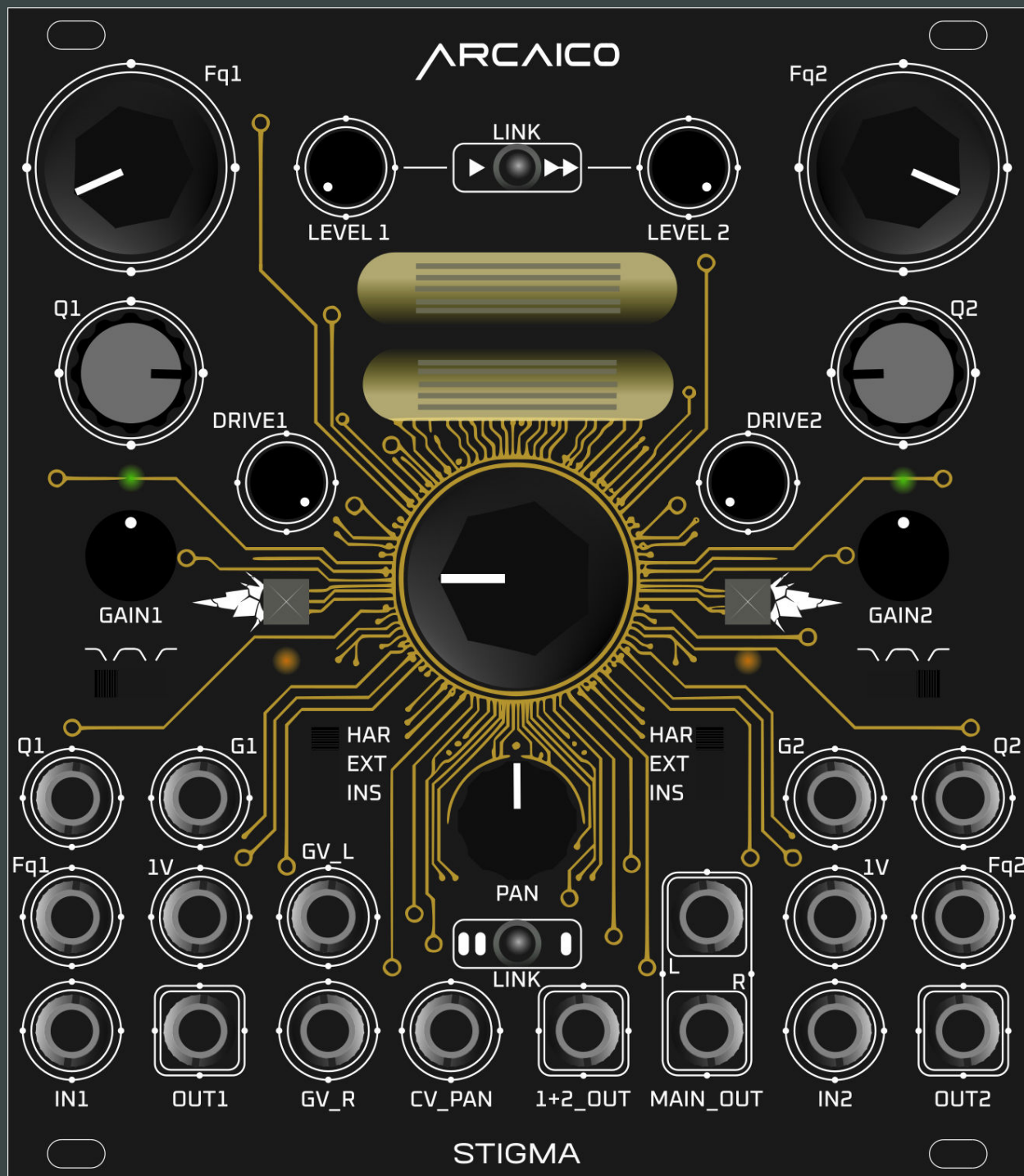


ARCAICO

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.

