing and Voltage Processing

- Because it's DC-coupled, CV8 can process control voltages—not just audio! Route modulation CVs through the VCAs for animated modulation depth, or crossfade between sequencers and random sources for evolving structure.

Example Full Song Structure Using VC8

- **Intro**: Gradually increase CV Offset on sub-mix channels to fade in main textures and drums.
- **Build**: Modulate volume of percussive or melodic details with sequenced CVs.
- **Breakdown**: Mute several channels simultaneously or fade sub-mix outputs.
- **Drop**: Quickly bring all sub-mix channels live.
- **Outro**: Slowly decrease CV Offset or apply slow LFO for a gradual, atmospheric fade.

External modules to consider integrating: - Sequencers (e.g., Intellijel Metropolix, Hermod) - Envelope Generators (Pamela's New Workout, Maths) - LFO/Random sources (Batumi, Wogglebug) - Automation/macro controllers (Expert Sleepers, Faderbanks)

By thinking of the **VC8** as the central nervous system for both audio and CV, you can introduce performance-ready, automatable structure and dynamics into your modular workflow. This bridges the gap between great clips and fully realized, composed songs.

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