

Kaona Instruments — Stereo Weaver

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Modulation Strategies for Kaona Stereoweaver

Eurorack Techniques for Percussion, Bass, and Haunting Pads

Introduction

The Stereoweaver module isn't just a "stereo widener." Its clever use of depth, phase, micro-delays (Haas), animated panning, and simulated rotary effects allows for powerful sound shaping. Below are some modulation tips and patches specifically geared toward:

- Distorted percussive hits
- Unhinged basslines for dubstep/DnB
- Haunting pads

All suggestions below assume you have access to external modulation sources (LFOs, Envelopes, Sequencers, etc.) and patch cables.

1. Distorted Percussive Sounds

Goal: Tight, aggressive stereo sound with distortion, percussive movement, and coloration.

- **Input Gain:** Push the input gain until the clip LED blinks (or stays on). This induces pleasing analog distortion.
- **Depth:** Set medium-high to increase the interaction of spatial effects, introducing phase/chorus artifacts.
- **Motion:** Assign a sharp, fast envelope (from your kick/snare envelope) to the Motion CV. Fast attack/release creates animated “surge” in stereo movement with every hit. Try the “Rotary” mode for rolling, shattered transients.
- **Haas:** Use a decayed envelope or synced stepped CV to modulate Haas. Snappy modulation gives a “slap-back” character, exaggerating percussive attack.
- **Phase:** Modulate with a slow random LFO or stepped CV to shift the character between hits, making each percussive note subtly different.
- **Width:** Keep this moderate, but use another envelope for occasional “ghost” widening at the end of percussive bursts.

Pro Tip: Envelope followers from the drum can modulate Haas or Phase so that harder hits widen and smear more, making complex transients.

2. Dubstep/Drum & Bass Basslines

Goal: Wide, animated, and at times chaotic bass, combining movement and timbral evolution.

- **Input Gain:** Push until just before heavy clipping, for grit. For “growls,” you can allow some saturation/distortion.
- **Depth:** Higher settings, for more enveloping, organic texture; sweep with a slow LFO for living stereo.
- **Motion:** Use an LFO synced to your sequencer to modulate Motion between slow and fast. “Rotary” mode creates swirling,

Leslie-like movement that's excellent when processed with filtering/distortion after Stereoweaver.

- **Haas:** Automate with a squelchy, audio-rate LFO or sample & hold for jittery, erratic stereo effect. Sudden Haas changes “shake” the basslines out of the center.
- **Phase:** Assign a random or slow evolving LFO. Changing Phase will “tilt” the stereo image, making the bass weave left to right.
- **Width:** Automate with CV, possibly using accent triggers from your bass sequencer for sudden “side” expansion on particular notes, making lines jump out.

Pro Tip: Insert Stereoweaver before a distortion device—the stereo modulation interacts strongly with classic overdrive or wavefolder modules.

3. Haunting Atmospheric Pads

Goal: Lush, evolving, and sometimes eerie stereo fields for ambient/film textures.

- **Input Gain:** Clean or subtle warmth; avoid heavy clipping for maximum stereo clarity.
- **Depth:** High, sweeping with very slow LFOs for continuous morphing.
- **Motion:** Use a very slow, smooth LFO; in “Rotary” mode, the stereo field will swirl slowly, emulating a slowly spinning speaker.
- **Haas:** Modulate with a subtle, drifting LFO. Micro-fluctuations mean the pad never sits still; it feels alive.
- **Phase:** Very slow LFOs or random generators, or even manually sweeping on occasion for dramatic moments.
- **Width:** Maxed for total immersion, but automate reduction occasionally (with CV) for moments where the sound “focuses” to mono for musical tension.

Pro Tip: Send long, evolving modulation envelopes from complex LFOs or random voltage generators to every available CV input. Modulate Depth, Haas, Width, Phase, and Motion differently for endless subtle variations.

Modulation Routing Cheat-Sheet

CV Input	Good Modulators	Characteristic Effect
Depth	LFO, Envelope, Random	Spacial "relief," micro-chorus/phase
Phase	LFO, Sample & Hold	Stereo "tilt," weirdness, coherence shifts
Motion	Envelope, LFO, Clocked Random	Movement speed/animation, rotary swirl
Haas	Envelope, High-rate LFO, Random	Slapback, presence, chaotic stereo jumps
Width	Accent CV, Very slow LFO	Scene grows/shrinks, center "hollowing"

Final Tips

- **Patch Multimodulation:** Use multiple simultaneous CVs for evolving, complex soundscapes; for example, LFOs to Depth/Width, envelopes to Motion/Haas.
- **Feedback Processing:** Stereoweaver is perfect before/during feedback loops or after reverbs for thick, swirling spaces.

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