

Instruo – Tona

- Manual PDF
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[Instruo tòna Oscillator User Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Using the Instruo tòna to Create Full Length Eurorack Songs

The Instruo tòna is a versatile analog voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) with built-in wavefolding, classic east/west coast waveforms, robust frequency modulation (FM), and sync options. While many modular patches excel at short riffs, building those into evolving, full-length tracks is a creative challenge. Below are strategies using the tòna—often in combination with other modules—to help you construct rich, structured songs.

General Song Structure in Modular

To create full-length songs, you need:

- Evolving timbres
- Dynamic musical phrases and variation
- Transitions between sections
- Arrangement tools (mute/unmute, fade-ins/outs, pattern changes)
- Rhythmic and melodic variation

Below are practical tips focused on the tòna:

1. The Tòna as a Theme Engine

Use the tòna's precision tracking for melodies, basslines, or leads. Connect a sequencer for the fundamental theme of your song.

Tip:

Patch the tòna's Triangle or Sine output for basslines, reserving the Wavefold output for leads or evolving pads.

Evolving Melodies:

- Modulate the tòna's 1V/Oct with multiple sequencers or switch modules to alternate between verses/choruses.
 - Use quantizers or precision adders downstream to transpose or vary the melody across song sections.
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2. Dynamic Timbre Shaping with Wavefolding

The built-in wavefolder invites morphing timbres, a powerful technique for musical development.

Automated Timbre Morphing:

- Sequence the Wavefold CV input using slow LFOs, stepped random (sample & hold), or a modulation sequencer.
- Use an envelope (triggered only in certain song sections) to open up wavefolding, creating contrast between verse/chorus or intro/build/drop.

Scenes:

- Use a sequential switch to swap between tòna waveform outputs for different parts of your arrangement (e.g., Sine for verses, Folded for choruses).
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3. FM and Sync for Texture Variation

Introduce FM or hard sync for foreground moments or transitions.

Sectional Texture:

- Assign an LFO, other VCO, or looping envelope to the Linear FM input.
- Fade in FM modulation with a VCA controlled by a slow envelope to "open up" the sound, perfect for breakdowns or to announce a new section.

Sync Moves:

- During song transitions, use a trigger sequencer or manual gate button to re-sync tòna, disrupting or re-aligning rhythmic or melodic content.
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4. Song Arrangement with Modulation Routing

Voltage-Controlled Routing: - Employ matrix mixers, sequential switches, or addressable VCAs to switch tòna outputs, modulation destinations, or mix levels. - Use trigger sequencers to automate section changes, mutes, or filter/VCA states for verse/chorus/bridge structure.

Dynamic Muting:

- Use VCAs to control tòna's audio and modulation paths, muting or adding voices per section.
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5. Integration with Percussion and Effects

Let tòna form harmonic, melodic, or atonal textures and use other modules for drums. Cross-modulate tòna with percussion sources for industrial/experimental breakdowns.

FX Automation:

- Patch tòna into delays, reverbs, wave shapers, or granular effects.
 - Use sequenced or random modulation to vary effect parameters throughout the track.
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6. "Performance Macro" for Live Automation

Manual Song Arrangement: - Assign performance macros (grouped attenuators, mix controls, or big knobs/faders) to control tònà's waveform mix, fold amount, and pitch transpose for each song section.

Automated Song Structure: - Use a voltage-addressed preset manager, like the Xaoc Zadar's preset sequencing, to recall configurations of modulation depths, wavefolder settings, and crossfades at different song parts.

Sample Song Flow Using Tònà

1. **Intro:**
 2. Slow, filtered Sine or Triangle from tònà with opening wavefold for evolving pad.
 3. **Verse:**
 4. Add sequenced melody (via 1V/Oct), minimal FM, subtle wavefold.
 5. **Chorus/Drop:**
 6. Switch tònà output to Wavefold, ramp up FM and resonance, open VCAs and FX sends.
 7. **Breakdown:**
 8. Cut audio out except for FM noise from tònà, high modulation and sync, heavy effects.
 9. **Build-Up/Outro:**
 10. Gradually bring back main sequence; change wavefold position, automate through scenes.
 11. **End:**
 12. Fade tònà's output via VCA or switch to a simpler waveform.
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Putting It All Together

Achieving full-length song structure in Eurorack is about deliberate modulation, dynamic routing, and rich transitions. The Instruō tònà's multiple outputs, wavefolding, and FM capabilities make it a powerful centerpiece for any evolving patch. Use sequencers, switches, VCAs, and

envelopes to create meaningful sections, automate changes, and keep the listener engaged throughout your performance.

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