



Dr. Strangelove

synthBlock

by Analogue Solutions

Introduction

SynthBlocks are a range of small desk top signal processors. No menus and no software. Just hardware. Typically all analogue, but with some lo-fi digital effects.

Ideal for:

The digital musician who uses primarily laptop & plugins, who really wants to use some real analogue hardware to process their sounds. Plug the box into the audio in / out of an audio interface. Then route your drums, synths, strings, vocals etc out the computer, through the transistors and op-amps of Dr. Strangelove and record back into the laptop.

Or do a similar thing by connecting to the auxiliary buss of a mixing desk just as you would any other effects processor.

Turn the dials and flick the switches in real time with your hands (not a mouse!).

It is also ideal for use in conjunction with Eurorack modular, and other synths with CV sockets, such as the Analogue Solutions Fusebox synthesizer. Dr. Strangelove can be cross-patched with these type of synths to extend the range of sounds of the whole package.

The synthBlocks are small and affordable, with no compromise in build quality or sound.

Multiple SynthBlocks can be linked together, not just the audio path, but also the modulation voltages!

Dr. Strangelove is an analogue Ring Mod / Echo box ideal for subtle or extreme modulation effects.

SynthBlocks are used to process any sound that you feed into it from your DAW, mixer or some musical instrument (with prior pre-amplification where necessary). To give your plug-ins some real analogue life.

Dr. Strangelove has 1/4" input and output jacks on the rear, so it can be connected straight to a mixer or DAW audio interface without the need for adaptors.

On the top panel are mini jack sockets to patch with a semi-modular synth, such as AS's very own Fusebox, or to Eurorack and other modular systems.

Dr. Strangelove can change the sound in subtle ways or right up to mangled RM mayhem!

Designed, engineered, and hand built in England.



Specification

- Analogue dual input Ring Modulator
- LFO with Triangle and Square wave signals.
- Lo-Fi digital echo effects processor
- 1/4" and mini jack sockets for audio / CV input and output.
- Small compact desktop size format. Will fit into your palm!
- Exceptional build quality.

