

2hp — Pluck

- [Manual PDF](#)
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[2hp Pluck Official Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Creating Full-Length Eurorack Songs with the 2hp Pluck Module

The **2hp Pluck** is a highly compact, yet versatile, physical modeling string synthesizer based on the Karplus-Strong algorithm. Its expressive controls over **damp**, **decay**, and **pitch**, coupled with four-voice polyphony, make it an intriguing melodic and textural element in a eurorack system.

Below, you'll find strategies, patch ideas, and workflows to help bridge the gap from *great riffs* to *song-length compositions* using the Pluck—often in combination with other modules—to fully realize arrangement, structure, and evolution over time.

Overview: What Pluck Brings to the Table

- **Polyphonic Plucked String Synthesis:** Melodies, chords, or evolving harmonic beds
 - **Voltage Control:** Dynamic timbral changes via CV
 - **Expressive Decay/Damp Controls:** Lets you move from tight, percussive pops to shimmering, evolving tones
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Strategies for Song-Length Composition

1. Separating Song Sections (Intro, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Outro)

Technique: Modulate Pluck's parameters per section

How-To: - Use a sequencer (like Arturia Keystep Pro, Five12 Vector, or a Eurorack sequencer) to send different patterns or melodies to Pluck for each song part. - Pair with a programmable CV source (e.g., Mutable Instruments Marbles, Intellijel Planar, Make Noise Maths as CV scene memory) to automate changes in **DAMP**, **DECAY**, and/or **PITCH** knob positions per song part. - **Result:** The same Pluck voice morphs to play different melodic patterns and timbres in each section.

2. Dynamic Arrangement with Polyphony and Triggers

Technique: Use the 4-voice polyphony for harmony and movement

How-To: - Send chord sequences using a polyphonic sequencer (e.g. Polyend Poly, Hermod, or several monophonic triggers in creative polyphony). - For single melodic lines, layer overlapping melodies to create movement (e.g., arpeggios, layered harmonics). - Use a sequential switch or trigger sequencer (like Pamela's Pro Workout or Mutable Branches) to selectively fire voices, simulating new phrases/sections. - **Result:** Expanding melodies into harmonies and back—a musical evolution across the composition.

3. Automated Timbre and Texture Changes

Technique: Evolve the sound's character over time

How-To: - Use LFOs, envelopes, or automation lanes to modulate **Damp** and **Decay** CV inputs. For instance, open the sound up for the chorus and tighten it for the verse. - Feed random or stepped modulation (from S&H modules or random generators like Wobblebug or Marbles) to **Damp** and **Decay** for subtle or drastic evolutions. - Animate the **Pitch** knob or V/Oct input for vibrato, slides, or atonal/experimental transitions. - **Result:** The "instrument" comes alive, feeling less loop-based and more performed/windowed in time.

4. Sample, Loop, and Remix

Technique: Record Pluck's output as part of a larger composition and reuse

How-To: - Multitrack Pluck's lines into a DAW (Ableton Live, Logic, etc.), then slice, rearrange, or process the audio. - In-rack sampling (using an Erica Sample Drum, Mutable Instruments Clouds, or similar) captures licks, chord stabs, or motifs to be triggered later as structural anchors or fill material. - **Result:** Freed of 'live only' constraints, allows for verse/chorus contrasts, breaks, or motif returns.

5. Integration with Percussion, Bass, and Lead

Technique: "Orchestrate" with other voices

How-To: - Sync Pluck's triggers with drum machines/triggers for tight, percussive lines. - Pair with a classic subtractive synth VCO/VCF/EQ for bass or lead, reserving Pluck for harmonics or counter-melodies. - Use a performance mixer (like Erica Black Mixer, Befaco Hexmix) or VCAs to fade in/out Pluck—creating verse/chorus delineation. - **Result:** Each section has distinct instrumentation changes, strengthening arrangement.

Example Patch: Arranged Song with Pluck

- **Sequencer:** Sends melody/chord CV + trigger to Pluck (Pattern A for verse, Pattern B for chorus, Pattern C for bridge, etc.)
 - **LFO/Envelope/Random:** CVs to **DAMP/DECAY** per song section
 - **Drum Machine:** Syncs patterns via master clock/reset
 - **Performance Mixer:** Handles fading, muting, and returning of Pluck's signal
 - **Reverb/Delay Effects:** Adds space around Pluck, evolving from dry (verse) to lush (chorus)
 - **Sampler or Loop Pedal:** Captures lines for later playback in new contexts
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Pro Tips for Songwriting

- **Plan Structure:** Sketch out arrangement goals before patching. Knowing when Pluck should be featured vs. supportive helps guide modulation choices.
- **Performance Automation:** Use hands or performance CV controls for evolving knobs live—often more dynamic than static settings.
- **Layering:** Mult with an effect send—use different reverbs or delays to accentuate transitions.
- **MIDI Integration:** Consider a MIDI-to-CV module for easier DAW control or recording.

Additional Resources

- [2hp Pluck Official Manual \(PDF\)](#)

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