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# Muon Tau/M-Drive Bundle User Manual



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## Introduction

The Muon Tau Bassline is a simple, fun software synthesiser which combines elements of those classic analogue machines with the convenience of a VST Instrument Plug-in.

Tau Bassline gets its fantastic sound from Muon Software Ltd's advanced 64-bit Analogue Modelling technology - you can read more at:

**[www.muon-software.com/home/home.html](http://www.muon-software.com/home/home.html)**

Also, don't forget that e-mail support for this product is available. Send a message to [tau@muon-software.com](mailto:tau@muon-software.com) if you have any problems at all with the software.

*The Muon Team*

## Tau Bassline Instructions



The Tau's controls are, from left to right:

### Wave Selection

This control selects the waveform that is output by the Tau's single VCO (Virtual Computerised Oscillator). The VCO is the main sound generating component in the synthesiser.

You can select either a sawtooth wave (top position) or a square wave (bottom position). The sawtooth is bright and brassy, whilst the square wave is more reed-like or hollow sounding.

### Tuning

This pair of controls determines the pitch the Tau's VCO generates in response to a MIDI message. You can set the transpose shift (in semitones) and the fine detune (in cents).

### Cutoff Frequency

The Tau contains an 18db/octave low pass VCF (Virtual Computerised Filter). This is the synthesiser's main sound modifying component.

By changing the cut off frequency of the VCF you control the brightness of the output sound. When the cut off control is fully to the left the sound is very dull and heavily filtered. When the cut off is fully to the right the filter is a lot more open and more of the brightness of the oscillator wave is passed through

### Q (Resonance)

The Q or resonance knob controls how much of the filter's output is fed back to the input. This creates a peak effect at the VCF's cut off frequency which causes filter sweeps to become pronounced and "squelchy" or "twangy". The key to driving, acidic bass riffs is lots of Q and lots of cut off movement!

## **Envelope Modulation**

The Tau contains a very simple Attack/Decay envelope generator that is used to modulate (change) the filter cut off automatically when a note is triggered. The envelope control is used to feed more of the envelope signal in so that the modulation becomes more pronounced.

## **Decay**

The envelope generator used in the VCF modulation has an adjustable decay time. Set fully right, the envelope will close very slowly and produce a slow, filter sweep (the depth and strength of the sweep effect will be determined by a combination of the envelope modulation, cut off and Q controls). Short decays (with the control more to the left) are good for "plucked" bass sounds.

## **The Virtual Keyboard**

The single-octave keyboard on the Tau can be used to audition sound parameter settings with the mouse. It also flashes in response to MIDI note messages within the default range. You can use the virtual keyboard to test your MIDI/Audio system to make sure your equipment is connected and functioning correctly. The virtual keyboard does not send MIDI note messages however and cannot be used to make a recording or play an external synth.

## **Glide**

The Tau's single VCO can be made to smoothly slide from one note played to the next. The Glide control determines how long the slide takes - it is active when the red light next to the control is lit.

To active a slide, simply play a note, and whilst keeping it held down play another. The Tau will smoothly pitch bend from the first note to the second in the time determined by the Glide control.

## **Retrig**

The Tau does not re-trigger its single envelope generator each time a note is played when the glide function is active. This can mean that subsequent notes can sound "dull" even if the glide time is so fast a pitch bend is not heard. You can use the re-trigger control to make sure that the filter envelope is started off again for every new note. This also disables the glide function.

## **IMPORTANT - MIDI Controls**

The Tau Bassline does not support Pitch Bend or MIDI continuous controller messages.

## M-Drive Instructions



The M-Drive's controls are, from left to right:

### **Threshold**

This control determines the amplitude level above which the signal is passed to the variable clipping unit. If the control is set fully left, the whole signal is clipped. If the control is set fully right, the signal passes through unchanged.

### **Clipshape**

Determines how "analogue" the clipping curve used by the clipper module is. When set fully left, the clipper is completely digital, and the harmonics generated are very gritty. As the control is turned more to the right, the harmonics become sweeter, and the overdrive effect is more subtle. At the extreme right the effect is more like compression, thanks to the automatic make-up gain control built-into the M-Drive.

## UPGRADE YOUR TAU BASSLINE TODAY!



The **Muon Tau Pro** is bursting with character and individuality, packing everything you need to create storming lead riffs and bass lines.

We've taken the classic mono synth design of the Tau, added a second oscillator, PWM, sync, ring modulation and a fantastic effects engine to bring it bang up to date.

Two incredible 64-bit waveform oscillators with a choice of ten waveforms each, pulse-width modulation, sync and ring modulation mean that the Tau Pro seriously delivers - without noise or digital artifacts.

\* Superb low pass resonant filter, with 18dB Classic, 24dB Hi-Q and 36dB Phat modes.

\* Built-in FX unit for warm overdrive, chorus, flange and vintage-style delay effects.

\* Full MIDI control. Draw cut off curves right in your sequencer or use a hardware controller!

The Tau Pro is more than just an acid bass line synth. Its flexibility means that it is equally happy delivering seriously chunky lead riffs, deep junglist sub-bass or dubby textures. Whichever kind of electronic music you make prepare to need one!

**Now available to purchase at only US\$30 from  
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## OTHER PRODUCTS FROM MUON



The **Muon Electron** is poised to change the way VST instruments are perceived.

We've combined the warmth, power and range of a classic analogue synth with an innovative and flexible architecture so that you, the musician, can create huge, complex sounds and control them dynamically in your music.

- \* Three powerful 64-bit oscillators with pulse-width modulation and sync to give you the raw audio horsepower needed to hit the deepest bass depths or crystal highs - without distortion, noise or digital artifacts.

- \* Two independent multimode resonant filters, capable of being linked together, split apart, re-routed into each other or even cross-faded from one type to another.

- \* Two user-assignable LFOs, plus envelope generators and MIDI performance controllers for modulation madness.

With over 60 parameters and stunning user interface features like the X-Y Controller the Electron is a synth that will keep even the keenest sound architect busy for months. That's not to say you'll need to be a rocket scientist to work it though, and you won't need a mega PC to run it on!

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