

THREE SISTERS

THREE LINKED FILTERS FOR SPECTRAL MIXING & RESONANT SCULPTING

THREE SISTERS related to, and reflections of, one another. Together carving spectral spaces, reorganising and deconstructing tones. A kaleidoscopic lens into your world of sound.

Envisaged as mixer as much as effector, combining sounds according their spectrum. THREE SISTERS carve sonic spaces for your instrument, giving air and breath to an overcrowded patch.

INPUT & OUTPUT

Each of the THREE SISTERS are independent multimode filters, accessed via the lower eight jacks. HIGH, CENTRE & LOW are separate filter paths, input into the left jack and output from the right surrounded by a black rectangle.

ALL provides additional mixed functionality for sending a single source to all three inputs, while the output provides an equal mix of each. Any combination of input & output can be used including feedback patches sending outs back to ins.

Slopes are 24dB/octave for HIGH & LOW, while CENTRE has 12dB/octave on both the upper and lower bound. In crossover mode the CENTRE band has adjustable band size, while in formant mode all filters become bandpass filters with 12dB/octave slopes on top & bottom.

QUALITY

Traditionally filters have control over the quality-factor, or resonance - an emphasis placed at the cutoff frequency for that acid sound. THREE SISTERS follows suit with a non-resonant sound pointing North (12:00), while emphasis increases turning clockwise.

Eventually this resonance starts to ring when sound is input, exciting the filter. Pushing QUALITY to the limit, each begins to oscillate at the cutoff frequency. The sine wave produced at the LOW output is tuned accurately to V/8 (1V / octave). HIGH & CENTRE will be close though not precisely tuned.

Note: The ALL output presents a mix of these sinewaves though will include some distortion. The outputs are designed to be passively mult-ed together to facilitate.

Conversely, rotating QUALITY counter-clockwise takes on a new character: blending an inversely processed sound into the output. The effect is of the broadband sound rising from silence. A phase cancellation will occur at the cutoff frequency as QUALITY nears minimum. Thus !Q can be used as a dry/wet mix, to create subtle notch responses, or shelving eq type filters.

FREQ & FM

Cutoff frequencies for each of the THREE SISTERS are controlled together with the FREQ knob. The range is chosen to allow each of the bands to approach silence at one extreme and full wideband response at the other.

Applying CV to the FREQ input will control all three filters together. This input is calibrated to V/8 for the LOW filter and close-to for the others. Attach a sequencer or melody generator for pure tone motifs.

Using the FM input & accompanying attenuverter, one can apply bipolar modulations to the FREQ parameter, from slow CV envelopes through to audio rate exaltations.

SPAN

Where FREQ shifts all three filters as one, SPAN pushes only LOW & HIGH. Turn clockwise to spread them further apart or counter-clockwise where the two outliers will pass through the CENTRE and slightly overlap. The range is wide for dramatic effects, responding well to slow undulations into the audio range.

CENTRE will respond differently in crossover mode, where SPAN sets the size of the passband between it's upper and lower boundaries.

SWITCH: crossover & formant

Atop it all, the filters include a modality. crossover provides full spectrum processing, LOW as lowpass, HIGH as highpass, and CENTRE fills the gap. Modulation of BANDS not only shifts the HPF & LPF cutoffs, but articulates the width of CENTRE. The resonant peaks are aligned giving two frequency boosts.

formant mode becomes a bank of three bandpass filters, well suited to vowel & percussive sounds, or mixing disparate sources into a new sonic space. Here all three resonant peaks are available (read: sine chords) while anti-resonance inverts the HIGH & LOW into LPF & HPF respectively.

POWER CONSUMPTION

100mA @ +12V
93mA @ -12V

Shrouded power connector Red Stripe (-12V) to left when viewed from rear.

TRIMMING PROCEDURE

One trim only. Controls the width, or span, or size of octaves. Expect 4 octaves of tracking.

Make certain the module has been on for at least 10 minutes, then:

- Attach CV source to FREQ
- Set source to 0V
- Set QUALITY to Maximum
- Monitor LOW output
- Tune to 80Hz with FREQ knob
- Set CV source to 2V
- You should see 320Hz
- If flat, trim flatter CCW
- If sharp, trim sharper CW

Only the LOW output is trimmed 1V / octave (V/8).

SPECTRAL MIXING

Addressing each of the inputs separately, an ensemble of sounds can be combined giving each room to breathe in the mix.

Modulating FM & SPAN with subtle CVs the spectral range of each input can be sculpted, emphasizing or shading each. In particular the CENTRE band can be articulated with SPAN from hidden through to dominance.

VOWELS & RESONANT SCULPTURE

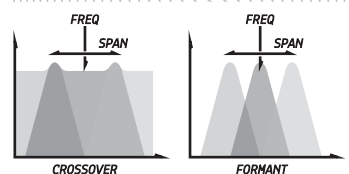
While not a sophisticated speech synthesizer, the SISTERS can impart many vowel like sounds, and other resonant sculpting effects.

Attaching a source to the ALL input and output from ALL while in formant mode will create a triple bandpass response. Use a medium amount of resonance (QUALITY) and articulate the resonance with FREQ & SPAN. Increasing SPAN will enlarge the resonant body.

2-OPERATOR FM SYNTHESIS

As CENTRE is immune to SPAN's control when in formant mode, self-patching of CENTRE to SPAN's CV input results in deep complimentary FM oscillations out LOW & HIGH.

Patch CENTRE to SPAN via a VCA to control FM depth and monitor LOW & HIGH in stereo for wild spatially unsettling bell tones.



SUGGESTIONS

Spectral Gate: Crossover. Input & output from CENTRE. Set QUALITY at 12:00 and SPAN full CCW. Articulate the gate with a bipolar envelope / LFO into SPAN. Negative values fully close the gate, positive broadens spectrum.

Sine Chords: Formant. Self-oscillate with QUALITY at maximum. Output from ALL for grit, or passively mult HIGH, CENTRE & LOW outputs. Tune SPAN for detuned unison, diminished into augmented, and onward to octaves.

24dB Bandpass: Crossover. Patch a sound source into HIGH, Patch from HIGH into LOW, Output from LOW. Set SPAN close to minimum and QUALITY at 12:00. Articulate with FM.