RS808

RS808

LEVEL

SNAP

PITCH

ACCENT

ACCENT IN

GATE IN

RS/CL OUT

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Introduction.

The RS808 is Roland's TR-808 Rimshot/Clavs sound generator adapted for modular synthesizer use. The front panel contains all of the controls found on the original TR-808 drum machine, allowing you full control over the sound's volume levels to mix with other drums, and accent levels. In addition to that, the RS808 includes a Pitch control knob, Snap control knob, and two switches for selecting between four different sounds.

Let's get started.

To start using the RS808, plug a gate signal into the GATE IN and plug the RS OUT to your sound system, set the LEVEL half way, set the two switches down, set SNAP to about 30% and PITCH to 50%. You should hear the classic 808 Rimshot sound. Flip the two switches upward and you will hear the 808 Clavs sound.

Four sounds to chose from.

The two switches allow 4 different positions, both up are Clavs, both down is the Rimshot, Left up, Right down is a nonlinear mix of Clavs and Rimshot, Left down, Right up is a short "click" sound.

Controls.

SNAP Explained:

SNAP controls the height of the internal envelope generator. It has a different subtle effect with each sound setting but in general will go from silence to maximum snap.
This control was not available on the original 808 machine and adds more variation to experiment with.

PITCH Explained:

PITCH lets you set the frequency of the sound so it can be played in harmony with other sounds. It also give you the ability to shape the sound together with the SNAP control, creating new sounds. This control was not available on the original 808 machine and adds more variation to experiment with.

Dynamics and Gain:

Accent and Levels:

Dynamic Accent and Level control of any drum sound in the mix is a big part of making a beat sound right. Dynamic Accent provides emphasis on a particular note through loudness. In analog circuits like the RS808, the accent pulse physically "hits" the internal VCA circuit harder and provides not only a louder sound but also slightly more attack (much like if you were to hit a real drum harder or softer with a drum stick.)
While the original 808 has one global accent knob affecting all of its sounds simultaneously, the RS808 (and all other drum modules in this series) offers an independent accent level control. This feature adds far more dynamics than what was possible with the original machine.

Accent Explained:

The accent input is a gate/trigger signal. While the accent input is not in use, the incoming gate input is routed (normalized) to both the accent input and the gate input. This serves for two purposes:

1. To allow you to reach the hottest drum sound possible even when there is no accent input signal connected.

2. It makes the ACCENT knob act as a fine control of the output gain level. This is very useful in situations where the level knob range is too coarse for setting precise levels in a mix with other drum sounds.

Connecting a gate signal into the accent input will break the internal routing mentioned above and will allow for independent control over accent regardless of the incoming gate signal. In this case as long as there is no accent signal present, the drum sound will be set to the minimum accent level set internally, and once the accent input gets hit by a gate signal, the drum sound will get louder in proportion to the accent level set by the accent knob. In short: the higher the knob setting, the larger the difference will be in gain levels between the accented notes and the un-accented notes.

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