

Doepfer – A-119

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Doepfer A-119 Ext. Input / Envelope Follower

Cheat Sheet

The Doepfer A-119 is for integrating external audio (instruments, mics, etc.) into your modular, providing pre-amped audio, an envelope follower, and a gate comparator.

Inputs

Jack Label	Type	Details
Asym. In (!) (3.5mm)	Unbalanced (mono)	For line-level signals (e.g., synths, drum machines). [Gain x0–20]
Symm. In (") (6.3mm)	Balanced (TRS)	For mic/instrument-level signals (e.g., guitar, microphone). [Gain x0–500]

Note: Only use one input at a time. If both are used, mixed with a 1:25 ratio.

Outputs

Jack Label	Type	Voltage Range	Details
Audio Out (§/\$)	Unbalanced audio	up to $\pm 10V^*$	Pre-amped signal (2 linked outputs, "mini-mult").
Envelope Out (%)	CV (envelope)	0–~8V (typical max output)	Follows amplitude contour of input.
Gate Out (&)	Gate	0V (off), +12V (on)	High when envelope > threshold.

* **Audio Out Overload:** Outputs can clip with input gain set too high; watch Overload LED.

Controls, Buttons, Indicators

Label	Type	Range / Purpose
Gain (1)	Knob	Sets input preamp gain (see ranges above)
Thres. (5)	Knob	Sets gate threshold (relative to envelope out)
Overload LED (2)	LED	Lights if preamp output >10V (audio clipping)
Envelope LED (3)	LED	Indicates current envelope level
Gate LED (4)	LED	Indicates gate output status (= high)

Quick Patching Examples

- **Bring in External Audio:**
- Plug audio into **Asym. In** or **Symm. In**
- Set **Gain** so Overload LED barely lights on peaks
- Take pre-amped signal from **Audio Out (S/\$)**
- **Envelope Following (e.g. for VCF/VCAs):**
- Use **Envelope Out (%)** for a dynamic CV
- **External Gate Source (e.g. for ADSRs):**
- Use **Gate Out (&)** when envelope passes threshold
- **Typical Gate Output Threshold:**
- Adjust with **Thres.** until desired triggering
- **Tip:** If Envelope Out (%) is "noisy" with low-frequency inputs (<50 Hz), route through a slew limiter like A-170.

Voltage Ranges

Output	Range
Audio Out	up to $\pm 10V$ (clipping past 10V)
Envelope Out	0~8V (typical)
Gate Out	0V (low), +12V (high)

Additional Notes

- Use **only one input at a time.**
- **Overload LED:** Avoid sustained overload for clean audio.

- **Envelope Out** is a full-wave rectified, low-passed envelope of audio input.
- **Gate Out** is held HIGH as long as the envelope stays above threshold.
- **Two preamp outputs for easy splitting (“mini-mult”).**

Reference:

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