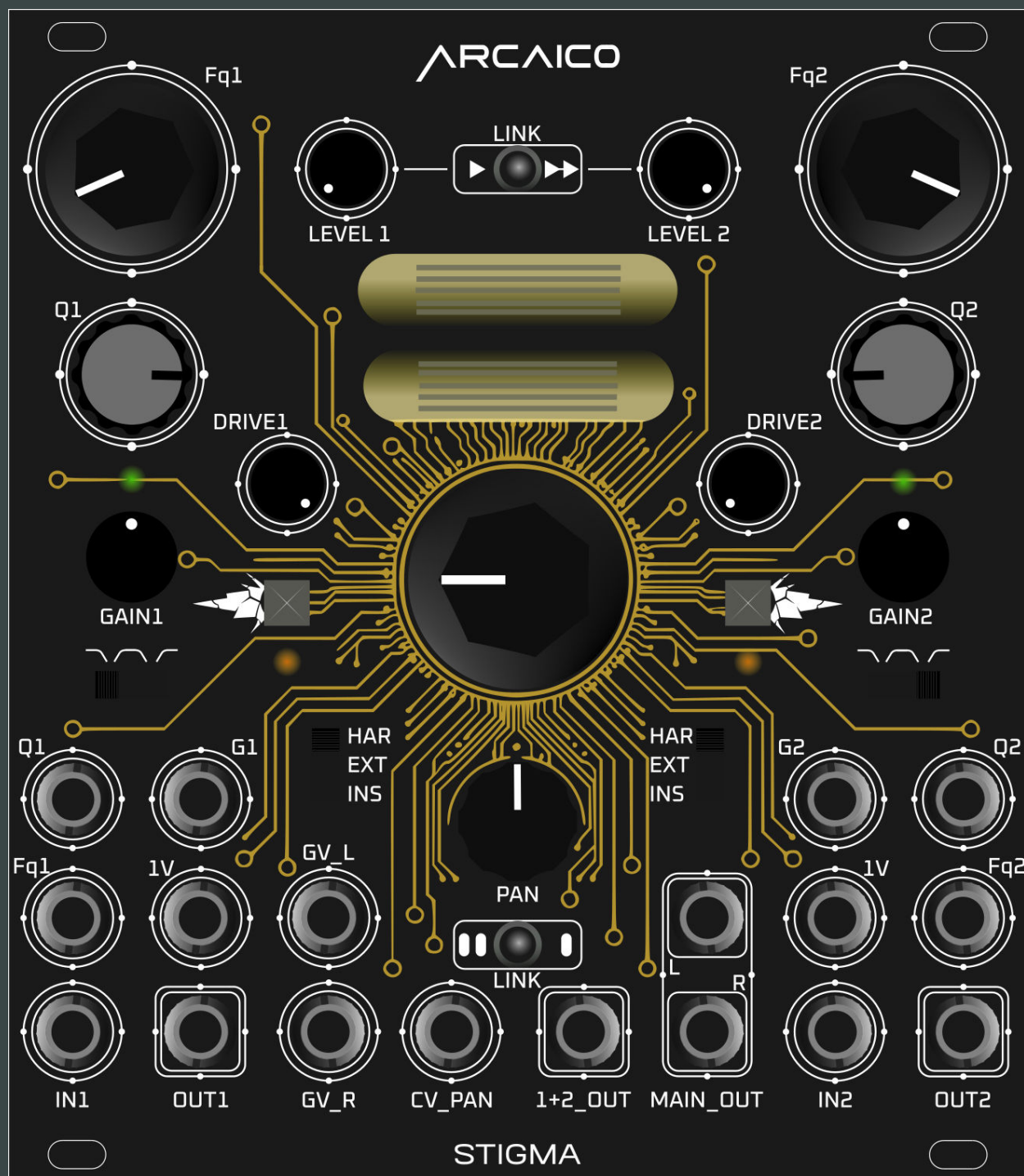
The Philosophy of Arcaico

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.

