

Tubbutec Modysix

MIDI RETROFIT AND FEATURE EXTENSION FOR POLYSIX AND POLY-61

User Manual v1.0

<http://tubbutec.de>

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1 Modysix

The Modysix is a midi retrofit and feature extension for the Korg Polysix and Poly-61 synthesizers. It features various additional play modes, a free definable arpeggiator, midi in and midi out and a sustain pedal input and various other features.

This manual only describes the features different from the original Polysix and Poly-61. Great care has been taken to not alter the original behaviour, except of course for the additional features.

2 Play Modes

2.1 Play Modes Overview

In addition to the three play modes (Unison, Poly and Chord Memory) featured in the original Polysix the Modysix offers various other play modes. The new play modes are: An extended unison mode, 2-Voice Mode, 3-Voice mode and Polychord.

2.2 Extended Unison

The Extended Unison features adjustable key priority and re-trigger settings. This way the Polysix / Poly-61 can behave just like the monophonic synthesizer of your choice.

The features can be set using the arpeggiator's switches for direction and latch.

Note for Poly-61 users: You can access unison mode by using midi or by installing a unison button.

2.2.1 Retrigger

Retrigger defines whether the gate re-triggers when playing legato. When turned off the gate stays on as long as there are one or more keys pressed, which also means that the envelope does not retrigger until you release all keys. In the original Polysix Retrigger is always turned on. Use the LATCH switch to set the re-trigger mode. Latch on -j, Retrigger on. Latch off -j, Retrigger off.

2.2.2 Priority

Priority defines how the currently played monophonic note is selected from the keyboard input. This can be used to emulate the behavior of classic monophonic synths.

Priority can be set to Upper/Lower/Last using the UP/DOWN/UPDOWN switch of the arpeggiator. In the original Polysix Priority is set to last.

UPPER means the uppermost key is selected for playing, LOWER means the lower most key is selected.

When LAST is selected the 8 last played keys are used to determine the note played when a key is released.

2.3 3 Voice mode

The 3 voice mode is just like the normal polyphonic mode, only you have three voices instead of six. In this mode two oscillators are layered to create a denser, thicker sound. To activate 3 Voice mode press POLY, UNI and CHORD simultaneously.

2.4 2 Voice mode

In the 2 Voice Mode there is only two voice polyphony, but

is just like the normal polyphonic mode, only you have two voices instead of six. Three oscillators are layered to create an even denser, thicker sound. To activate 3 Voice mode press POLY and UNI simultaneously.

2.5 Polychord

The Polychord functionality allows you to assign an individual chord to each key of the keyboard and play these chords with a single key press. Like any other play mode Polychord can be used in conjunction with the Powerarp. Combining the two gives you a versatile chord sequencer!

2.5.1 Switching into Polychord

To switch into Polychord mode release all keys, and press POLY and CHORD simultaneously.

2.5.2 Recording a new Chord

To record a new chord, play it on the keyboard and press POLY and CHORD simultaneously. The POLY led will now blink to indicate that the device is waiting for you to select the key you want the chord assigned to. Press a key and the chord will be assigned to this key. This is a similar procedure to recording a chord in chord memory on the original Polysix / Poly-61. Just press POLY+CHORD instead of just CHORD.

3 Powerarp

3.1 Powerarp overview

The Powerarp mode lets you define a custom arpeggiator sequence which - just like the normal arp - works in all play modes. You can define a sequence of up to 128 notes, transpose in pitch or shift it in time. The next note is triggered by the arp clock, or midi.

3.2 Creating a new sequence

Hold the ARP key until it starts blinking. Now you can enter your sequence note by note. Pressing the HOLD key will insert a break with the duration

of one note. The HOLD led will light up for a short while to indicate a break has been inserted. You can use this to program more complex rhythms, then a usual arpeggiator can provide. When finished press the arp key again to save the sequence and get into Powerarp mode. The sequence will be saved, even if you switch off the Polysix / Poly-61.

3.3 playing and transposing

To play the sequence press the middle C (C3). To transpose the sequence press key above or below the middle C. When playing staccato the sequence is reset each time you press a key, when playing legato it will transpose without resetting. The two uppermost keys of the keyboard have a special function. The C will advance the sequence by one step, the B will move it back by one step.

3.4 Latch, Mode and Range

3.4.1 Latch

When the latch switch is set to on, any notes played are memorized and will continue to be arpeggiated even after you lift your fingers completely from the keyboard. To change the arpeggio pattern, simply play one or more new keys.

3.4.2 Mode

The mode switch defines weather the arpeggio is played upwards, downwards or both alternating. There is a fourth arpeggio mode that can be selected by the Range switch (see below)

3.4.3 Range

Set the range switch to 1OCT or 2OCT to play the sequence over a range of one or two octaves. In two octave mode notes that would extend the range of the keyboard are being folded back into the keyboards range.