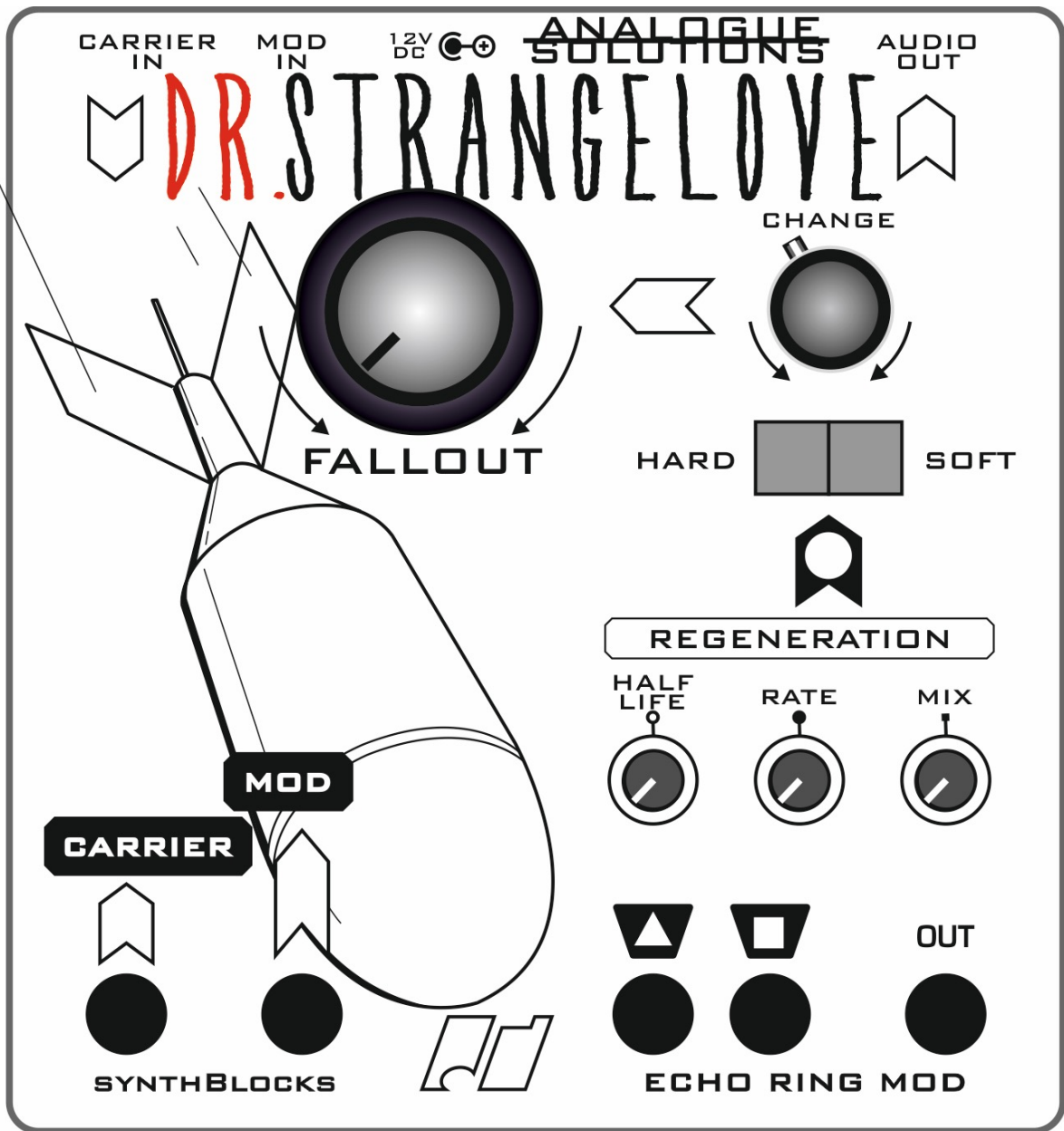
How To Use!

Dr. Strangelove and other synthBlocks have been designed to be easy to use, with virtually no need to read this manual!!

You plug in the power, plug your audio in and out, and then just play and experiment! It really is that simple!

We won't explain to you all the life history of how and exactly what a Ring Mod, filter, LFO, etc, are in great detail. There are many web resources if you are new to this kind of tech and want to study it.

But we will give you a guide to each element of Dr. Strangelove.



Safety Instructions

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE USING:

- Only use the correct power adaptor.
- Never handle the adaptor with wet hands.
- Never excessively bend the adaptor cable or get it trapped or place heavy objects on it. If the adaptor cable becomes damaged, replace the adaptor.
- Ensure the unit is disconnected from the mains before moving or cleaning.
- Always disconnect the unit from the mains if there is lightning in your area.
- Ensure the unit is on a stable surface, and never place heavy objects on top of it.
- Never allow young children, hippies or animals to operate the unit or adaptor.
- Do not use excessive force when using the controls or inserting cables to the connectors.
- The unit should not be operated in the rain, near water, or at a foam party, and should not be exposed to moisture.
- If the unit is brought from a cold environment to a warm one, the unit should be left to reach the ambient temperature.
- Keep away from heat sources, such as radiators, ovens, heaters etc.
- Never allow it to get wet. Do not operate it near water, like pools, sinks, bathrooms etc. Oh, we covered that already.
- Do not place beverages on or near it.
- Never open the case or attempt to make repairs. Refer any servicing to qualified service personnel.

PREVENTING DAMAGE TO OTHER CONNECTED DEVICES

synthBlock has a very high dynamic range. It is capable of produce loud signals of very high and sub-sonic frequencies that could blow inadequate speakers if played too loud. It is recommended that input levels to external equipment (mixers, amp's etc.) are kept low when first connected, and then slowly increased to a useable level.

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Any cleaning of the synthBlock case should be done with a clean lint-free cloth.