22hp
35 mm deep



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

RESONANCE or Q

Controls the feedback intensity of the filter core. Low settings provide smooth and musical filtering, while higher values emphasize harmonics and progressively drive the filter into self-oscillation.

CUTOFF/FREQUENCY

Controls the filter cutoff frequency and the self-oscillation pitch

FILTER MODE SWITCH

With this switch, you can select the filter mode: Low-pass, Band-pass, or High-pass

VCA GAIN

This is the VCA's gain/volume control. When a voltage control signal is inserted into the 'G' jack, this knob can be turned all the way to the left.

Q cv

CV input for resonance (Q) control.

CV VCA

control input for the VCA

FQ cv

FM input for the VCF frequency

INPUT

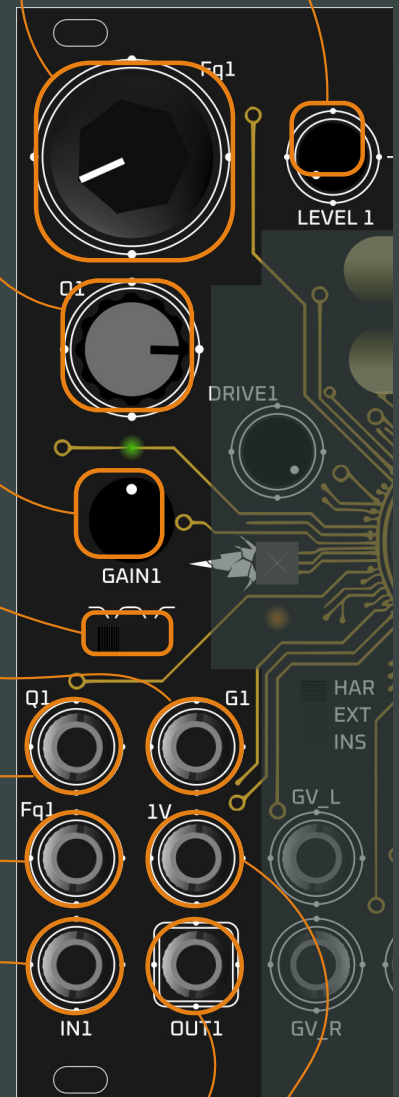
Jack Input for processing your audio source

OUT (only vcf>vca)

This is an independent output that taps the signal before it is processed by the distortion stage. This output has no volume control, only VCF and VCA.

Level

level control to adjust the input signal level of the distortion/tube stage



1v/OCT

With this jack, you can control the VCF's auto-oscillation with precise tracking up to 8 octaves, but you're also free to use it with other modulation sources.