Set the range switch to FULL to enter random mode. In this mode you can use the mode switch to select different random modes as follows:

UP: Normal random mode

DOWN: Non repeating random mode (two consecutive notes will never be the same)

UPDOWN: Forward/Backward random (the sequence will randomly advance or go back one step)

3.5 Playing a previously saved sequence

To switch directly into Powerarp mode press the ARP key until it starts blinking, then press it again without entering a sequence. The previously stored sequence can now be played.

4 Sustain pedal input

4.1 Sustain in play modes

Pressing the sustain pedal will sustain the playing notes until it is released.

4.2 Sustain in Arp and Powerarp

The sustain pedal can also be used in combination with the arpeggiators. When pressing the sustain pedal the notes are sustained.

When using the unison mode with arp or Powerarp the sustain pedal has a special function. While it is pressed the re-trigger is switched off, allowing

a smoother arp sound.

5 Midi

5.1 Midi in

The Modysix will receive midi input on the midi channel selected (see config menu).

5.2 Midi out

The Modysix has two separate midi out modes and sends both on two different midi channels simultaneously. You can configure the channel numbers in the config menu.

Be careful - don't set your receiving device to "omni" as it would receive both channels.

5.2.1 Midi out as played

On the as-played channel only the key presses on the Polysix / Poly-61 keyboard are sent. If you record this channel and send it back to the Modysix, the synth will sound exactly the same as when you played it.

This is useful for using the Polysix / Poly-61 as a midi keyboard. In this mode sustain pedal events will be sent as "sustain" midi messages.

5.2.2 Midi out as sounds

On the as-sounds channel instead of the key presses and releases, midi is sent the way it actually sounds. In this mode the Modysix will output the arpeggiator, Powerarp, chord memory, Polychord, unison mode including retrigger, poly-, two-, and three voice modes. Sustain events will not be sent as midi messages but rather simulated with note on and off events.

When retrigger is turned off in unison mode the next note on event will

be sent before the note off event. By most monophonic synths this can be interpreted as a 'glide's command.

5.3 Arp clock via midi

The arp clock can be selected to trigger by the internal arp or midi. (see config menu). There are two midi trigger modes. when 'midi note' is selected as the arp trigger input, the arp will trigger when midi note 0 is received on the midi receive channel.

When 'midi clock' is selected, the arp will trigger in sync to the received midi clock. You can choose between a number of dividers for the midi clock to achieve various clock frequencies by sending midi controller messages on controller number 16. The table below shows the controller values and the resulting frequency in bars.

Ctrl val	0-7	8-15	16-23	24-31	32-39	40-47	48-55	56-63
Bars	2.5	2	1.5	1	$\frac{3}{4}$	1T	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{8}$
Ctrl val	64-71	72-79	80-87	88-95	96-103	104-111	112-119	120-127
Bars	$\frac{1}{2}T$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{16}$	$\frac{1}{4}T$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}T$	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{1}{32}$

Table 1: Midi controller settings for arp clock divider

5.4 Filter over midi

The Modysix features midi filter control. Controller messages received on controller number 17 will modulate the filter. The default value is 0.

5.5 Program change

The modysix responds to program change commands and changes the play mode. It also sends program change commands when changing the play mode. The following table shows which program number corresponds with which play mode:

Program number	0	1	2	3	4	5
Play Mode	Poly	Uni	2 Voice	3 Voice	Chord	Polychord

Table 2: Midi program numbers and play modes

6 Midi controlled S/H LFO

This is a build in sample and hold style LFO that controls the filter. A random value is created on every s/h clock event and sent to the filter. This simulates the effect of the sample and hold LFOs common in analog synthesizers, where a noise source is periodically sampled to get a new random value each time.

You can choose between three different clock sources by using the config menu. The internal arp clock, midi clock and midi trigger. The midi clock will use the same divider as the midi arp clock, when midi trigger is selected, the S/H will trigger when note C#-2 is played (second lowest midi note).

You can control the amount by using controller number 18 or by using the config menu.

7 Config menu

7.1 Enter and exit the config menu

To enter the config menu press the HOLD button until it starts blinking. To exit the config menu press it again.

7.2 Configure Midi Channels

Midi send an receive channels can be configured by pressing notes on the keyboard. Figure 1 shows which keys correspond to which channel.

7.3 Configure arp trigger

The arp trigger source can be configured by pressing notes on the keyboard. Figure 1 shows which keys correspond to which setting.

7.4 Configure S/H trigger

The S/H LFO trigger source can be configured by pressing notes on the keyboard. Figure 1 shows which keys correspond to which setting.

