Bored Brain — EQx5

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Strategies for Using the Boredbrain eqx5 to Create Full-Length Eurorack Songs

The **Boredbrain eqx5** is a versatile 5-band voltage controlled equalizer module that doesn't just shape timbre—it adds dynamic depth, movement, and expression to your modular compositions. To move beyond loops and patterns and create full-length songs, you can leverage the eqx5 in several compositional roles, in concert with other modules. Here's how:

1. Creating Evolutions and Transitions

Technique:
Use the CV control per band to automate changes in the frequency spectrum over time.

Patch Example: - Use your sequencer or an LFO controller to automate the *LEVEL* inputs of the eqx5 bands. - Subtly animate high frequencies in a lead sound for a build-up, or dampen low-end for breakdowns/transitions.

Song Application:
Transitions are key to turning a loop into a song. Automate filter sweeps and band boosts/cuts to create momentum, anticipation, and release at structural song points (e.g., verse to chorus, breakdowns, drops).

2. Mixing Multiple Song Sections

Technique:
The dual mixer configuration (crossfader or cascaded sum) lets you blend or abruptly switch between different sounds or song sections.

Patch Example: - Route different instrument groups (melody/bass/drums, or Verse/Chorus loops) into *IN1* and *IN2*. - Use the BALANCE CV to crossfade over many bars from one section to another.

Song Application:
This makes it easy to "morph" between patterns, themes, or instrument groups over time, assembling your sections into a full composition.

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3. Voltage-Controlled "Arrangement"

Technique:
With modular automation sources (sequencers, function generators, random modules), dynamically vary eqx5's bands, balance, and overall mix.

Patch Example: - Use an evolving random voltage (e.g., from Mutable Instruments Marbles) to modulate band LEVELs, making the timbre less predictable and more "compositionally" alive as the song develops.

Song Application:
This automation can bring in new elements, drop out frequencies, or add drama unpredictably, resulting in more "composed" song architectures rather than endless loops.

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4. Live Performance Mixing

Technique:
Use eqx5's front panel controls and CVs for hands-on "DJ style" EQ'ing to emphasize or mute sections during jams or performances.

Patch Example: - Sweep the mid-bands to bring out a solo or filter out hats/snares for a breakdown. - Use the eqx5 as a master output or

summing mixer, shaping the final sound with both static and CV-controlled EQ adjustments.

Song Application:
Enable real-time arrangement and improvisational flow, making each take unique and song-like.

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5. Stereo Imaging and Texture Morphing

Technique:
Use eqx5's stereo operation to process linked stereo sources (e.g., drum loops, stereo synths) differently in L/R, or process mono sources with contrasting EQ curves for creative panning effects.

Patch Example: - Pan bass heavy elements center, then sweep high bands left/right for choruses, adding width and energy.

Song Application:
Movement in the stereo field helps structure a track, accentuate drops, or define verses/choruses.

Combining With Other Modules

- **Sequencers** (e.g., Make Noise René, Intellijel Metropolix): For automated CV to bands or balance.
- **Function Generators/Envelopes** (e.g., Maths, Quadrax): Fade bands/balance for transitions.
- **LFOs**: Slowly animate specific bands for evolving textures.
- **VCAs & Switches**: Gate EQ segments in/out for "bringing in" or "muting" instruments.
- **Random Modules**: Add unpredictability to EQ/balance changes.
- **FX Processors** (delays, reverbs): Place eqx5 before/after effects in chain for textural control.

Song Structure Example

1. **Intro**: Slowly fade in high bands on lead, automate BALANCE for build-up.
2. **Verse**: Mid and low bands prominent, high bands slightly cut; bass centered, percussion moderately present.
3. **Chorus**: Full spectrum, automate boosts mid/high; use crossfade BALANCE to layer in a new melodic or textural element.
4. **Breakdown**: Sweep out bass bands, dull highs, isolate mids.
5. **Drop**: Push all bands, enhance stereo width.
6. **Outro**: Gradually cut highs/lows, fade with BALANCE to secondary channel or silence.

Creative Tip:
Record eqx5 band controls as automation using CV recorders (e.g., Ornament & Crime, ADDAC VC Looper) and "play back" nuanced EQ moves to structure your songs with precision.

By integrating the Boredbrain eqx5 into your modular system, you transform static loops into living, evolving compositions with distinct sections—key for finishing complete songs in Eurorack.

Generated With Eurorack Processor