

Mutable Instruments – Plaits

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Creative Ways to Use Mutable Instruments Plaits in Eurorack

Plaits is a powerful and versatile sound source capable of classic subtractive, FM, additive, physical modeling, and percussive synthesis. Below are creative patch ideas and module combinations to push its sonic potential further.

1. Textural Layering with Clouds or Beads (Granular FX)

- **How:** Patch Plaits' OUT and AUX into left/right inputs of Mutable Instruments *Clouds* (or *Beads*) for stereo granular processing.
- **What Happens:** Get lush evolving textures by freezing, time-stretching, and mangling Plaits' evolving timbres.
- **Try:** Scan through wavetable or chord modes on Plaits, then freeze and modulate in Clouds for ethereal pads or granular washes.

2. Animated Timbres with LFO/Envelope Modulation

- **How:** Use an advanced LFO like *Mutable Instruments Tides* or *ALM Pam's New Workout* to modulate TIMBRE, MORPH, and HARMONICS in sync or at audio rates.
- **What Happens:** Creates dynamic, evolving sounds, rhythmic pulses, and complex motion in chord, wavetable, or resonator models.
- **Try:** Envelope generators (eg. *Intellijel Quadra*, *Make Noise Maths*) for percussive modulation, or feed a random LFO for evolving, organic variations.

3. Physical Modeling: Excite Rings with Plaits

- **How:** Patch AUX or OUT from Plaits' physical models (e.g., inharmonic string, modal resonator) to the *audio input* of *Mutable Instruments Rings*.
- **What Happens:** Use Plaits as an exciter to “strike” Rings, vastly expanding physical modeling textures and plucks.
- **Try:** Adjusted dust noise or drum models on Plaits for unconventional exciter material.

4. Percussive Madness with Sequencers and Gates

- **How:** Sequence rapid triggers/gates (from *ALM Pamela's New Workout*, *Intellijel Metropolis*, *Eloquencer*) to Plaits' TRIG input in drum/snare/hi-hat modes.
- **What Happens:** Plaits becomes a full drum voice module, especially strong when different models are “morphed” and accented via LEVEL CV.
- **Try:** Use gate probability/randomization to shift between snare, bass, and hats for glitchy beats.

5. Rich Polyphony with External Quantizers and Arpeggiators

- **How:** Chain a quantizer module (*Intellijel Scales*, *Doepfer A-156*) to the V/OCT input, clocked by a sequential voltage source or arpeggiator.
- **What Happens:** Gives you tuned melodic control for chords, wavetables, and FM sounds.
- **Try:** Randomized quantized voltages to morph through Plaits' models for generative soundscapes.

6. Spectral Processing with Filters and Vocoder

- **How:** Send Plaits OUT/AUX to complex filter banks (*Doepfer A-128*, *Mutable Blinds* in VCA mode) or external vocoder modules.
- **What Happens:** Sculpt the harmonics further, or use Plaits' speech models through vocoders for wild robotic vocal FX.
- **Try:** Modulate filter cutoff with Plaits' internal envelope or external CV for shifting vowel tones and deep movement in the mix.

7. Self-Modulation and Feedback Fun

- **How:** Mult or send an attenuated copy of Plaits' OUT/AUX back into TIMBRE or MORPH CV inputs.
- **What Happens:** Self-patching creates instability, wild modulation, and can bring out unexpected cross-modulation artifacts.
- **Try:** Use lowpass gates (Make Noise Optomix) for additional dynamic control in the feedback loop.

8. Accent and Dynamics with Analog VCAs & Envelopes

- **How:** Send Plaits' trigger envelope to control an external VCA (*Intellijel Quad VCA*), or use Plaits' LEVEL CV with sidechain-modulated VCA modules.
- **What Happens:** Dynamic articulation and control of amplitude, external compression, or gating.
- **Try:** Use a sequencer with accents to CV Plaits' LEVEL input in percussive models for dynamic drum lines.

9. Stereo/Spatial Tricks

- **How:** Patch OUT and AUX to different effects and pan each independently (e.g., into *Erica Synths Black Stereo Delay, 4ms Dual Looping Delay*).
- **What Happens:** Create wide, immersive stereo fields with related yet distinct processed signals.
- **Try:** Use a stereo mixer or soundstage module for positioning Plaits voices in space.

10. CV-Controlled Morphing Drum Kits

- **How:** Use a sequencer or voltage-addressed switch (*Doepfer A-150*) to step through drum/percussion models, controlling drum "kits" live via CV.
- **What Happens:** Seamless morphing between electronic drum timbres, or totally new hybridized drum sounds.
- **Try:** Modulate MORPH/DECAY for expressive fills and rolls.

Recommended Utility Modules for Creative Plaits Patching

- **CV Mixers/Attenuverters:** Mutable Instruments *Blinds*, *MI Shades*
- **Clock Dividers/Random Generators:** *ALM Pamela's New Workout*, *Mutable Marbles*
- **Envelope Followers:** *Doepfer A-119*, for externally modulated “accent” on Plaits
- **Wavefolders/Distortion:** *Dreadbox Euphoria*, *Doepfer A-137-1* for even more harmonics
- **External Audio Input:** Route external audio to filter models for pseudo vocoder/FX tones

Explore, Experiment, and Embrace Happy Accidents!

Mutable Instruments Plaits is made for creative abuse. Mult its outputs, modulate everything, and don't be afraid to break the rules.

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