7.5 S/H LFO amount

The S/H LFO amount can be set using the amount UP/DOWN keys. You can select the amount in 8 steps between 0 and 100%.

7.6 Factory reset

To perform a factory reset press the highest note on the keyboard (C5). It will take a couple of seconds to complete. When the HOLD led starts blinking again, factory reset is finished.

Key Num	1-16	17-32	33-48	49	50	51	61
Keys	C0 - D#1	E1 - G2	G#2 - B3	C4	C#4	D4	C5
Controls	Receive Chan	As-Played Chan	As-Sounds Chan	Arp internal	Arp note	Arp clock	Factory reset

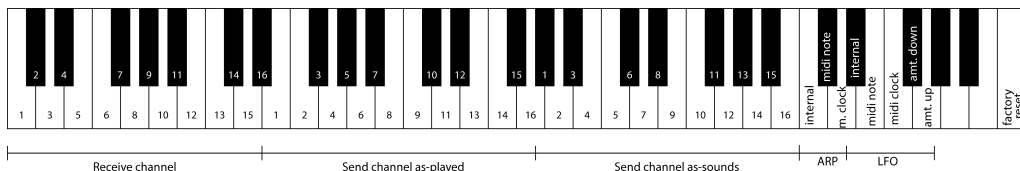


Figure 1: Config mode keyboard assignment

8 Tips and tricks

8.1 Transferring a melody to Powerarp

You can transfer a melody from an external sequencer to the Modysix Powerarp sequencer by going into Powerarp record mode and then sending the melody to the Modysix midi in channel.

8.2 Use of Powerarp transpose and Polychord

You can use the combination of Powerarp transpose and Polychord in multiple creative ways. You could for example save the notes C to B in the first octave, some minor and major chords in the second and some sept chords in the third. After recording a Powerarp sequence in the first octave you can transpose to play either single notes, or chords. You can use the same trick to 'transpose' between different melodies.

8.3 Copy a Polychord

If you want to move or copy a chord to a different key in Polychord mode, play it, then press POLY+CHORD to record it again.

9 Appendix

9.1 Midi controller chart

note: controller numbers in the chart are in the range of 0-127. If your midi controller displays controller numbers as 1-128 you have to add 1 to the numbers below.

Controller number	Usage	Range
16	Arp clock divider	* see table 1
17	Filter cutoff	0-127
18	S/H LFO amount	0-127
64	Sustain	off:0-63,on:64-127
120	All Sound Off	-
123	All Notes Off	-

Table 3: Midi receive controller numbers chart

9.2 Troubleshooting

9.2.1 Midi in not working

Are you sending on the correct channel? Try all 16 channels or configure the midi in channel using the config menu.

The Modysix accepts midi input in a range of 6 octaves from C0 to C5. Check if you are sending in this range.

9.2.2 Midi loop back problems

If you experience, weird phasing effects, chord memory and arpeggiator not working as expected or similar problems you are most likely victim of midi loop back. A possible cause could be your DAW sending the received

midi back to the output or your midi interface having a loop back function. To check if midi loop back is the cause disconnect the midi in (or out) connection and see if the problem disappears.

9.2.3 Midi filter control and S/H LFO not working

This is caused by either not sending the midi controller information on the midi in channel or the filter cable not soldered to the correct location on the Polysix / Poly-61 board.

9.3 Thanks

go to

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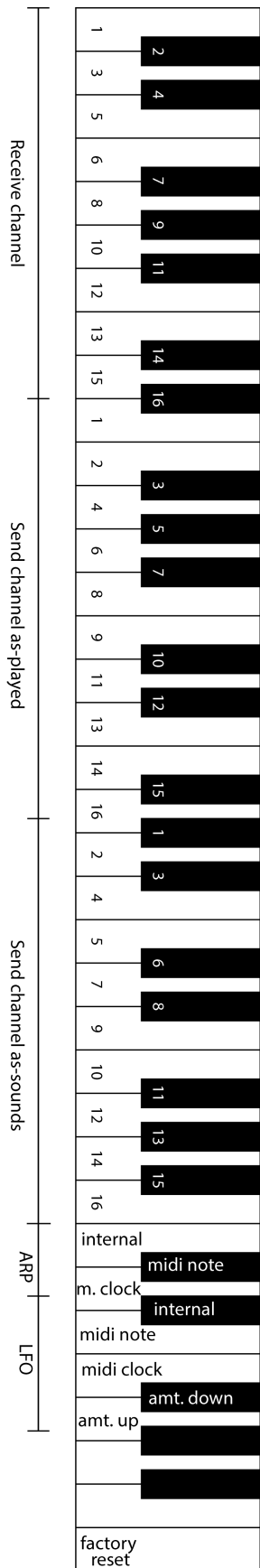


Figure 2: Config menu options on keyboard