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## Atari punk console mods

Please note that Vibrati Punk console kits are no longer available: these pages are kept for reference and interest. You can find the schematics and source code in these documents, but PCB designs are not currently public. Here are some tips on the range of sounds available on the Vibrati Punk console. The circuit is divided into two parts: the basic Atari Punk console is controlled by VR3 (Base Frequency) and VR4 (Divider). The Low Frequency Oscillator (LFO) is controlled by VR1 (LFO frequency) and VR2 (Depth). To get started, turn VR2 Depth to the left. This turns off the LFO and the sound is like an Atari Punk console. VR3 Base frequency sets the initial note on the circuit. This is also the highest note played by the Vibrati Punk console. VR4 Divider controls the pulse shape (which varies the harmonic content) and the frequency division applied to the base. These two controls interact to give a tone sequence effect. The effect of LFO depends heavily on VR3 and VR4 configuration. A good setting to get started is to set VR3 Base Frequency and VR1 LFO Frequency in center and VR4 splitter to 3/4 mark. Now the VR2 Depth control varies and you'll hear the impact of the LFO. From here you can play with all the controls. If you set VR4 divider too low, you may find that the LFO is not very audible. Below you can find technical information about the Vibrati Punk console, including a drill guide for mounting on a case. I've also suggested some modifications you could try. The circuit is very open to many types of changes and I would really like to hear from builders about their improvements and any photos/videos of their kit in action. Circuit diagram The circuit diagram for the Vibrati Punk console is below. One day I will write a suitable description, but here are the highlights: The circuit consists of two parts. The first part is a NE555 IC wired as an astable oscillator that acts as the LFO. The second part is the Atari Punk Console circuit. Modulation is performed using the modulation input to the base frequency of the Atari Punk console from the LFO. Line Output Modification Classification: Moderate The VPC circuit is very open to mods and bends. I'll add more here as people suggest. To begin with, I've had a @GuerrillaBass to add an output line. To add the line output you will need two more resistors (10k and 1k) and a suitable power outlet. Connect them as shown below. In the circuit below connect the line output connector will not disconnect the speaker. Most outlets have a built-in switch that you can use to automatically disconnect the if you wish. NOTE: As with connecting any new device to a mixer, be very careful. Before connecting everything off and set the levels to the right down. Once connected turn on the power and very cautiously raise the levels. I highly recommend use a battery to power the Vibrati Punk console if connected to a mixer. If you are using a network adapter, make sure that the ring connection of the power outlet is connected to the speaker output of the left hand on the circuit board (above the letter p on the label). This is output 0V. With a battery this is not critical. Some users have reported that the line output level is a bit high with this circuit. If you encounter this problem, try reducing the resistance value of 1k. 680 or 470o would be reasonable values to test. Difficulty Rating: Easy polling of a circuit with a wet finger can sometimes produce interesting results and this has become a basic technique of the circuit bending community. Of course, this should only be done on low voltage battery powered circuits such as the Vibrati Punk console. The VPC circuit works well under touch control. For starters, turn VR1, VR2 and VR3 completely counterclockwise. Turn VR4 up to approximately 3/4ths of the road clockwise. Now try touching the circuit with a wet finger on the back of VR3 and VR4 between the variable resistance contacts shown. You should find your finger will modulate the sound. Why does this work? Your body (particularly if it makes the skin moisten) is an electricity conductor. In fact, the resistance is in the same range as that produced by the variable resistors VR1, VR3 and VR4. When touched through the variable resistance terminals, your body's resistance appears parallel to the resistance of the variable resistance that produces a net reduction in resistance. If you turn VR2 about halfway, you should also find that there is also a point of contact at the bottom of VR1. Circuit benders often pull out contact points like metal bolts that act as body contacts on the outside of the box. If you want to make body contacts for your VPC, weld the cables to each of the contacts at the point of contact, and then connect the other end to a bolt that runs through a plastic box. To weld a cable to the back of the board start by removing 2-3 mm of insulation from the end of the cable. Melt some welding on the soldering iron and then stain the end of the wire by submerging the wire in the melted weld ball. Now use the soldering iron the fusion joint on the circuit board and place the end of the pinned cable in the melted weld. Remove the iron and wait for the gasket to solidify. Pulse Output Rating Difficulty: Pretty easy Although the sound of the Vibrati Punk console is delicious, it can be a little too much to play continuously in most situations. Therefore, you may want to modify the circuit to allow the sound to be pressed with a pushbutton. This can be done by adding a button parallel to the power switch, but since it takes a moment for the sound to stabilize after the circuit is turned on, you may prefer to add a button control to the circuit output. To add a pushbutton to the output, follow the Down. I have included a switch so that it can have continuous or pulsed operation. If you are in pressed mode do not forget to turn off the circuit when not in use, as it will still consume power even though you are not making any sound. Difficulty rating: a little difficult! This modification changes the Vibrati Punk console to use a light-sensitive input to increase the VR3 function. You will need a 100nF capacitor (usually labeled 104) and a photocell (also known as a light-dependent resistor). These two components must be attached to the side of the board track. The