ADDAC Systems — ADDAC-714 Vintage Clipper

- Manual PDF

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Creative Sound Design with the ADDAC714 Vintage Clipper

As a eurorack musician, the ADDAC714 Vintage Clipper offers an array of modulation options for sculpting everything from fierce percussive hits to bass destruction and dark pads. Its diode-based soft clipping, variable gain, waveform symmetry, and independent twin channels make it extremely versatile for experimental and genre-based sound mangling.

Below are strategies and patching tips to unlock its wildest potentials:

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1. Distorted Percussive Sounds

Goal: Dirty, punchy kicks, snares, or hats with intense character and crisp transient clipping.

Patch Tips: - **Send drum signals** (from drum modules or gate-triggered envelopes into VCOs) into Channel 1 or 2 input. - **Turn GAIN up** to introduce hard diode-clipping—this “brick-wall” can make any sound punchy. - **Symmetry Switch:**
- **Up (Symmetrical):** Both positive and negative halves are clipped. Use for full, harmonically-rich percussion (great for aggressive snares/kicks). - **Down (Unsymmetrical):** Only the positive side clipped, for thinner, metallic

timbres (crispy hi-hats or snares). - **Modulate Gain:** Use a CV-controlled VCA or envelope to sweep ADDAC714's GAIN pot manually during a live take.
- **Try Velocity-Based Gain:** If your sequencer or envelope provides variable voltages, "strike" the clipper harder or softer for each hit. - **Exploit the Bass Roll-off:** Layer in a sub below by splitting your percussion before the ADDAC714, blending raw and clipped signals for massive kicks with focused, biting attack.

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2. Wild Dubstep/Drum & Bass Basslines

Goal: Chaotic, compressed, harmonically rich bass for neurofunk or tear-out dubstep.

Patch Tips: - **Feed a bass VCO through the Clipper:** Send the raw saw/square/complex oscillator output into ADDAC714. - **Crank the Gain** for heavy diode clipping; use **Symmetry Up** for maximally aggressive harmonics. - **Modulate Clipping Amount:** Send an LFO, random CV, or sequencer row into a VCA to automate the Gain knob on-the-fly (using a CV-to-motorized pot, or with fingers for quick takes). - **Stereo or Dual Processing:** Run independent VCOs into both channels; set one channel for symmetrical and the other for asymmetrical clipping, then mix post-clip for unique stereo images or layered basses. - **Chop with the Lowpass:** The built-in 3.3kHz LPF gives "old-school" grit—try parallel processing with a completely clean bass and blend for clarity + edge. - **Output Clipping LED:** Use visual feedback to "ride the LED"—set your Gain just below where the LED is permanently on, or go full red for maximum filth.

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3. Haunting Atmospheric Pad Sounds

Goal: Ethereal, noisy, slightly vintage pads with textural interest.

Patch Tips: - **Process Slow Envelopes or Chordal Drones:** Pass big pads (either from VCOs, harmonized samplers, or wavetable synths) through the ADDAC714. - **Low/Medium Gain:** Apply just enough clipping to introduce subtle warmth or buzz—try dialing the Gain up until you hear a gentle

breakup. - **Try Asymmetrical Clipping:** Adds more odd harmonics for unstable, ghostly shimmer. - **Self-Modulate Pad Envelopes:** Route a slow LFO or random voltage to a CV-controllable attenuator before wiggling the Gain, making the pad “breathe” and evolve in distortion amount. - **Dual Channel Parallelism:** Split your stereo pad or process one layer strongly clipped and one barely clipped, then recombine downstream for deep, dimensional pads. - **Leverage the Internal Filter:** Adds mellowing vintage-ness. Place the ADDAC714 at the end of your pad chain for subtle analog “sheen.”

Bonus Experimental Tricks

- **Crosspatch:** Use Channel 1 and 2 with feedback patches or crossfading between stages for evolving distortion tones.
- **Rhythmic Modulation:** Sequence Clipper Gain amounts synced to your drum triggers for rhythmic, pumping distortion effects.
- **Post-effect FX:** Place a reverb/delay after the clipped signal to smear and diffuse clipped transients, great for glitched-out atmospheres.

The ADDAC714 is not CV-controllable directly, but using hands-on modulation, VCAs, sequencers, or LFOs into pre-attenuators makes it extremely dynamic in a well-patched eurorack system.

Explore more and keep patching!
