

Press Release: Casper & Bastl new module Aikido

We are excited to introduce our latest Eurorack module, Aikido. It is a unique mixer, VCA, and compressor and the newest collaboration between Peter Edwards, aka Casper Electronics, and Bastl Instruments. This module is a spiritual successor to our renowned quad VCA module Quattro Figaro (released in 2015) and Casper's concept module Party Mix, which we demoed at Superbooth in 2018.

Aikido is a performative quad VCA mixer with flexible submix routing and two styles of integrated envelope followers. Clever normalization allows ready-to-go sidechain compression, expansion, and rapid routing experimentation.

Clickless mute switches and level faders make for immediate performability, while dedicated attenuverters on each channel make it a powerful and flexible quad VCA. The main mix output is accompanied by individual VCA outputs with patch-programmable cascading mix routing. The Side Chain envelope follower offers 3 different response curves, while the Spectral Follower can be set to focus on treble, mid or bass frequencies.

In a modular system, Aikido can become your central mixing hub or a powerful utility. Thanks to the envelope followers, it allows signals to interact and mix in new ways. Because the VCAs are DC coupled, Aikido can be used for flexible modulation routing as well. As a martial art, Aikido teaches you how to harness the power of your opponent and use it to your advantage. With the help of the Aikido module, your modular system can become an arena where anything is possible and small signals get to wrestle over big ones.

In martial arts, Aikido is known for its philosophical approach, and that's precisely what our Aikido module is in the context of the Eurorack mixer domain.

Aikido will be released on February 7th, 2023, 7pm CET, priced at 245 euros excluding tax. Available from the [Bastl Store](#) and our [retailers](#).

To celebrate its musicality, we produced an [art video](#) soundtracked by [Oliver Torr](#) and animated by [Pipe & Pallet](#).

More information can be found on the [product page](#).
Download assets from the [press kit](#).

AIKIDO

Features:

- 4 VCA channels, each with:
 - clickless mute with light indication
 - level fader with 6dB boost
 - CV input with attenuverter
 - input (DC coupled)
 - output (DC coupled) cascaded mixing
- Mix output (AC coupled)
- Side chain envelope follower
 - input (normalized to A input)
 - output (normalized to CV inputs)
 - switch to select response time
- Spectral envelope follower
 - input taken from Channel D output
 - patchable output
 - switch to focus the follower to low, mid, or high frequencies
- Backside jumpers
 - select whether direct VCA outputs are pre/post Mute
 - cascaded mixing input and output (joins 2 Aikidos to 8 channel mixer)
 - main mix input and output (for chaining the normalized MIX outputs), chainable with BUDDY

Technical details

- 11 hp
- PTC fuse and diode protected 10pin power connector
- 24 mm deep
- Current consumption: +12V <120 mA, -12V <120 mA