

Shakmat – Time Wizard

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[Time Wizard Manual PDF](#)

Creating Hyper-Complex Rhythmic Percussion with the Shakmat Time Wizard

As a Eurorack modular musician, the **Shakmat Time Wizard** is a powerful ally for generating intricate percussive patterns, polyrhythms, and evolving clock sequences. Here's how you can harness its magical features to create *densely rhythmic, hyper-complex percussion* setups:

1. Polyrhythms and Complex Clock Division

- **Six Independent Dividers:** Patch your master clock (e.g., from a sequencer or clock source) into the Time Wizard's Clock Input. Each divider (A1–A3, B4–B6) can be independently set to different division factors.
 - Set A1 and B4 to uneven numbers (e.g., 5 and 7). Now A1 and B4 outputs pulse at 1/5 and 1/7 the input clock rate—creating classic polyrhythms.
 - Use even more divisors on the other outs (e.g., 3, 4, 8, 11, 13...) to taste.

2. Complex Time Signatures

- **Clock B Switch:** Use the Clock B switch to break away from simple divisions. In the lower position, use the Reset/Clock B input as a *completely independent clock* for the B column (B4/5/6). Polyrhythm possibilities multiply when A and B columns run on different clocks!

- **Unusual Bars:** Set the switch to the middle to clock B5/B6 from B4, enabling nested time signatures (e.g., 7/8 over 5/4).

3. Multiplication & Triplets

- **Multiply A Switch:** Flip to the $\times 3$ or $\times 4$ position to multiply the A column's clock input frequency—ideal for triplets, dotted notes, or off-grid time slicing. Great for getting that broken, highly syncopated, or 'rushed' feel for your percussion voices.

4. Logic Functions: Evolving, Layered Patterns

- **Logic A2 Switch:** This switch is the rhythmic brain:
 - "A2 & B5" halves the period at which A2 fires in relation to B5—great for staggered hi-hats or fills.
 - "A2 or A3" generates more *unexpected, offbeat* clock events, great for triggering percussive accents or glitch hits.

5. Reset B6 for Global Structural Changes

- Use B6's output to periodically reset the A (or both A+B) columns. This creates bars, cycles, or measure resets, joining disparate rhythms together — very useful for long-form patterns that resolve after many bars.

6. Punchy Percussion via Half Period Gates

- **Triggers vs. Gates:** On the module's rear jumper, set outputs 5 & 6 to 'half period gates' instead of triggers—some drum modules respond dramatically to gate length, yielding new tonal or shape possibilities per hit.
- **Short Triggers for Snappiness:** For sharp, crisp percussive sounds, use the default short trigger setting on most outputs.

7. General Patch Ideas

- **Triggering Drum Voices:** Route all six outputs to different drum modules (kick, snare, rim, hat, etc) for wild polyrhythmic patterns.
- **Accent and Flam Effects:** Use logic outputs or multiplied/divided outputs to accent specific percussion hits, drive VCAs for velocity/strength, or layer sounds.
- **Modulating Effects:** Patch outputs to clock a synced delay, stutter, or retrigger in a granular processor for percussive chaos.
- **Probability/Groove:** Use logic combinations (A2 or A3) to add ‘occasionally firing’ triggers—great for fills, funk, and surprise elements.

8. Next-Level Techniques

- **Stack/Chain Time Wizards:** Combine multiple Time Wizards for truly astronomical complexity.
- **Interact with Resets:** Use the Reset B6 function to periodically shift everything—think complex shifting patterns for IDM, glitch, or experimental techno.

Creative Tip

Use the Time Wizard as a live performance tool: with the switches and pots at your fingertips, you can morph rhythms on the fly, instantly transforming the mood and energy of your track.

Manual Reference:

[Shakmat Time Wizard Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Generated With Eurorack Processor:

<https://github.com/nstarke/eurorack-processor>