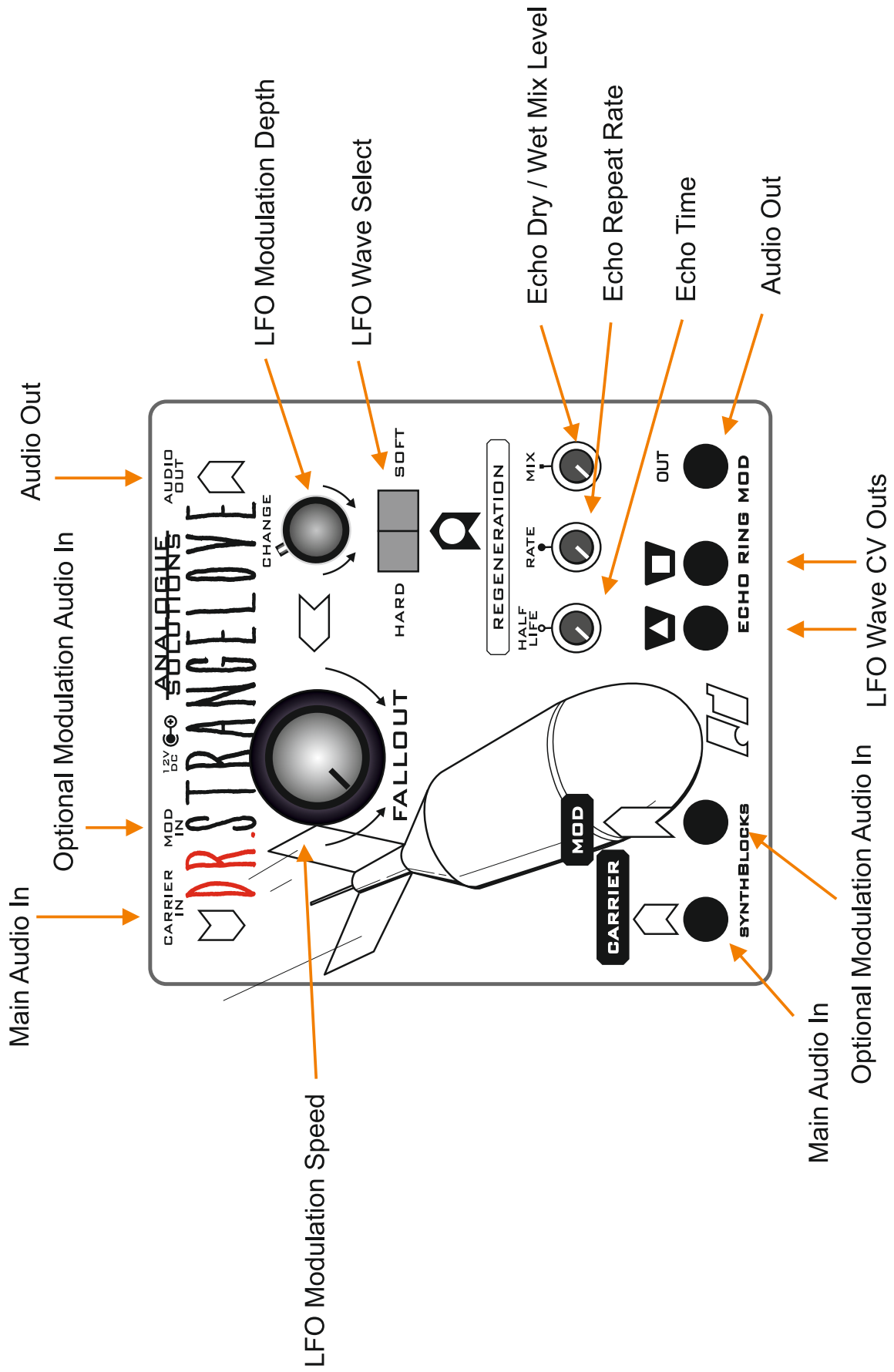
DO NOT USE SOLVENTS OR CLEANERS, as this will deteriorate the exterior appearance of the equipment. Do not use a car wash or jet wash to clean this synth.