condenser can be mounted directly on the same pads as C3. Use a technique similar to that described for mounting cables in touch control modification to make the connection to the additional capacitor. The photocell can be connected directly to the board using the active VR3 pads or can be connected via cables and carried to the outside of a box. To make connections to the back of the board start by putting a generous amount of welding on the joint to which you want to connect. If you are connecting a cable, then pull a small amount (2-3 mm) and tin the wire covering it with some melted welding at the end of the plate. Use the soldering iron to melt the gasket into the circuit board and insert the cables on which you want to connect to the molten weld stain. Remove the soldering iron while leaving the wiring in place until the weld is put back on. Once you have connected the additional components turn VR3 completely counterclockwise and then use your hand to vary the amount of shadow falling on the photocell to change the tone of the instrument. YouTube video from a Vibrati Punk console with optical control modification. Optical control modification with switch difficulty rating: Hardish This is a variation of the previous modification, but with the addition of a switch to move between opto and normal control. It has been requested by some people. I haven't tried it, but it should work. Because you need to change two components in and out of the circuit, you will need a dual pole switch. In opto mode (switching position labeled on) you will probably also want to rotate VR3 completely counterclockwise. Difficulty rating: a little difficult! This modification allows the vibrati Punk console output to be turned on and off using an external door signal. This means that the module can be integrated with some types of sequencer or other modular components. The door signal is of type V-Signal, i.e. a voltage between 1 and 9V will turn on the output. A voltage will turn off the exit. Modification requires cutting the track to IC2 pin 4. This is the reset pin and by connecting this pin to an external input we can stop the master oscillator in the circuit. Cut the track very carefully with a sharp knife and make sure there is no connection through the cut. Normally two parallel cuts very close and then pull out the gap between the cuts with the tip of the knife. Now you need to connect an extraction resistor and drive to the door entrance next to the circuit board track. Pull up resistance connects the reset input to the positive source through a resistor. This keeps the input high when there is no external connection and means that the circuit will operate normally. When there is an external connection, the external signal will dominate over the pull up resistor. For advice on welding on the back of the plate, see Modifying optical control. Difficulty Rating: Tricky and Experimental This is an experimental modification for those who want to try something slightly off piste. Provides an external input that can be used to modulate the Vibrati Punk Console circuit instead of the internal low-frequency oscillator. I can't guarantee this modification will work, but it did it for me in the tests. The external input is attached to AC, so it must be connected to a variable signal such as an audio playback or oscillator output instead of a DC control voltage. To make this modification it is necessary to cut the track between VR2 and C5. For tips on cutting the track, see Modifying gate input. The tracks are very close in this part of the circuit board, so be careful not to damage the adjacent tracks. Once you have cut the track, connect the external input as shown below. For advice on welding on the back of the plate, see Modifying optical control. Once the additional circuit is added, you can switch between external and internal modulation. For internal modulation the circuit will operate normally. For external modulation, the VR1 and VR2 controlled LFO will no longer work and the external input will provide a modulation effect. Assembling cases Some people like their Vibrati Punk console so much that they want to mount it in a case for regular use. The circuit board can be kept in place by simply mounting the variable resistors (VR1 - VR4) through properly spaced holes. Two holes are required for each variable resistor, as there is a small location label to the left of the main axis. The on/off switch can be mounted in its own hole. To mount the speaker I suggest you drill holes in four places around the edge of the speaker. Pass the bolts through these holes and secure the speaker with washers and flat nuts. Refer to the diagram for the size. The suggested case for the project is a plastic box of EN002 type of bitsbox.co.uk. Alternatively Maplin part number LH21X looks almost identical (although I have not checked the Maplin case). In the suggested case, the circuit board and controls are mounted on top (cover) and battery and speaker at the bottom of the box. You may need longer cables than those that come with the KIT to connect the OK speaker. Ok. diagrams below. They are also available as a PDF file that can print the actual size (do not use Scale to adjust paper) and duct tape to the case for use as a drilling template. Drilling tips: Before drilling or marking the holder of the box in which the panel is being worked from behind with a cut wood. Mark the center of the holes with a sharp point (plastic) or a center punch (metal boxes). Drill a small pilot hole first and then enlarge it to the required size. Use 4 mm bolts through the corner holes to hold the speaker. Place the washers and flat nuts behind the speaker to hold in place. Mount the battery on its side on the top edge of the bottom of the box using a generous piece of blutack or similar to hold it in place. Vibrati Punk Console in the suggested case. This version has the line output and the output modification pressed. Note the location of the battery in the image below. Other cases To drill other cases here is a PDF file with full-size drawings. Print the actual size (not Scale to Fit Paper) to use as a markup template. Thank you very much to the crew of Nottingham Hackspace for their support of this project and in particular Jake Howe for the design of the project graphics. Graphics.

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