

Earthquaker Devices – Afterneath

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Creative Uses for the EarthQuaker Devices Afterneath Eurorack Module

As a fellow modular synth artist, here are some inspiring and less-obvious ways to patch the Afterneath module in your rack, leveraging its unique features for maximum creativity:

1. Voltage-Controlled Drone Texture Generator

Patch Idea: - Feed a steady waveform (triangle, sine, or even a drone voice like Mutable Instruments Rings or Make Noise STO) into the Afterneath. - Modulate the **Drag** parameter via CV from a slow LFO or random source (e.g., Mutable Instruments Tides or Make Noise Wobblebug). - Vary the **Mode** between quantized scales for evolving harmonic shifts, using a sequential switch (Doepfer A-151 or Sequential Switch Matrix). - Bump up the **Reflect** and **Length** controls for lush, evolving self-oscillation. - Use the **Dry Kill** for 100% wet output—great for drone/noise applications.

Result:

Gorgeous, self-sustaining pads with microtonal or scale-locked pitch shifts, perfect for ambient backgrounds.

2. Stereo/Spatial Wash via Parallel Processing

Patch Idea: - Split your main sound source using a signal multiple (Intellijel Mult, Mutable Instruments Links). - Patch one output into Afterneath, and the other into a classic reverb (like Strymon Magneto in reverb mode or Erica Synths Black Hole DSP). - Pan Afterneath's **Main Output** left, and tap the **Reflect Send** output and pan it right. - Optionally, process **Reflect Send** further (delay, filter, or wavefolder) before returning to stereo out or back into Afterneath's **Reflect Return**. - Modulate the **Diffuse** or **Length** CV inputs with envelopes or sequencers for dynamic movement.

Result:

Pseudo-stereo clouds, spatial ping-ponging ambience, or dense shimmer effects—especially if Reflect Send is externally effected.

3. Voltage-Controlled Arpeggiated Reverb (Psuedo-Melodic Madness)

Patch Idea: - Send melodic CV (1v/oct from a sequencer or quantizer like Intellijel Metropolis, Pam's New Workout, or O_C in sequencer app) into the **Drag CV** input. - Set Afterneath to Modes 4–9 for quantized scale responses. - Feed a simple percussive pluck or chord into the audio input. - Clock the CV sequence in sync with your rhythm. - Vary the **Mode** with additional stepped random modulation for evolving harmonics.

Result:

The reverb itself arpeggiates and melodically modulates, creating randomized or quantized harmonic tails and refracted melodic echoes.

4. Feedback Creature - Destructive FX Loop

Patch Idea: - Take **Reflect Send** and patch it through a distortion pedal (Elektron Analog Drive, Doepfer A-136) or resonant filter (VCF), or granular effect (Qu-Bit Nebulae). - Return it to **Reflect Return**. - Use the **Reflect** knob to taste, and use an envelope follower (Mutable Instruments Ears) to modulate feedback level or the **Length** parameter, making the feedback reactive to incoming transients.

Result:

Organic self-oscillation, howling drones, glitched-out swarms—each peak and slap in the input will modulate the Afterneath's internal chaos.

5. Dynamic Gate/Envelope Processing with External VCA Crossfade

Patch Idea: - Use a dual VCA (e.g., Intellijel Quad VCA or Doepfer A-132-3) to crossfade between the Afterneath output and the dry input signal. - Use a function generator (Make Noise Maths, Intellijel Quadrax) to 'strike' the Wet/Dry balance in time with a sequence. - Use an external envelope to modulate **Diffuse** or **Length** for evolving reverb shapes.

Result:

Gestural, playable reverb storms with precisely-timed fade-ins, ghostly reverb accents, or gated, percussive echo bursts.

6. Randomness & Controlled Mayhem

Patch Idea: - Patch a random voltage (Mutable Instruments Marbles, SSF Ultra-Random Analog) to the Afterneath's **Mode CV** or **Drag CV** input while in a quantized mode. - Feed percussive material or spoken word into the input. - Use the output as a generative source layer for IDM, glitch, or experimental music.

Result:

Serendipitous fragments, scale-mapped chaos, and generative sonic ecosystems.

Module Type Recommendations

- **Sequencers/Quantizers:** Exploit the quantized **Mode** capability (e.g., O_C, Pam's, Intellijel Metropolis).
- **Random Generators/Sample & Hold:** For unpredictable reverb "melodic" motion.
- **Envelope Followers:** Responsive modulation based on input amplitude.
- **Filters/Distortion/Granular FX:** In the **Reflect Send/Return** path for gnarly, unique feedback loops.

Noteworthy Pairings

- **Make Noise Morphagene:** Granularize your input before (or after) reverb for deep soundscapes.
- **Intellijel Rainmaker or Mutable Instruments Beads:** Serial or parallel to Afterneath for insane rhythmic or textural delays.
- **Expert Sleepers Disting/FX Aid:** Augment Afterneath with complementary modulation or reverb types in a chain.
- **Befaco Rampage or Maths:** Modulate all four CV inputs with complex, multi-shape envelopes.

Final Tips

- Try clocking the Drag parameter hard for tempo-synced microshifts.
- Cross-modulate Diffuse/Length for living, breathing reflectivity.
- Use a matrix mixer to feed subtle amounts of output back into the input for barely-controlled evolving structures.

For further patching inspiration, [download the manual](#) and deep-dive into all the parameter interactions.

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