

ARCAICO

PEDAL

STIGMA

Dual valve distortion/filter

"Distortion as a ritual"



Dear user,
first of all we would like to thank you for choosing one
of our products
and welcome you to the Arcaico cult.

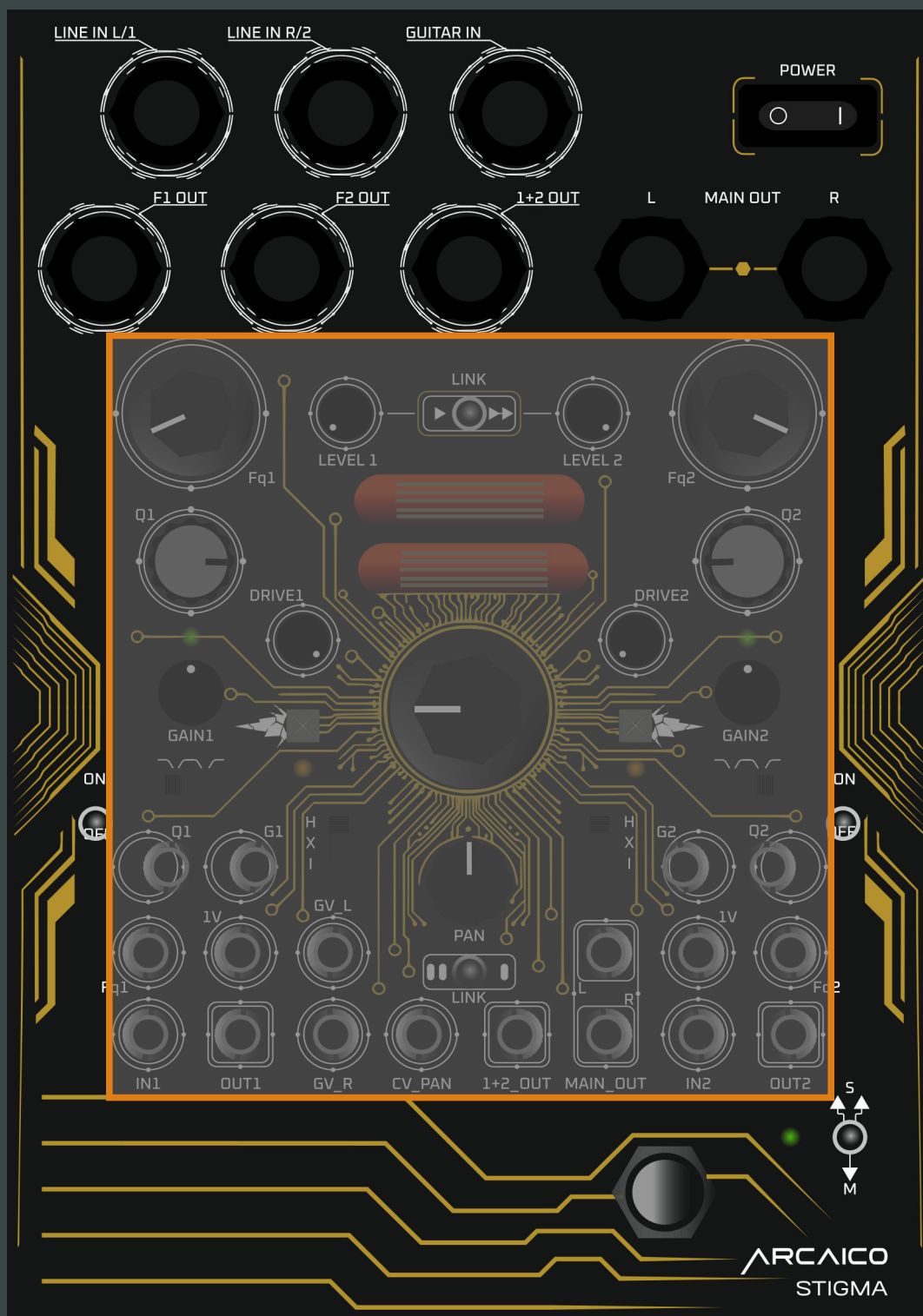
STIGMA is not simply a filter,
but a ceremonial device for sonic destruction.
Two resonant voices and incandescent valves interact to
create hypnotic feedbacks, saturated harmonics,
and unpredictable transformations.

