

2hp – Slice

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How To Use the 2hp Slice To Create Full Length Songs in Eurorack

The **2hp Slice** isn't just a glitch/beat repeat effect—it's a dynamic performance and arrangement tool that transforms simple loops and patterns into ever-evolving full-length song structures. Here's how you can integrate Slice with your modular system to achieve traditional and experimental song forms.

Understanding Slice As a Performance Tool

Slice excels at beat repeats, glitching, fills, rhythmic breakdowns, and adding variation—essentials for moving beyond looping riffs and into song development.

Key Features: - Audio-rate clocking for creative stuttering and granulation. - Size control (and CV!) for variable repeat lengths (from 2 bars to sub-16th stutters). - Gate/trigger input and manual triggering for hands-on (or sequenced) effect activation. - Latching/momentary modes for performative or automatic usage. - Triplet toggling for more groovy variations.

Song Structure Techniques

1. Adding Sections (Verses, Choruses, Breakdowns)

- **Beat Repeats as Transitions:**

Use Slice to signal changes between sections. For example, feed your full drum/bass/melody mix through Slice and engage a 1-bar stutter every 8 or 16 bars for a "breakdown" or transition cue.

- **Build-Ups and Drops:**

Automate the Size CV with envelopes or LFOs to ramp from long repeats (building anticipation) down to very short (1/64 or faster for a snare roll effect), then disengage Slice for a "drop" into the next section.

2. Fill Generation

- **Scheduled Fills:**

Use a sequencer or clock-divided trigger to regularly activate the Trig Gate Input at the end of each 4 or 8-bar phrase, creating dynamic fills without manual intervention.

- **Randomized Fills:**

Pair with a random CV/gate source (like 2hp Rnd or Mutable Instruments Marbles) on Trig Gate and/or Size CV. This introduces surprise fills or glitch FX, making repeated patterns less predictable.

3. Breaks and Variation

- **Manual Punch-Ins:**

In latching mode, use the Trig Button as a real-time performance switch to momentarily glitch or repeat any sound/feed at creative moments. Do this to isolate vocals, drums, or even ambient textures.

- **Momentary Mode:**

For DJ-style "stutter" FX, set to momentary, and tap in live. Automate via CV or with foot controllers for hands-on sets.

4. Layering and Sampling

- **Capture Rearranged Loops:**

Use a sampler/looper (like 2hp Loop or Make Noise Morphagene) after Slice to “resample” your beat-repeated variations. Use these new samples as new sections or drop-ins throughout your song.

- **Glitched Melodies & Vocals:**

Insert melodic or vocal lines into Slice for unique stuttered, chopped, or triplet-glitched textures. Use modulation (from an LFO, sequencer, or manual CV) to beat-repeat only the last note of a phrase, creating musical “interruptions.”

Patch Ideas For Song-Level Composition

A. Traditional Song Structure With Drum Machine

- Drum pattern to Slice.
- Use external sequencer to activate Slice for fills (1/8 note repeats at end of every 8 bars).
- Size CV modulated by an envelope for “risers.”
- Mix wet/dry post-Slice for subtlety.

B. Experimental Glitch Section

- Mult a master clock to both Slice and your main clock source. Modulate Size with random/S&H CV for erratic, glitchy phrases.
- Switch triplet toggle to add math/probability to repeats.

C. Live Arrangement

- Use the Trig Button for on-the-fly switch-ups.
- Sample output to a looper; switch between “straight” signal and “sliced” for contrasting sections.

Pairing Modules

- **2hp Rnd:** For random triggers and unpredictable modulation of Size or Gate.
- **2hp Play/Sampler:** Chop & re-sequence sampled slices as new song sections.
- **2hp Loop:** Live loop resampled glitch repeats. Layer or reverse them in real time.
- **Performance Mixer:** Fade between “sliced” and non-sliced versions for dramatic section changes.

General Tips

- **Automate engagement:** Use DAW MIDI-to-CV, or programmable clocks/sequencers, to handle complex on/off routines for Slice (such as only activating on chorus entry).
- **Record everything:** Route Slice output to a DAW/recorder while improvising—cut/paste the best “moments” into your tracks.
- **Modulate parameters:** Don’t leave Size or Triplet switches static—use modulation for evolving, “alive” effects.

By leveraging **2hp Slice** as a live and automated trigger/resample tool, you unlock the ability to move beyond repetitive phrases and introduce real drama, variation, and narrative to your tracks.

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