

Free Modular – Boost

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Creative Uses for Boost in Your Eurorack System

The Boost module by Free Modular is a flexible, all-analog preamp with gentle diode clipping and a tone circuit. Below are several ways to creatively integrate Boost into your Eurorack system and get the most from its unique character.

1. Add Harmonic Interest to Digital Oscillators

- **Why?** Digital oscillators (like the Mutable Instruments Plaits or Noise Engineering Basimilus Iteritas Alter) can sometimes sound sterile.
- **How?** Place Boost after the digital oscillator to inject analog warmth and subtle (or not-so-subtle) saturation. Use the Tone knob to shape the overtones for a richer or more aggressive sound.
- **Tip:** Modulate the VCA level pre-Boost for dynamic distortion.

2. External Gear Integration: Guitar Pedal Sounds, Line Level to Modular

- **Why?** Want to use guitar pedals or synths with your rack, or feed in audio from your DAW/interface?

- **How?** Use Boost to bring external line-level sources (drum machines, grooveboxes, audio interfaces, microphones) up to modular levels, with a dash of analog overdrive.
- **Combo Suggestion:** Pair with a send/return module (like Befaco's Instrument Interface) for extra routing/metering options.

3. Envelope-Controlled Saturation

- **Why?** Dynamic distortion = more expressive sound.
- **How?** Place a VCA (e.g., Intellijel VCA, Mutable Veils) before Boost, amplitude-modulated by an envelope (like Maths or an ADSR). Fast, snappy envelopes spike the distortion; slower envelopes give smooth saturation.

4. Feedback, Bitcrushing, and Glitch FX

- **Why?** Push Boost into extreme territory for clipped, crunchy artifacts.
- **How?** Feed the output of Boost back into itself, via a mixer with an attenuator (e.g., Doepfer A-138), and control input with a VCA. High feedback can yield "hard" distortion and noise textures.
- **Combo Suggestion:** Use with a bitcrusher module (e.g., Erica Synths Pico BitCrusher) post-Boost for wild digital grit.

5. Overdriven Percussion

- **Why?** Make your percussion knock!
- **How?** Route hats, snares, or kicks through Boost. Use the Tone control to emphasize sizzle (right) or tame it for rounder drum sounds (left).

6. Analog Fuzz Lead Sounds

- **How?** Send a simple waveform like a sine or triangle from an analog oscillator (e.g., Dreadbox Hysteria or Make Noise Dixie II+)

through Boost. The gentle diode clipping creates fuzz or overdrive-like leads, unlike aggressive wavefolders.

7. Tame Harshness or Push Brilliance in Pads

- **Why?** Flexible tone shaping!
- **How?** Use Boost in an aux send return path on a mixer. Boost and brighten washed-out pads, or take off the edge to sit them comfortably in the mix.

8. Layered Coloration in Submixes

- **Tip:** Place Boost on a submix (e.g., grouping multiple voices, percussion, or FX returns) for glue and cohesion. Subtle clipping works as a bus compressor alternative to gel disparate sounds together.

9. Excite Vocals and Spoken Word

- **How?** With a dynamic mic and a preamp to bring levels up (or an interface module), send vocals through Boost for overdriven, radio-like punch—great for aggressive voice processing or lofi sampling.
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Example Patch

```
Oscillator → [VCA] → Boost → [Filter/Phaser/FX] → Mixer/Output  
Envelope → CV In (VCA)  
Modulation Source → Tone (if using external attenuverter or voltage
```

- Replace oscillator with any sound source (drums, field recordings, vocals)
- Try with FX after Boost (delay, reverb modules) for wild saturation trails

Module Type Recommendations: - **VCA** with envelope/LFO modulation -
External input interface (Befaco Instrument Interface, ADDAC200) -
Modulation source: Envelope generators (Make Noise Maths), LFOs -
Wave shaping modules: Before or after Boost for aggressive tones -
Filters: To tame harmonics post-Boost - **Delay/Reverb:** For ambient/smeared textures - **Mixers:** To blend Boosted and clean signals

For more info and updates, check out the [Boost manual PDF](#).

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