

Erica Synths — Black Delay

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[Erica Synths Black Stereo Delay – User Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Making Full-Length Eurorack Songs with the Erica Synths Black Stereo Delay

One of the biggest challenges in the modular world is taking a patch that grooves and evolves, and turning it into something with a real beginning, middle, and end—a full-length song. The **Erica Synths Black Stereo Delay** is designed as more than just an effects unit: it's a powerful tool for real-time manipulation, arrangement, and morphing of your modular jams.

Let's break down how this module can help you unlock full tracks rather than endless loops.

1. Dynamic Structure via Hold & Add (Looping & Overdubbing)

Feature:

- **Hold** lets you record and loop up to 20 seconds of audio, with **Add** for overdubbing.

Song Construction Tips:

- **Verse/Chorus Transitions:** Use the **Hold** function to capture a loop (e.g., your primary melody or chord progression). When you

kick into a new section (e.g., "chorus"), overdub variations or rhythmic breaks with **Add**.

- **Breakdowns & Builds:** Fade out or mangle live synth parts, letting the frozen loop (with FX) take over for a breakdown, then bring live parts back layer by layer.
 - **Impromptu Sampling:** Capture emergent moments—like sudden glitches or tone clusters—and recall them later for fills or transitions.
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2. CV Control for Automation and Variation

Feature:

- Separate CV inputs for **Time**, **Mix (dry/wet)**, and **Feedback**.

Song Construction Tips:

- **Automated Transitions:**
Patch a sequencer, LFO, or a random voltage source (like Turing Machine) to these CV inputs for slowly morphing delay parameters, simulating verse-to-chorus build-ups, or evolving jam sections.
 - **Feedback Swells:**
CV-controlling feedback for swelling washes (for breakdowns or big drops) that can be tamed back to normal by returning CV to zero.
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3. Trigger Inputs for Performance & Sequencing

Feature:

- Individual trigger inputs for Hold, Add, and Reverse—mirroring the panel buttons.

Song Construction Tips:

- **Precision Arrangements:** Sequence Delay FX in time with your beats. For instance, punch in the **Reverse** on the 4th bar of a measure or hit **Add** only for the last bar in an 8-bar phrase.
 - **Live Remixing:**
Use a trigger sequencer to perform FX on demand—creating fills, reverses, or freezing loops at specific song sections.
 - **Syncopation:**
Trigger Hold/Reverse off the main drum trigger for DJ-style stutter or breakdown effects.
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4. Ping Pong, Tape, Digital Modes for Character & Movement

Feature:

- Switchable between **Tape** (with pitch), **Digital** (no pitch), and **Ping Pong** (stereo spread) modes.

Song Construction Tips:

- **Stereo Movement:**
Enable **Ping Pong** for wide stereo FX in choruses; switch off in verses for a more centered sound. This helps sections feel different and enhances “song” structure.
 - **Tape Mode for Sound Design:**
Exploit pitch-shifting repeats for build-ups or intro FX. Automate (with CV or manual) for evolving textures.
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5. Stereo Spread for Section Contrast

Feature:

- Adjustable **stereo delay spread** up to 500ms.

Song Construction Tips:

- **Expand the Mix:**

Add stereo width only for certain sections (chorus/outro), making them feel “larger” compared to more mono-focused verses, giving your modular composition actual arrangement contour.

6. Hands On + Sequencer Integration

- **Big Knobs on Key Functions:** Designed for live wiggle-room with time and feedback.

- **Sequencer Integration:** Many popular trigger/gate sequencers (e.g. Hermod, Gatekeeper, Pamela’s New Workout) can precisely hit the trigger/CV inputs for orchestrated arrangements.

- **Scene-Based Songwriting:**

Patch your voices, drums, etc., through the delay and use its state (hold, feedback, ping pong, reverse) to define song “scenes.”

Organize your sequencer’s patterns so that specific triggers/CVs automate the Black Stereo Delay as part of those scenes.

Example Song Construction Workflow

1. **Intro:**

Start with noise or synth FX into delay. Hold a loop and use Add to create shifting textures.

2. **Verse:**

Drums/bass come in, delay used sparingly (mix CV low).

3. **Pre-Chorus:**

Begin raising feedback/mix via CV. Trigger Hold mid-bar, then release for a “glitch” fill.

4. **Chorus:**

Engage Ping Pong and widest stereo spread. Automate delay time for swelling tails.

5. **Breakdown:**

Hit Hold, overdub chaotic FX, then use Reverse for reversed sound-beds. Slowly fade mix back to dry.

6. **Outro:**

Use tape mode, slow automation of time for pitchy decays. Final Hold and fade out.

Summary

The Erica Synths Black Stereo Delay is not just a sweetening or utility module. It serves as a creative arranger in your rack. By leveraging its looping, trigger, CV, stereo, and pitch-shifting capabilities, you can perform, morph, restructure, and dramatically transform a jam into a fully arranged track with structural and dynamic movement.

Pair it with sequencers, scene-based switchers, CV sources, and a mixture of voices to automate and “compose” in the modular world!

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