

Bastl Instruments – Dark Matter

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Bastl Dark Matter: Creative Eurorack Patch Ideas

The Bastl Dark Matter is a feedback-focused preamp/distortion/modification module that excels at internal and external audio feedback, saturation, and driving experimental sounds. Here are some advanced and creative patch ideas for deep integration in your modular rig:

1. Self-Feedback Drum Smasher

Patch:

- Connect the output of a drum module (e.g., *Erica Synths Pico Drums*, *Tiptop Audio One*) to the Dark Matter **INPUT**. - Route **X-FADE OUT** back into the **FBK IN** for internal feedback, and use the **DYNAMICS** and **DRIVE** to mash and gate the drum audio. - Modulate **FBK CV** and **DRIVE CV** with a stepped random voltage source (e.g., *Wogglebug*, *SSSR Labs SM042*) for chaotic, evolving distortions.

Result:

Overdriven, feedback-smashed drum textures with glitchy gating and harmonic complexity.

2. Chaotic Synth Voice Mangler

Patch:

- Patch a traditional subtractive mono synth voice (e.g., *Doepfer A-111-5 Mini Synth*, or your favorite VCO > VCF > VCA chain) into **INPUT**. - Insert a random or sequenced modulation source (e.g., *Make Noise Maths*, *Intellijel Quadrax*) to **TONE CV** and **DRIVE CV**. - Feed the **X-FADE OUT** back into your synth voice's filter input or use another external processing module.

Result:

Animate simple melodies or drones with aggressive, VCA-controllable feedback artifacts and wide-ranging harmonic overtones—perfect for industrial timbres.

3. Envelope-Followed Feedback Delays

Patch:

- Patch the **X-FADE OUT** to an audio delay module's input (e.g., *4ms Dual Looping Delay*, *Make Noise Mimeophon*). - Send delay output back to **EXT FBK IN** on Dark Matter. - Use the **DYNAMICS OUT** envelope to shape the feedback amount on the delay (e.g., into delay's feedback CV input).

Result:

Delay repeats morph from clean to aggressive based on audio dynamics, producing density and movement as the input signal changes.

4. No-Input Mixer Sound Sculptor

Patch:

- Leave **INPUT** unpatched. - Patch **X-FADE OUT** back into **EXT FBK IN**. - Modulate **X-FADE CV** with a slow LFO (e.g., *Mutable Instruments Tides*, *Batumi*), and tweak **DRIVE/TONE/DYNAMICS** manually or with additional CV.

Result:

Pure feedback textures and squelchy, screeching “no-input mixer” explorations with hands-on or animated tonal shifting.

5. Voltage-Controlled Harmonic FX

Patch:

- Use a sequencer or random voltage generator (*Intellijel Metropolis*, *Random Source Serge TKB*) to modulate **TONE CV** and **FBK CV**. - Route a full mix or bus of multiple modules (through a mixer module) to **INPUT**. - Use **DRIVE** and **DYNAMICS** to set the saturation and responsiveness.

Result:

Voltage-controlled distortion/frequency shaping FX on anything—great for mixing a whole patch through for bus coloration or live “DJ EQ” wildness.

6. External FX-Feedback Toolbox

Patch:

- Patch **X-FADE OUT** to an external pedal or rack FX (e.g., reverb, phaser, or delay). - Return the FX output back into **EXT FBK IN**. - Use the **POLARITY** switch and **FBK CV** to dynamically shape external feedback character.

Result:

Continuous, hands-on-control over external device feedback loops with modular modulation possibilities.

Recommended Complementary Modules

- **Random/Chaos Modules:** *Make Noise Wogglebug*, *Mutable Instruments Marbles*
 - Animate unpredictable changes in feedback or tone.
- **Delays/Reverbs:** *4ms Dual Looping Delay*, *Strymon Magneto*, *Mutable Instruments Clouds*
 - Combine atmospheric textures with hyperactive feedback.

- **VCAs/Envelopes:** *Intellijel Quad VCA, ALM Tangle Quartet*
→ Dynamic control over feedback, especially with Dark Matter's CV inputs/outputs.
- **LFOs/Sequencers:** *Xaoc Batumi, Intellijel Metropolis*
→ Rhythmic movement in distortion/tone.
- **Mixers/Matrix Mixers:** *Doepfer A-138, Rebel Technology Mix 4*
→ Route multiple feedback and modulation sources for complex feedback networks.

These creative applications let Dark Matter mutate from a rowdy drive/fuzz box into a modular performance instrument—especially when paired with clever CV and external signal routing.

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