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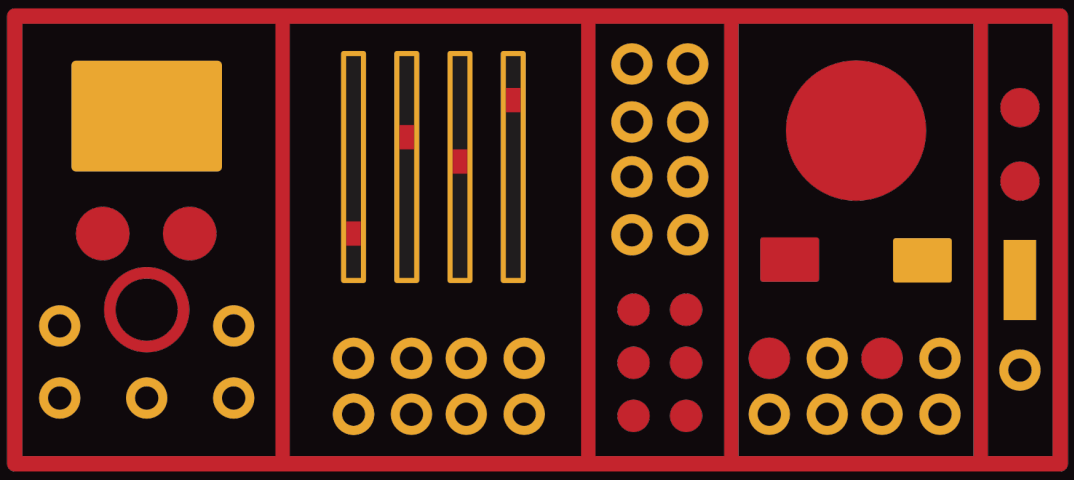
WAVEFORM

MAGAZINE



THE SWITCHENATOR DIY BUILD GUIDE

Bill of Materials:
1 x Faceplate
1 x PCB
2 x latching on/off/on mini toggle switches
2 x B50k Song Huei 9mm long shaft potentiometers
10 x 3.5mm jacks

DIFFICULTY:

DIY: THE SWITCHENATOR

BY ELLISON WOLF

I've had one of these in my rack for some time now, built when I needed something to attenuate LFO signals. Sometimes I only want the scant warble of a filter cutoff, or to decrease a signal before it goes into my spring reverb so it doesn't overload; and since not every input/CV in has attenuation, it's nice to have a couple of attenuators on board to keep everything in check, to get things just where you like them. Since I had a little space to fill when I built this, I decided to add a couple of switches to change sound paths. With this, you can have one sequence, gate, or whatever and have the option to send it to one of two different destinations. The switch is an On/Off/On, which means that the center position is off, so for a sound signal it acts as a mute, and for attenuation it turns it off—a handy bonus! This is a pretty easy build as there's no wiring and no power. Even if you've never soldered anything before, if you take your time you should have a successful build without an issue. While utility modules such as this one aren't the sexiest, and don't have a colorful screen or a bunch of blinking lights, they're indispensable in any system.

The first step is to place each jack in its respective spot. While doing this, make certain that the jack is flat on the PCB, and solder the one tab to keep each jack in place while

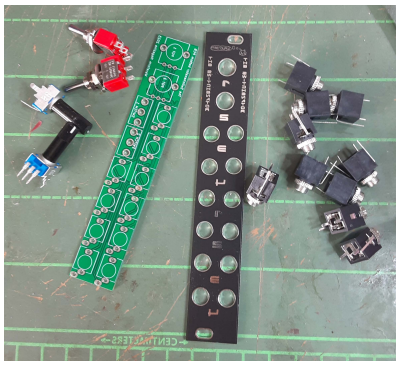


Fig. 1

you finish putting the rest of the jacks [Fig. 2] in. Again, only solder one of the jack legs at this time as it will make it much easier to put on the faceplate.

After all 10 jacks have the 1 leg each soldered to the PCB, the next step is to solder the switches in place. Make sure that the switch is flat on the PCB and straight, not leaning one way or another. Again, only do one leg for now as we just want to keep the switches in place for the time being.

Once those are secured, it's time to snap the potentiometers in place. They're both the same value, so it doesn't matter which one goes where. Make sure they're straight and flat on the PCB, and solder one of the outermost tabs to keep it in place.

The next step is to attach the faceplate and screw nuts on the jacks and switches. The reason that we only soldered one leg of each component up to this point is because this way it is much easier to get everything in the proper hole, and soldering only one leg—as opposed to all three—of each component gives us a little wiggle room when putting the faceplate on.

After everything is all screwed in, it's time to go back and solder all of the remaining legs for each of the components. Make sure to do the potentiometers last, because you want to make sure there is enough clearance all the way around the potentiometer shaft to ensure clear movement. Once everything is all soldered up, you're all set! All that's left is to mount it in your case, and Switchenate! [I promise to never use the word/term "Switchenate" ever again.]

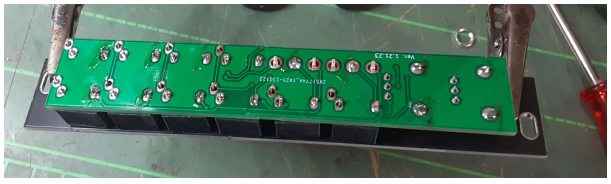


Fig. 2 Notice that only one leg of each component is soldered in place.