

Erogenous Tones – VC8

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[VC8 Manual PDF](#)

Creative Modulation Techniques for Erogenous Tones VC8

Focus: Distorted Percussion, Aggressive Basslines, and Haunting Pads

The Erogenous Tones VC8 is an 8-channel, DC-coupled linear VCA module, ideal for flexible and advanced modulation in your Eurorack system. Here's how you can harness its features for unique and intense sound design.

General Tips

- **DC Coupling** means you can process CV as well as audio—enabling creative hybrid uses.
 - **CV LEVEL and CV OFFSET** per channel allow dual-layer control: use automation/modulation (via CV inputs) plus fine manual biasing (via OFFSET).
 - **Sub-mix Feature:** Route several VCAs into one for serial/parallel processing or complex stereo/dual mono architectures.
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1. Distorted Percussive Sounds

Setup & Patch Ideas:

- **Patch Audio Drums into Inputs 1–3:** Multi-track drum hits or metallic samples.
 - **Drive Each VCA Hard:** Send high voltage envelopes (attack/decay from fast EG/LFO) into each VCA's CV LEVEL input. The VC8 opens fully at +5V, so push up to and possibly over this for harder transients.
 - **CV OFFSET Shaping:** Use the OFFSET CV knob to set the VCA always slightly open, or bias it so fast attack envelopes click open further—providing a clicky, “snappy” edge.
 - **Distortion & Clipping:** Follow the VC8 with wavefolders, saturation modules, or even overdrive pedals. Pushing the VCA past linear range with hot CV inputs will introduce “soft” analog distortion, leveraging the LM13700 OTA's characteristic.
 - **Sub-Mix Crunch:** Engage sub-mix on Channel 4, summing 1–3 for a “drum bus” you can dynamically squash further.
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2. Crazy Dubstep/Drum & Bass Basslines

Setup & Patch Ideas:

- **Bass Oscillator → VCA Input 5 or 6**
- **LFO or Envelope Follower to CV LEVEL:** Use sharp, rhythmic LFOs, envelopes, or sequencer gates to chop and modulate the amplitude. Exaggerate with fast, deep modulation for “wub” style sounds.
- **Audio-rate Modulation:** Patch an oscillator (sine/triangle) into CV LEVEL input for AM (amplitude modulation) to create growling, tearing textures.
- **Offset for Gating Effects:** Set OFFSET so the VCA is closed until struck by mod CV's peak, adding rhythmic gating or “stutter.”
- **Dual Bass Sub-mix:** Channels 5–7 can feed a bass sub-group into Ch 8; add distortion/fx post-mix for huge, composite textures.

3. Haunting Atmospheric Pads

Setup & Patch Ideas:

- **Pad/CV Drones → Multiple VCAs:** Spread evolving pad sources (long envelopes, wavetables, field recordings) across VCAs 1–3 and 5–7.
- **Slow LFOs or Random S&H to CV LEVEL:** Gently open/close each VCA independently for drifting, spectral amplitude movement.
- **Negative OFFSET:** Apply negative Offset to make the VCA's CV response more subtle, enhancing "ghosting" fade-ins and undulating amplitudes.
- **White LED Feedback:** Use the white LEDs as visual feedback to match amplitude movement with other elements in your patch (visual-audio integration).
- **Ambient Sub-mix:** Engage sub-mix on 4/8 for composite textures. Modulate these master VCAs with slow envelopes or even environmental CV (pressure, light or touch sensors).
- **Layered Depth:** Route sub-mix outputs to heavy reverb, long delays, or granular fx—enabling lush, sustained pads.

Bonus Tips

- **Envelope Shaping:** Chaining a fast VCA (with percussive envelope) before a slow VCA (with undulating LFO) layers rhythmic and slow dynamics.
- **Feedback Adventures:** Patch sub-mix outputs back into VCA inputs (with care!) for self-modulation, warping, or controlled chaos.

Try chaining VC8's channels in unconventional ways and modulate both the CV LEVEL and OFFSET—sometimes with the same modulation source, for unpredictable, lively results. Exploit the DC coupling for dynamic audio/CV hybrid processing!
