Expert Sleepers — ES-9

- Manual PDF

Expert Sleepers ES-9 Firmware v1.3 Manual PDF

Creative Uses for the Expert Sleepers ES-9 in Eurorack

The Expert Sleepers ES-9 is a highly flexible multi-channel audio interface and mixer for Eurorack, connecting your modular system to a DAW or iOS device via USB. Here are some creative strategies and module combos to expand its capabilities, drawing on its deep integration options:

1. Hybrid CV & Audio Recording ("Eurorack Tape Recorder")

- **Setup:** Connect modular audio and CV signals to ES-9 inputs. Route to your DAW via USB.
- **Use:** Record both audio and control voltage (CV) tracks. Later, route the CVs back out for patch recall, generative playback, or post-recorded modulation of modules (e.g., modulating a filter with your previously recorded CV performance).
- **Complementary modules:**
- Any modulation or sequencer module (e.g., Make Noise Maths, Intellijel Quadrax, Mutable Instruments Stages).
- Audio signal generators (VCOs, drum voices, etc.).

2. Complex Processing Loops (DAW FX Integration or iOS FX Chains)

- **Setup:** Use the ES-9's multiple ins and outs as inserts between your modular and a DAW or iOS device (such as an iPad running AUM/AudiaUnit FX).
- **Use:** Patch signals out from modular, process with VST/iOS effects (convolution, granular, unique reverbs, wild delays), and return them to the rack.
- **Complementary modules:**
- Classic hardware processors in your rack (e.g., Z-DSP, FX Aid) for parallel blends.
- Matrix mixers (e.g., Doepfer A-138m, Mutable Instruments Frames) to blend processed/unprocessed signals.
- Send/Return modules (e.g., Intellijel Audio Interface II) for additional routing flexibility.

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3. Multichannel Modular Performance and Quadraphonic Sound

- **Setup:** Use ES-9's many outputs to send up to 8 discrete channels (audio or CV) to speaker arrays or spatialization systems.
- **Use:** Design quadraphonic (or octaphonic) textures, spatial panning of modular voices, or immersive live setups.
- **Recommended modules:**
- Eurorack panning/spatialization: 4ms VCA Matrix, Joranalogue Mix 3, Doepfer A-134-1.
- Quad/Hex speakers or surround panning modules/software.

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4. CV-to-DAW Automation and MIDI Feedback Loops

- **Setup:** Use ES-9 inputs for CV-to-DAW translation to automate plugins, record envelopes/LFOs, or create feedback/auto-pilot generative patches controlled by your computer software.
- **Use:** Write automation from your case and let your DAW control lighting/video/MIDI gear, or route DAW MIDI and automation data back for real-time control of envelopes, LFOs, or sequencers.
- **Recommended modules:**
- MIDI-to-CV (e.g., Expert Sleepers FH-2, Mutable Instruments Yarns), for bi-directional MIDI integration.
- CV recorders/samplers (e.g., Tiptop Audio Z8000, Mordax Data for visualization).

5. Native Modular Mixer: Use of Internal Mixing and EQ

- **Setup:** Use the ES-9's onboard mixer to combine VCOs and drums directly in the case, applying the internal EQ per channel—no extra rack space needed for basic mixing/EQ.
- **Use:** Set up cue mixes (for live performance monitoring), send submixes to outputs for further processing or crossfading.
- **Complementary modules:**
- Standalone rack mixers for submixing before the ES-9 (e.g., Befaco Hexmix, WMD Performance Mixer).
- Stereo image enhancers, spatial modules (Mimeophon, Erica Synths Black Stereo Delay).

6. Digital and Optical Expansion

- **Setup:** Patch digital audio via S/PDIF (TOSlink) to or from modular, for clean multirack or long-cable runs.

- **Use:** Connect to other S/PDIF-enabled gear (Octatrack, audio interfaces), or to digital Eurorack modules (e.g., Endorphines.es modules with SPDIF, or ADAT-connected expansion like ES-3/ES-6).
- **Recommended modules:**
- Digital-to-CV/CV-to-digital converters (e.g., ES-3, ES-6 for ADAT I/O with Silent Way/Max/MSP).

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7. MIDI Control of Modular Mixer (Performance-Optimized Mixing)

- **Setup:** Assign a MIDI controller (e.g., fader box or iPad touch controller) to ES-9's internal mixer via MIDI CC.
- **Use:** Perform live hands-on mixing or fast changes, automate mixing fades, pan, and FX sends without tying up other modular real estate.
- **Complementary modules:**
- External MIDI controllers (Novation Launch Control XL, Faderfox MX12, iPad running TouchOSC/AUM).
- MIDI utilities in Eurorack, for creative feedback routing (ALM Busy Circuits Pamela's New Workout with MIDI expander).

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8. Feedback Experiments & No-input Mixing

- **Setup:** Take advantage of ES-9's internal mixer routing and summing buses to create controlled feedback loops (audio or CV) for chaotic/noise-based synthesis or Karplus-Strong physical modeling.
- **Use:** Patch outputs back into inputs, use DAW automation or MIDI CC to control feedback amount/routing in real-time for dynamic self-oscillating networks.
- **Complementary modules:**
- Signal routers (Intellijel Planar 2, Doepfer A-182-2), VCAs to modulate feedback paths under CV or DAW control.

- Distortion/waveshaper modules to mangle the feedback path (Doepfer A-137, Erica Synths Fusion VCF).

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9. Expand Polyphonic CV/Gate/Audio Control

- **Setup:** Use ES-9's multiple ins/outs to patch polyphonic modular voices into DAW for multitrack recording, or to receive multiple CV/gate tracks from DAW for polyphonic control.
- **Use:** Create lush chords or layered sequences with software sequencers controlling analog oscillators via the ES-9.
- **Recommended modules:**
- Polyphonic oscillators (Verbos Harmonic Oscillator, Mutable Instruments Plaits in multi output mode).
- Poly-to-unity mixer modules for summing voices before FX.

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10. Eurorack as Outboard Processor

- **Setup:** Route DAW signals into ES-9, through analog modules (filters, VCAs, distortion, compressors), then back to DAW.
- **Use:** Use your favorite modular processors on guitar, vocals, or software instruments. Automate parameter sweeps using the ES-9 and DAW MIDI CC.
- **Complementary modules:**
- Character filters (Rossum Morpheus, Mutable Ripples, Bastl Cinnamon).
- Compressors (WMD MSCL, SSF Autodyne), analog distortion (Mutable Warps, AJH Wave Swarm).
- VCAs for automated gain riding (ALM Tangle Quartet, Intellijel Quad VCA).

The ES-9 unlocks your modular for rich hybrid workflows, complex multicore I/O, live performance flexibility, and seamless digital/analog blending. Its onboard mixer, MIDI CC, and digital options make it the flagship heart of a modern modular/DAW/iOS-driven studio.