Panel Overview

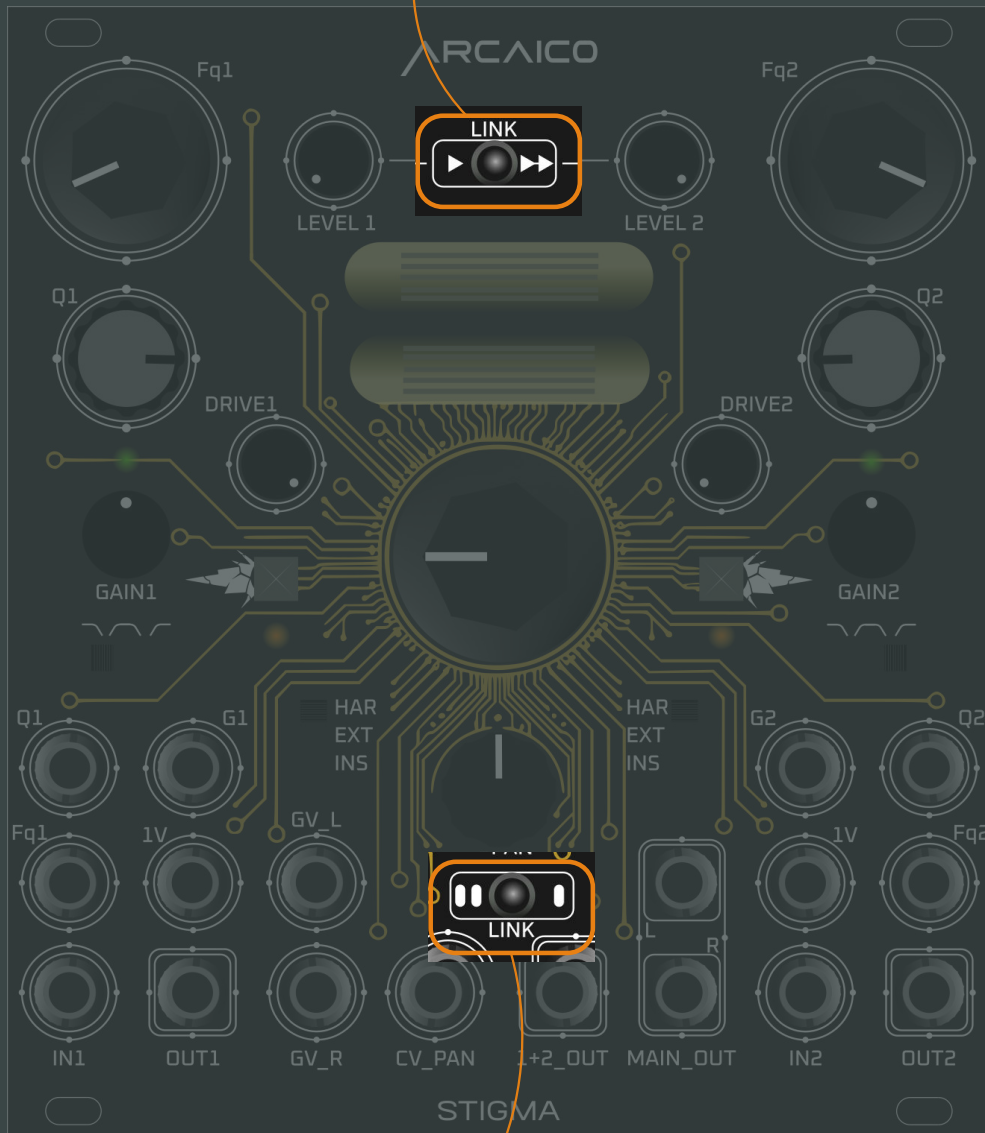
LINK "VCF"

This switch routes the output of VCF1>VCA1 to the input of VCF2.*
When the switch is set to the right, the signal path follows this order:

IN1>VCF1>VCA1>VCF2>VCA2>VALVE/DISTORTION1>MAIN OUT R and OUT 2**

*In this configuration, the first stage bypasses the distortion section.

**The signal processed in the chain without distortion is available on the OUT2 output.



LINK "DISTORTION"

Series distortion switch.

When the switch is set to the left (II)

The output of the second stage (VCF2>VCA2>VALVE/DISTORTION2)
is routed to the input of VALVE/DISTORTION1, and the signal path becomes:

