

Intellijel — Atlantix

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[Atlantix Manual PDF \(2024.09.12\)](#)

Using the Intellijel Atlantix for Full-Length Songs in Eurorack

Creating a cohesive, evolving full-length song in modular synthesis—beyond simple loops or jams—requires careful patching, modulation, and planning. The **Intellijel Atlantix** (an analog dual-oscillator synthesizer voice with internal and external modulation depth) offers a powerful toolkit for this, but song-length structure emerges when Atlantix is thoughtfully combined with sequencers, modulation sources, utilities, and effects. Here's an analysis of how the Atlantix can anchor a complex composition, and tips for leveraging its features to arrange and animate full pieces.

Challenges for Song-Length Structure in Eurorack

- **Repetition:** Modular synths excel at short loops/patterns. Songwriting needs section changes: intro, verse, chorus, bridge, breakdown.
- **Automation:** 'Set and forget' sounds static. Manual tweaking for minutes is exhausting.
- **Transitions & Variation:** You want dramatic changes, subtle evolution, and coordinated transitions across multiple voices.
- **Recallability:** How to perform/sequence a structure—hands-on live, or semi-automated?

How Atlantix Supports Song Structure

1. Multi-Source Synthesis in One Voice

Atlantix is not a simple oscillator—it is a complete synth voice:

- **VCO A / VCO B**: Dual oscillators with sync, FM (exp and thru-zero), PWM. - **Flexible Mixer**: Pulse, saw, sub (-1, -2, OR), noise (white/pink), and two aux in, routable pre/post VCF. - **VCF**: Multi-mode (LP/BP/HP/phaser; switchable poles), extensive modulation. - **Envelope/VCA**: ADSR with rate ranges/drive, gated/organelle switching, manual gate. - **MODs**: Internal sample & hold, multiroute LFO/S&H/noise/VCOB mix, normalled to VCO/FM and VCF FM.

2. Built-in Modulation & Macro Controls

- **Sample & Hold / Track & Hold**: Random or stepped modulation for generative movement.
- **Flexible MOD X/Y routing & inversion**: Multiply the modulation palette for evolving timbre.
- **PWM, Sync, FM, etc.**: Routable to almost any part of the voice—create self-patched feedback or modulation chaos.

3. Expandable Outputs (ATLX Expander)

- **Multiple outputs**: Tap all Osc shapes, ring mod, filter outs, etc.
- **Ring Modulator**: Add metallic, inharmonic timbres or percussive sounds.

Songwriting Techniques with Atlantix

1. Sectional Control with External Sequencers

Use sequencers or voltage presets (like Intellijel Metropolis, Erica Black Sequencer, NerdSeq, or vector-based sequencers): - Multitrack melodic/

rhythmic lines: Sequence Atlantix pitch (1V/oct), triggers/gates, CV for filter or modulation depth. - Program 'scenes' or 'pattern chains' for multisection arrangement (verse—chorus—breakdown, etc.).

Patch Example: Use a sequencer with multiple gate/CV tracks to: - Control Atlantix's pitch and gate, - Automate the modulation sources/amount (via multiple CV ins or addressing MOD X/Y).

2. Modulated Variation & Evolution

- Route S&H/T&H to FM, PWM, filter, envelope times for evolving or generative patches.
- Use MOD X/Y for slow/fast LFOs affecting timbre, panning (if patched out to stereo VCA), or even envelope times (via CV ins).
- Internally patch VIDA/B outputs (with AUX sends to VCA/filter directly or via expander) to create layered/complex voices.

Patch Example:

- Use a slow random S&H from Atlantix MOD as ENV sustain or filter cutoff mod; use sequencer CV to alter which MOD X/Y source is chosen per section.

3. Live Performance: Manual Transitions + External Utilities

- Program macros: Use hands/on/off switches (filter pole, drive, sync type, envelope speed) for dramatic or subtle section transitions.
- Use sequential switches (e.g., Doepfer A-151, WMD Sequential Switch Matrix) or matrix mixers to route different Atlantix outputs or modulations per section, creating new combos.
- Manual Gate button: Immediate drops, accents—triggered by hand or patched to foot switch for performance.

4. Layering/Polyphony with Expanders and Other Voices

- Employ the ATLX expander's extra outs to layer different timbres/oscillators for bass, lead, and pad lines.

- Pair Atlantix with drum modules and other voices; use multiple Atlantix outputs for stacked lines or cross-modulation for wide/epic textures.

5. Coordinated Transitions with Utilities/Effects

- Use voltage-controlled switches (e.g., Mutable Branches) to mute/unmute Atlantix lines.
 - Patch Atlantix into effects (delays, reverbs, wavefolders) and sequence their bypass or CV parameters for scene-based changes.
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Example Patch Structure for a Full Song

1. **Intro:**
2. Atlantix in LFO mode, VCO B running S&H noise, filter in PHZ mode, slow envelope, sparse notes manually triggered or sequenced.
3. **Verse:**
 - Switch filter to LP4, up envelope speed, increase sub amount and noise for foundation groove; sequence main melody.
4. **Chorus:**
 - Open filter, drive VCA, sync VCOs, automate FM index for brighter, harmonically rich sound; add reverb/delay send.
5. **Bridge/Breakdown:**
 - Switch to HP filter, randomize pitch or filter with S&H, drop sub/noise, use ring mod out for percussive FX.
6. **Finale/Outro:**
 - Slow envelope, crossfade OSC A/B, bring in phaser/FX, fade-out using VCA with long release.

Swap section transitions using sequencer patterns, switches, or by modulating routings/sliders by CV.

Patch Utilities to Combine With Atlantix

- **Sequencers:** Complex multitrack and pattern-chaining capability
 - **Voltage Preset/Address Modules:** Harvestman/Industrial Music Electronics, Malekko Voltage Block, Frap Tools USTA, etc.
 - **Utility/LFO/Random Modules:** Mutable Stages, Pamela's New Workout, Zadar, etc.
 - **Attenuverter/Mixers:** For dynamic manual or CV control of modulation depths/routings.
 - **Effect Processors:** Mimeophon, Magneto, FX Aid, Data Bender, for post-Atlantix drama.
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General Tips

- **Plan macro CV lanes:** Use a performance controller or sequencer to automate key parameters per song section (e.g., filter cutoff, MOD amount, ENV rate, AUX sources).
 - **Self-patch Atlantix:** Exploit MOD outputs, internal S&H/random, and expander outs.
 - **Scene/CV Preset Changers:** The more programmable control you have over Atlantix's settings, the more "songlike" evolution you can achieve.
 - **Manual Play + Automation:** Combine performance switches/sliders with pre-programmed CV for an organic but structured feel.
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Final Thoughts

Atlantix provides an exceptionally deep synthesis engine in a single module, and with intelligent patching and a focus on modulation routing—especially when paired with a structured sequencer, switches, and CV utilities—you can build not just beautiful loops, but entire songs with dynamic transitions, melodies, basslines, and evolving timbres.

Download the manual PDF for detailed reference to all controls and patch points.

Generated With Eurorack Processor