PLACE

Place synthBlock soundly on a stable surface so it cannot fall off or over, causing it or yourself injury.

POWER

The unit needs a 12 DC supply, minimum 300mA. Centre positive.



Set up

The audio in will take most line sources. So you can directly connect synths, drum machines, and eurorack, for example.

A good way to link up is to connect it to the auxiliary effects buss of your mixing desk.

Or, of course, to the I/O of your DAW digital audio interface - if you wish to process some audio files.

Audio Connections

You'd normally use the 1/4" jack sockets on the rear panel. But you may find it easier to use the top panel 3.5mm jacks if connecting to eurorack or other modular synths.

AUDIO IN LEVEL

This control attenuates the input signal level.

Ring Mod

The Ring Mod itself doesn't have any controls as such, since really a ring mod doesn't have parameters that can be altered, other than input and output levels. You just plug in your audio cables and it does its thing!

So it doesn't need or have controls. Ring Mods are very versatile analogue effects, and react very differently with a wide variety of sound, depending on the audio sources you use and their levels.

Ring Mods need two audio sources, or in the case of Dr. Strangelove, one of the sources, the modulation input, can be audio or a low frequency signal (from say an LFO).

The two signals a Ring Mod needs are :

Carrier - this is the main signal that you want to process.

Modulator - this is the signal that will modulate the Carrier.

CARRIER

The Carrier input sockets is where you will feed in the audio signal you wish to process. For example a drum machine, or the signal coming from your mixer's aux buss.

MODULATOR

If you do not put a jack plug into the rear panel MOD IN socket, then the ring mod will take its modulation signal from the internal analogue LFO.

The MOD IN 1/4" jack socket is switched, so plugging a lead in here will disconnect the internal LFO.

Note, the 3.5mm MOD In socket is not switched. So if you plug a lead in here, but not the 1/4" input socket, you will still also get the internal LFO being sent to the Ring Mod.

If you want to disconnect the internal LFO, but want to use just the 3.5mm Mod In jack, then just put a 1/4" jack adaptor (like a head phone adaptor), or unconnected jack lead into the rear panel Mod In socket.

LFO

FALLOUT

This alters the speed of the analogue LFO modulator.

CHANGE

This sets the modulation depth ('loudness') of the modulating signal fed into the RM modulation input.

Q BOOST

This switch turns on Q Boost, which allows resonance self-oscillation.

HARD / SOFT -SQUARE / TRIANGLE

This switch allows you to select between square and triangle wave modulation signals.

Triangle will give you softer modulation, Square wave gives you sudden, harder changes.

Echo

The echo used is a lo-fi digital echo giving an 'analogue' bucket brigade style sound.

HALF LIFE

This sets delay time.

RATE

This sets repeat rate.

MIX

This sets the mix level between fully dry, to a 50/50 balance mix between dry and wet.

Additional CV sockets

Use the minijack sockets to expand connection to other synthBlocks, modular, and eurorack!

LFO CV OUTPUT

There are square wave and triangle wave output sockets.

Patch these to other synthBlocks or modular synths.

Specification

WEIGHT:

386 grams

SIZE:

134 x 125 x 52mm

POWER:

12V DC regulated, centre positive
2.1mm plug
300mA

Power supply included.

Warranty

synthBlock comes with a 1 year (from purchase date) back to base warranty, (i.e. customer must arrange and pay for carriage to and from Analogue Solutions or the dealer from which purchased).

This warranty shall not apply where the product has been subject to alteration, misuse accident, neglect (such as extremes of temperature and/or moisture) or to wear resulting from normal use.

At the sole discretion of Analogue Solutions, the warranty is deemed to be void should the unit be or considered to have been opened or any other modifications or tampering be carried out by unauthorised parties.

CE Compliance

This unit complies with EU Directives 73/23/EEC and 89/336/EEC.
Standards: EN55103-1, EN55103-2, EN60065

