

Mad Hatter is a comprehensive solution to the difficulty of patching cymbal and snare sounds in a modular synthesizer environment. With a "shift register" style noise generator (like those found in many vintage drum machines) and a six-oscillator square wave stack like the one found in the venerable TR606, Mad Hatter

is a simple and convenient solution to the spiderweb of patching normally required to get good cymbal and hi-hat sounds. With the addition of the audio input, it can also be used for simple snare patching, thus eliminating the need for a mixer. Or you can just use it as a noise source. The possibilities are endless.

CONTROL VOLTAGE JACKS

Control voltages present at the jacks are added to the values set with the knobs.

Positive voltages at the **COLOR** jack are added to the value of the knob. Negative voltages are subtracted from the value.

Positive voltages at the **HPF FREQ** jack are added to the value of the knob. Negative voltages are subtracted from the value.

Positive voltages at the **CROSSFADE** jack are added to the value of the knob. Negative voltages are subtracted from the value.

AUDIO INPUT JACK

The audio input signal goes in here. The hardware will be happiest if the signal level is within $\pm 7V$.

- The signal flow is oscillator stack > a pair of bandpass filters > crossfade mixer with digital noise > High-pass filter > crossfade mixer with audio in.
- For convincing 606-style hi-hats, we suggest COLOR at 100%, HPF FREQ at around 90%, and CROSSFADE at about 80%. For the 606 cymbal sound, just back off the HPF Filter a bit.



KNOBS

The **COLOR** knob controls the shift register noise generator's clock speed. (At full clockwise, it produces white noise.) It also controls the pitch of two of the oscillators, over a 5-semitone range.

The **HPF FREQ** knob controls the corner frequency of the final high-pass filter. The most convincing cymbal sounds are found near the top of the range.

The **CROSSFADE** knob fades from 100% audio input at full anti-clockwise, to 100% digital noise at 12 o'clock, to 100% oscillator stack at full clockwise.

AUDIO OUTPUT JACK

The processed audio comes out here.

- Like most synthesized drum sounds, you'll get the best results when using an envelope generator with an exponential decay.
- For a simple snare sound, put COLOR to around 75%, HPF to around 50%, and CROSSFADE to about 20%. Run a triangle wave in to AUDIO IN, and give it the same envelope you use to drive your VCA.