The Philosophy of Arcaico

Arcaico is a cult disguised as a laboratory.
It was created to subvert the standard,
disintegrate the predictable,
and restore sound to its primordial form:
raw, shamanic, disturbing, alive.

Conceived in an altered state,
each module is a fragment of an invisible architecture.
A sacred detritus of the future past.
A mute machine, until you question it.

Those who choose Arcaico do not seek presets.
They seek emptiness...
noise, fertile error – and know
that in chaos there is the voice of forgotten gods.



Stigma is available in two versions: Eurorack and desktop/pedal. Since the core functions and controls are identical, this manual covers only the features specific to the desktop/pedal version. For complete operating instructions, please refer to the Eurorack version manual.

Both manuals are available for download at www.arcaico.eu or can be requested by email at info@arcaico.eu.

www.arcaico.eu
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STIGMA is a dual multimode valve distortion/filter designed for deep analog sound sculpting and harmonic destruction. Its architecture combines two independent 12dB/oct self-oscillating filters with precision 1V/oct tracking up to 8 octaves, dual VCAs, and two tube saturation stages capable of moving from subtle warmth to extreme sonic devastation.

Each signal path follows a fully analog structure:

IN → VCF → VCA → VALVE → MASTER OUT

Both filters feature selectable Low Pass, Band Pass, and High Pass responses, with dedicated CV control over cutoff, resonance, 1V/oct tracking, amplitude, valve activation, and stereo positioning. Each valve stage can also be independently activated or bypassed via CV. Independent outputs for both filters allow the signal to bypass the valve stage entirely, making STIGMA equally suited for clean resonant processing, aggressive distortion, or complex hybrid routing. The valve section offers four distinct distortion behaviors: Soft, for natural tube saturation, and Hard, Extreme, and Insane, accessible through the additional gain stage and controlled via the DRIVE circuit.

Advanced routing options expand the architecture far beyond a conventional dual filter.

The LINK mode transforms STIGMA into a cascading serial processor where the first filter feeds directly into the second filter path. In this configuration, the first distortion stage is bypassed and the signal flow becomes:

VCF1 → VCA1 → VCF2 → VCA2 → VALVE/DISTORTION → OUT2

An additional routing switch allows the second processing chain to pass through both valve stages sequentially, creating dense multi-stage saturation and extreme harmonic compression:

VCF2 → VCA2 → VALVE2 → VALVE1 → OUT1

A voltage-controlled PAN circuit allows smooth movement between OUT1 and OUT2 through manual control or external CV modulation, enabling dynamic stereo animation and morphing between the two processing paths.

STIGMA also features a dedicated 1+2 mono output, functioning as a continuously variable fade output.

With the PAN control centered, both channels are summed together; moving the control fully left or right isolates a single processing chain. The dual master outputs can operate as a true stereo processor or as two completely independent mono analog channels, making STIGMA suitable for stereo synthesis, dual-voice processing, feedback experimentation, and complex modular routing environments.

Panel Overview

LINE INPUT L/1

Left line input for stereo or 1 for mono

LINE INPUT R/2

Right line input for stereo or 2 for mono

GUITAR INPUT

High-impedance input with integrated preamp for direct connection of guitars, basses and other instrument-level sources.

POWER BUTTON

Main power switch



F1 OUT & F2 OUT (only vcf>vca)

These are the independent outputs of each VCF and tap the signal before it is processed by the distortion stage. These outputs do not have volume control, only VCF and VCA.

