

2hp — Pluck

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Pluck Eurorack Module: Creative Modulation Tips

Let's explore how to get the wildest and most evocative sounds from your 2hp Pluck module, focusing on modulating it for: distorted percussion, basslines, and ambient pads.

1. Distorted Percussive Sounds

Modulation Strategies:

- **Decay CV Abuse:** Patch a fast, stepped or random modulation (e.g. stepped random/"sample & hold" LFO, or trigger sequencer) into the DECAY CV. Use high bipolar voltages for drastic variations. Short decays create snappy clicks; long decays turn into splatty FM blaps.
- **Damp CV for Grit:** Modulate DAMP CV with a sharp, fast envelope or a chaotic LFO. Use the deepest modulation (-5V to +5V) to swing from tight, dead thuds to resonant pingy hits. This changes the harmonic content and makes metallic hits or wooden blocks.
- **Pitch Tricks:** Use the PITCH KNOB for tuning the "body" of your click or drum. For mechanical distortion, slam very low or high CV into V/OCT for "brap"/"zap" sounds.
- **External Distortion:** Run PLUCK's OUT through a wavefolder, bitcrusher or analog distortion for extra dirt.
- **Retriggering:** Fire TRIG at audio rates for digital noise and glitch artifacts.

2. Crazy Basslines (Dubstep/DnB Madness)

Modulation Strategies: - **V/OCT Sequencing:** Sequence the V/OCT input with a pitch CV source. Use slides and pitch bends for wobbly, falling bass sounds. - **Wobble with Damp:** Modulate DAMP CV with synced or free LFOs for “filter sweep” timbral movements especially effective for growly bass textures. - **Decay as Movement:** Envelope or LFO modulation on DECAY CV evolves both note length and harmonic spectrum, perfect for morphing neuro-basslines. - **Manual PITCH Play:** Tweak the PITCH knob mid-note (it stays live for the ringing note!), introducing live vibrato, bends, and pitch instability. - **Polyphonic Mayhem:** Fire multiple TRIGs for overlapping, detuned bass notes—layer for raucous, reedy and menacing sounds.

3. Haunting Atmospheric Pads

Modulation Strategies: - **Slow Decay and Damp:** Set DECAY and DAMP to high values for long, harmonically rich tones. Use slow LFOs or random voltages into both CV inputs for evolving, spectral textures. - **Pitch Drift:** Gently modulate V/OCT with a very slow LFO for tape-like warble. - **Four-Voice Polyphony:** Sequence chords via the TRIG and V/OCT inputs for lush, ringing pad layers; high DECAY settings let notes overlap. - **External Reverb / Delay:** The dry Pluck can be sharply percussive; drench it in reverb/delay to blur the attacks into spectral washes. - **CV Bleed:** Modulate all three (DAMP CV, DECAY CV, V/OCT) simultaneously with related or contrasting voltages for unpredictable, shifting atmospheres.

Patch Example Recipes

Distorted Perc:

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TRIG: Fast clock / sequencer
DAMP CV: Envelope with negative offset
DECAY CV: Random stepped
V/OCT: Not connected or fixed low pitch
OUT: External distortion module or hard clipping
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Dubstep Neuro Bass:

TRIG: Sequencer gate
DAMP CV: LFO at 1/2 speed of sequence (wobble)
DECAY CV: Envelope or sequencer
V/OCT: Bassline sequence with portamento
OUT: Into heavy chorus/drive

Atmospheric Pad:

TRIG: Chord trigger sequence (up to 4 notes)
DAMP CV: Slow random LFO
DECAY CV: Slow triangle LFO
V/OCT: Chord generator or slowly morphing voltages
OUT: Massive reverb

Key CV Ranges & Controls

- **DAMP/DECAY CV:** Accepts -5V to +5V. Bipolar! This makes them highly modulatable for extreme effects.
 - **V/OCT:** Standard 1V/oct. Use with quantizers, sequencers, LFOs for melodic or wild atonal work.
 - **Output:** 10Vpp—hot signal, suitable for further processing and distortion.
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Creative Takeaways

- **Everything but Output is Modulatable:** Get hands-on or patch in automation for organic, never-static results.
- **Polyphony:** Embrace Pluck's polyphony for savage unison bass, lush pads, and rhythmic chaos.
- **Not Just "Strings":** Think of Pluck as a micro-percussion synth, bass monster, or digital resonator—explore beyond "harp."
- **Stacked Modulation:** Use multis/stackcables to blend LFOs, envelopes, random, and sequencer sources for hybrid behaviors.