VCF2>VCA2>VALVE/DISTORTION2>VALVE/DISTORTION1>MAIN OUT L

Panel Overview

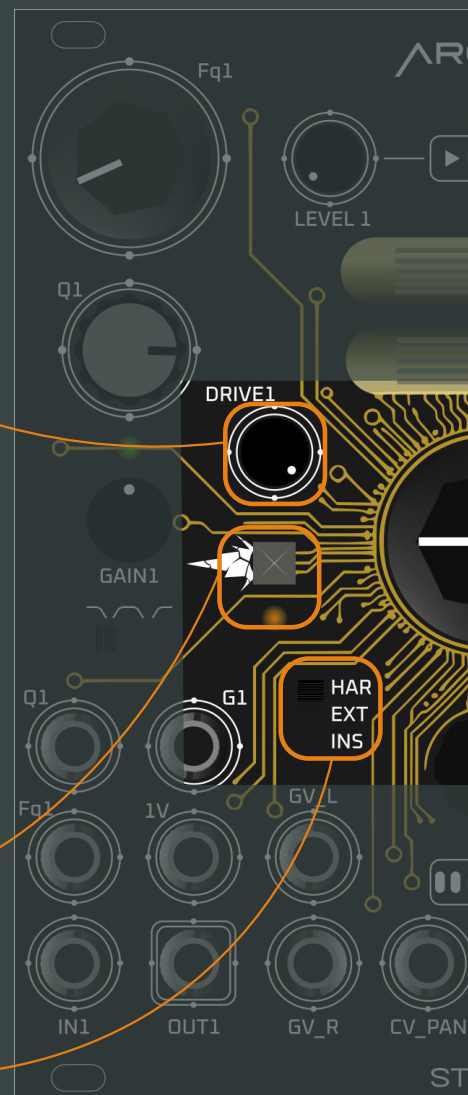
DRIVE "POT"

A potentiometer for controlling the amount of distortion. This parameter is active on each channel only when the distortion button is engaged.

*On the first channel (1), this parameter becomes active when the Link Distortion switch is set to the left (II)

DISTORTION BUTTON

Button to activate the 3 additional distortion modes. When enabled, you can access the following modes:
HARD
EXTREME
INSANE



MASTER OUT

Master volume control.
Controls only the volume on the MAIN L and R outputs.
OUT1, OUT2, and 1+2_OUT are excluded.

Panel Overview

PAN/MORPH

Potentiometer for controlling PAN and MORPH/FADE.

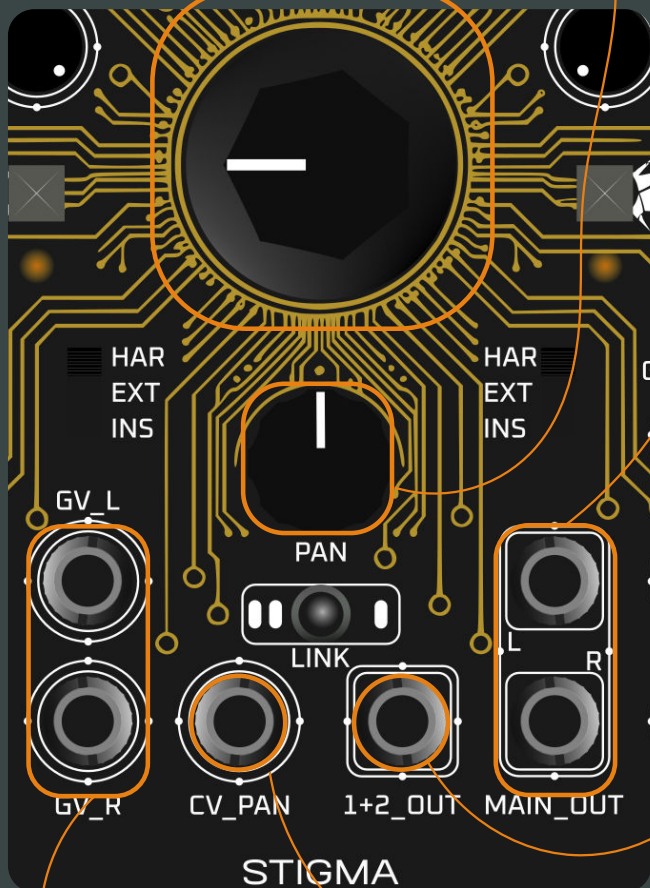
PAN when the module is used in stereo or with the
MAIN L and R outputs, while MORPH/FADE controls the 1+2_OUT output

MAIN OUT

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

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.



CV_Pan

CV input for PAN and MORPH/FADE control.

GAIN VALVE CONTROL

A jack for controlling the voltage of each valve.
This control affects the valve's internal grid;
it functions like a VCA but,
in addition to amplitude, it also controls distortion.