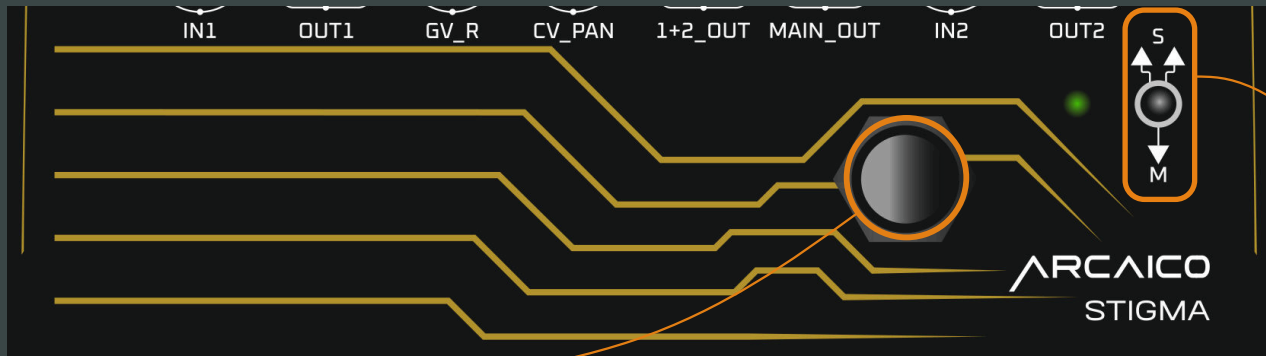
1+2_ OUT

This is a mono output that blends the two outputs. When the PAN knob is set to the center, each output will be at 50%. Turning it to the left or right will fade between the two outputs. All the way to the right: only the vcf2 output; all the way to the left: only the vcf1 output. This parameter can be controlled via the CV_Pan jack.

MAIN OUT

Main output that can be used for a stereo setup or two independent mono outputs.

Panel Overview



FOOTSWITCH

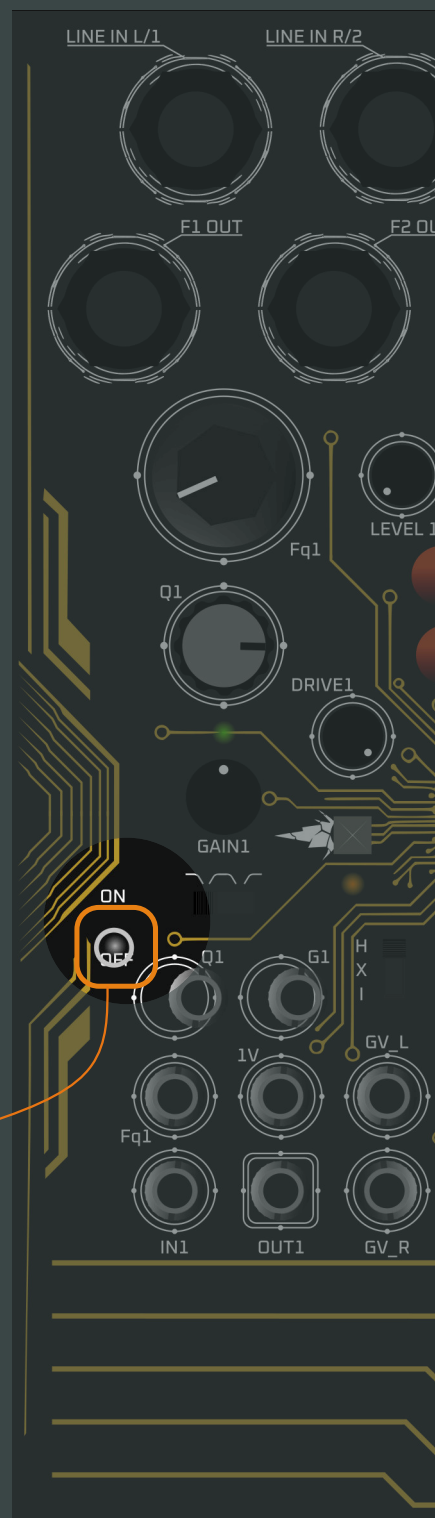
When using the Guitar Input, the footswitch engages or bypasses Stigma, allowing instant switching between the processed and dry instrument signal.

When using the Line Inputs, the footswitch must be in the engaged position for audio to pass through the unit. Bypass for line-level signals is then controlled independently by the VCF 1 (Left) and VCF 2 (Right) bypass switches.

S/M SWITCH

Selects how the Guitar Input signal is routed through Stigma. In the M (Mono) position, the instrument signal is routed only to VCF 1 (Left). In the S (Stereo) position, the instrument signal is duplicated and sent to both VCF 1 (Left) and VCF 2 (Right), allowing independent processing of the same source by both filter channels. This makes it possible to create wide stereo textures, enhanced spatial effects and a larger, more immersive sound from a single instrument source. The signal is actively buffered to ensure proper signal level and performance in both modes.

Panel Overview



VCF 1 (LEFT) / VCF 2 (RIGHT) BYPASS SWITCHES

These switches independently bypass the VCF 1 (Left) and VCF 2 (Right) processing paths when using line-level signals.

In bypass mode, the corresponding input is routed directly to its output. When engaged, the signal is processed normally by the selected filter channel.