

Doepfer — A-138B

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[Doepfer A-138 MIXER Manual PDF](#)

Creative Uses for Doepfer A-138 Mixer (System A-100)

The A-138 is a versatile 4-channel mixer, available with linear (A-138a, best for CVs) or logarithmic (A-138b, best for audio) response. Its ability to mix both audio and control voltages, plus its output attenuator and optional offset on input 1, makes it a powerful utility in any Eurorack system.

Below are creative ways to integrate it with other modules for exciting, musical, or experimental results:

Audio Processing & Mangling

1. Submix & VC-Morphing

- **Use Case:** Combine several oscillators (e.g., Doepfer A-110, Mutable Instruments Plaits, or a Make Noise STO) for complex, evolving timbres.
- **How:** Patch multiple VCO outputs into the A-138 inputs. Morph between them live or with automation for layered or crossfaded textures before sending to a VCF or external effects.

2. Waveshaping Pre/Post-mix

- **Use Case:** Place the A-138 before or after a waveshaper (e.g., Intellijel Bifold, Doepfer A-137-1) to blend various harmonics, subharmonics, or waveforms for unique distortion or saturation effects.

3. Mixing Audio with Noise/Modulation

- **Use Case:** Blend your main synth voices with noise sources (A-118 Noise/Random) or filtered audio from other modules to add texture or grit to the master signal.
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Creative CV Mixing

4. Animated Modulation Sources

- **Use Case:** Use A-138a to blend LFOs (A-145), envelopes (A-140), random sources, and manual CV for constantly evolving modulation.
- **Recommended Modules:** A-145 (LFO), Maths (Make Noise), Quadrax (Intellijel).

5. CV Summing & Offset Tricks

- **How:** Utilize the offset generator feature (on inputs with nothing patched) to add or subtract DC offsets to your modulation — apply this to VCO FM attenuators or filter CV for wild modulations.
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Feedback Patching & Sound Design

6. Mixer Feedback Loops

- **Use Case:** Create feedback by patching the output of a filter, distortion, or delay back into one input of the A-138 along with the dry signal. Adjust levels for controllable feedback ranging from subtle harmonics to screaming chaos.
- **Recommended Pairings:** Erica Synths Fusion Delay, Doepfer A-124 Wasp Filter, Mutable Instruments Rings.

7. Signal Inversion via Offset

- **How:** Combine the offset jumper with negative polarity to invert a signal — useful for phase cancellation or anti-phase processing in stereo rigs.

Utility & Performance Tricks

8. Master Volume & Performance Fader

- **Use Case:** Use the output attenuator as your final "volume" for a group of voices or modulation. Great for live sets to fade in/out submixes, sequences, or entire stems.

9. Stereo/EQ Networking

- **How:** Chain two A-138s for makeshift panning (left mixer = left channel, right = right) or to mix wet/dry signal paths for parallel processing (e.g., blend dry VCO with effected daughter signal).
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Experimental Patch Ideas

10. Pseudo-Ring Modulation

- Mix two audio-rate oscillators and a sub-audio source (like a slow LFO) in the A-138, then send the output to a VCA controlled by yet another modulator for clangorous, Autechre-style tones.

11. MIDI or Trigger Bus Mixing

- Use to combine different gate or trigger streams (from sequencers, logic modules, or random sources) to make complex rhythmic patterns for percussion or synced modulation.

Hot Tip

The A-138 is unassuming but is the cornerstone of creative patching. Explore it as a dynamic "hub" — not just an end-of-chain utility!

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