

Synthesis Technology – E340 Cloud Generator

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[Synthesis Technology E340 Cloud Generator Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Using the Synthesis Technology E340 Cloud Generator in Full-Length Eurorack Songs

As a eurock synth musician, one of the challenges is evolving a great groove, riff, or texture into an engaging full-length track. The Synthesis Technology E340 Cloud Generator is a unique, versatile oscillator that's perfect for both foundational elements and evolving textures thanks to its multi-VCO "cloud" architecture. Here's how you can harness its features for expressive, song-length compositions.

Core Sound Capabilities

- **Super Saw/Swarm/Chorus Textures:** Layer up to 8 oscillators, detune with SPREAD, and animate them with CHAOS for thick pads, buzzing leads, or moving drones.
 - **Versatile Outputs:** Simultaneous Saw and Sine wave outputs—great for layering contrasting timbres.
 - **Voltage Control for Expressive Performance:** CV inputs for SPREAD, CHAOS, CHAOS BW, FM, and pitch (1V/oct) make it deeply modulatable for automation and scene changes.
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Ideas for Full Song Construction

1. Build Pads That Evolve Over Time

- **Use in Song:** Layer E340's lush, detuned sawtooth or sine outputs with slow extra SPREAD and CHAOS modulation via LFOs for evolving atmospheres beneath other elements.
- **Transitions:** Automate CHAOS and DENSITY for smooth crescendos or breakdowns—fade between 2, 4, and 8 VCOs.

2. Create Melodic Elements With Tension and Release

- **Use in Song:** Sequence melodic lines or arpeggios using the 1V/oct input from a quantizer or MIDI-to-CV converter.
- **Song Progression:** Automate or manually sweep SPREAD and CHAOS to intensify or relax melodies in different song sections.

3. Generative and Ambient Music Techniques

- **Long, Evolving Drones:** Patch slow, looping envelopes or sample & hold to SPREAD and CHAOS for subtle, random, or generative movement over several minutes.
- **Scene Transitions:** Use voltage-controlled switching (with modules like Mutable Instruments Frames or a manual switch) to jump between radically different E340 settings.

4. Basslines With Character

- **Mono Bass:** Reduce DENSITY to 2 or 4, keep SPREAD low, and use slight FM or CHAOS for a tight, “alive” bass foundation that subtly ripples within a song.

5. FX, Risers, and Breakdown Elements

- **Build-Ups:** Slowly increase SPREAD and DENSITY to morph a simple tone into a chaotic hive for drops/build-ups.

- **Breaks:** Drop DENSITY or instantly hard-sync/reset the E340 to make percussive stabs/fills.

6. Hands-Off Arrangement: Automation via CV

Pair the E340 with sequencers, LFOs, envelope generators, and clocked modulation sources:

- **Song Sections:** Use CV presets (via sequential switches like WMD Sequential Switch Matrix) to automate different parameter sets for intro, verse, chorus, or outro.
- **Rhythmic Modulation:** Patch clocked modulation (from Pamela's Pro Workout, PNW, or similar) to SPREAD/CHAOS for rhythmic "pulsing" movement.

7. Stereo Lead And Pad Design

- **Dual-Output Stereo:** Pan Saw and Sine outputs left and right, modulate SPREAD and CHAOS at different rates for stereo animation.
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Example Patch Combinations for Song Structure

Section	E340 Use	Other Modules	Result
Intro	Subtle drone, low SPREAD/DENSITY	Reverb/Delay, slow LFO	Ambient sweeping intro pad
Verse	Melodic sequence, semi-tight spread	Sequencer, VCA, EG	Evolving, animated melody
Chorus	Max density, wide spread/chaos	Multi-FX, filter, reverb	Huge, lush pad sound
Breakdown	DENSITY drops, sync or FM modulated	Manual controls, VCF	Minimal, percussive, or filtered

Section	E340 Use	Other Modules	Result
Outro	Fade density/ spread down	Automatic CV fade	Dissolving, sparse texture

Tips for Song-Length Performances with the E340

- **Automate Parameters via CV:** Prepare evolving, hands-off control by using a sequencer or matrix mixer to send CV changes to CHAOS, SPREAD, and DENSITY at key song moments.
- **Manual Intervention:** Pair with performance controllers (e.g., Intellijel Tetrapad, Planar2) for ‘live’ sweeps of cloud settings to punctuate song sections.
- **Morph the Cloud:** Use subtle SPREAD for melodic clarity, then “open the swarm” for high-energy choruses or breakdowns.
- **Freeze and Release Techniques:** Pause modulation (hold LFOs or envelope followers) for tense, static moments, then reintroduce for dramatic effect.

Harnessing the E340’s unique oscillator cloud, combined with judicious use of modulation and patching, allows it to shine as both a featured voice and a supporting element in full-length, evolving tracks—perfect for moving beyond simple riffs and into cinematic, dynamic songs.

Generated With Eurorack Processor