

Erica Synths — Stereo Reverb

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[Erica Synths Black Stereo Reverb Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Using the Erica Synths Black Stereo Reverb To Create Full-Length Eurorack Songs

As a seasoned Eurorack user, you're probably all too familiar with the "16-bar loop problem"—it's easy to patch up killer sounds, but tricky to turn those into compelling full-length tracks. While the Black Stereo Reverb is a dedicated stereo effects module, its deep feature set and performance-oriented design make it a **powerful tool for structuring, evolving, and performing entire songs**, not just sweetening sounds. Here's how you can integrate it with other modules in your rack for dramatic song-length journeys.

1. Preset Morphing—From Section to Section

The Black Stereo Reverb allows **up to 10 presets** (patches), including size, type, feedback, tone, and dry/wet settings. With CV over patch selection, you can:

- **Pre-plan song sections** (e.g., verse with subtle reverb; chorus with a huge Cathedral wash; breakdown with freeze/lo-fi settings).

- Use a **sequencer, manual controller (like Pressure Points, Planar, or Faderbank)**, or even an **LFO** routed to the PATCH CV in to automate creative transitions between sections.
- **Live performance:** Recall and morph between saved patches on the fly, syncing spatial changes with drum/bass/melody structural changes for builds, drops, bridges, and more.

Tip: Design vastly different FX environments in each preset to maximize contrast between song sections!

2. FREEZE For Transitions, Loops, and Sound Design

FREEZE is both **manual and triggerable** (1V/oct tracking on playback speed when frozen):

- **Freeze reverb tails during breakdowns:** Catch a big hit or chord and loop the frozen texture to create ambient bridges or break sections.
 - **Use the SIZE knob/CV** while frozen for pitch-shifted drones and evolving pads, which can serve as intros, outros, or momentary transitions.
 - **Gate/Trigger automation** from a sequencer or clock divider to rhythmically “chop” or freeze/unfreeze your audio for glitchy fills or dramatic stops.
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3. CV Modulation for Song Construction

Key reverb parameters—Size, Feedback, Tone—are all CV-addressable:

- **Automate macro-movements:** Use LFOs, envelopes, or scene-based CV to open the SIZE during a build or increase FEEDBACK for growing tension.
- **Dynamic spatiality:** Map an expressive controller or sequencer row to TONE/SPIN for evolving the stereo image, making each verse, chorus, or fill feel unique.

- **Evolving effects:** Patch slow random voltages (like Turing Machine, Marbles, or Wobblebug) to parameters for “living” atmospheres that change across the song.
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4. Patch Integration—Reverb As Performance Tool

- **Send drum tracks through the reverb for breakdowns**, then pull them dry for the main groove—automate DRY/WET with either the knob or external CV.
 - **Feed only selected melodic lines** (lead, vocals, pads) post-VCA but pre-reverb—use mutes, switches, or voltage-controlled routing for creative FX drops.
 - **Create ghost echoes or FX returns:** Patch reverb output to a mixer channel fader to fade in/out, blurring sections and tying your mix together.
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5. Stereo Movement and SPIN Tricks

- Use the TONE/SPN parameter and its CV for **stereo animation**, panning reflections across the field—especially effective on transitions and big moments.
 - Jump between MODE (Early/Late/Room size feel) and TYPE (Tape, BBD, Dirty Digital) for major textural shifts—e.g., classic BBD haze for lo-fi bridges into lush digital cathedral choruses.
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Example Structure Using the Module

Song Section	How Reverb Can Transform It
Intro	Freeze drone from last chorus, morph SIZE for shifting pitch, start dry then fade in wet.

Song Section	How Reverb Can Transform It
Verse	Subtle, fast, small room reverb with moderate feedback and mono input—keeps vocals/drums intimate.
Pre-Chorus	Send drums/FX into freeze, sweep SIZE/TONE for rising tension.
Chorus	Recall wide Cathedral preset, DRY/WET high, automate SPIN for stereo drama.
Breakdown	Trigger FREEZE mid-hit, drop dry sounds and filter frozen pad.
Bridge/Fill	Use PATCH CV to jump between contrasting presets, sweep FEEDBACK for intensity.
Outro	Freeze tail of last hit, slowly lower pitch with SIZE, fade out DRY/WET.

Recommendations for Other Modules To Combine

- **Sequencer/Scene Controller:** For PATCH CV automation (e.g. Z8000, Varigate, Teletype, Hermod, Faderbank)
 - **Clocked Modulator:** For rhythmic FREEZE/gated CV transitions (Pam's New Workout, Temps Utile, Muxlicer)
 - **Manual Controller:** For live tweaks (Planar, Faderbank, Pressure Points, Tetrapad)
 - **Random CV Source:** For evolving, generative movement (Marbles, Turing Machine, Wogglebug)
 - **Performance Mixer:** For classic FX send/return workflows (with mutes/faders per channel)
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Final Thoughts

With its rich set of ***performance features, CV control for nearly every parameter, and preset morphing***, the Black Stereo Reverb is much more than a set-and-forget FX box. Leveraging its programmable and voltage-controllable nature lets you create dynamic, structured, and expressive full-length pieces by sculpting the spatial context of each section—just as essential as basslines and drum patterns!

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