

BINARY

User Manual

Version 1.0

BINARY

Binary is a 1-bit analog computer that takes up to six inputs and determines whether the output voltage should be high (+5V) or low (0V).

Binary was designed to take the individual step outputs of a single Algorhythm module and create an additional pattern with its own controls. Another application would be to combine the Pattern outputs of multiple Algorhythm modules into a single stream, with the ability to mute certain portions of the sequence during playback. However, Binary can be used with nearly any gate/trigger source.

Each input has its own illuminated on/off switch. In the ON position, the switch is illuminated at approximately 50% brightness. Incoming voltages will increase the brightness from this baseline, providing visual feedback about the incoming signal. In the OFF position, the baseline is to have no illumination, with an increase to approximately 50% brightness when input voltage increases.

The output circuitry of Binary can be switched between OR and NOR logic for different patching applications. OR logic is used to combine multiple pulse inputs into a single output (without changing the output voltage level). With the OR gate active, the output voltage of Binary is high when any of the six input voltages are high. NOR is a logical negation of OR, so switching to NOR logic will provide negation of input voltages. With the NOR gate active, the output is high by default. An incoming positive voltage will cause the output to drop to 0V.

The NOR gate can be used for sidechaining effects, where a VCA or filter is closed when a timing event occurs. Upbeats can also be changed to downbeats without repatching. The NOR gate can also be used to convert S-Trig signals into V-Trig (or vice-versa) because the output circuitry operates in the positive voltage domain only. (This patch is explained in detail later in the manual.)

Binary is a fully-analog design that primarily uses transistors for its logic circuitry. This means that the circuitry works well into the audible frequency range.

Technical Details

In the box:

- Binary module
- Power cable (10-to-16 pin)

Dimensions:

- Width: 6hp (1.2" or 30mm)
- Depth: 30mm (with power cable installed)
- Height: 3U (5.06" or 128.5mm)

Power Requirements:

- Maximum of 30mA at +12V
- Protected against reverse polarity

Module Installation

To install the module in your Eurorack system, first ensure that power to the system is turned off. Please take precautions against ESD (electrostatic discharge) to prevent permanent damage to the module's components. Connect the smaller 10-pin socket of the power cable to the module, noting the "stripe" indicator on the PCB (which should align with the red stripe on the cable). Then connect the 16-pin socket to your power distribution board. Take note of the power cable's orientation with regard to the -12V supply of your power distribution board. The red stripe usually (but not always) aligns with the bottom of the power connector. Binary is protected against reverse polarity (which occurs when a power cable is connected upside down) but other modules in your system may not be.

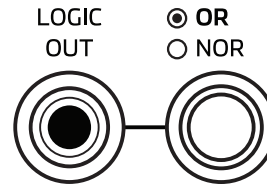
Getting Started

Operation of Binary is straightforward. Patch pulse sources to any of the six inputs and toggle the on/off switch for each input as needed. Patch the output to a destination that expects a +5V gate/trigger (such as the gate/trigger input of an envelope generator) and select the logic gate required for the intended application. The switch next to each input will illuminate when a signal is received. By enabling/disabling inputs, a number of different pulse sources can be combined into a single pattern.

LOGIC OUT Jack and OR/NOR Switch

The Logic Out jack reflects the result of the chosen logic gate. Its output is a positive-going pulse (+5V).

The OR/NOR Switch controls the logic gate used for the computation. When illuminated, the OR gate is active. When not illuminated, the NOR gate is active.

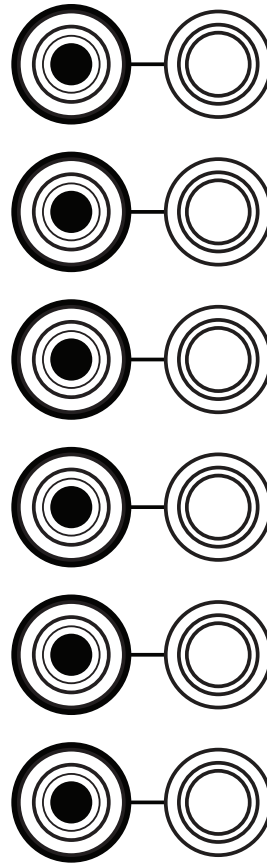


Input Jacks and ON/OFF Switches

Each of the six input jacks has its own latching ON/OFF switch.

The ON state is latched (pressed down), the OFF state is unlatched. In the ON state, the baseline illumination of the switch is ~50%. Incoming signals increase the illumination of the switch to indicate activity at that input.

In the OFF state, the switch is not illuminated, but incoming signals increase the illumination level to ~50% to provide visual feedback about the status of muted inputs.



Truth Tables

Boolean logic gates can be visualized with truth tables. These tables usually take two inputs and compute one output. With Binary, there are six possible inputs, but the fundamental principle remains the same.

OR GATE			NOR GATE		
Input 1	Input 2	Output	Input 1	Input 2	Output
0	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	1	1	0	0
0	1	1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	0

The OR Gate remains low (0) when all inputs are low, and goes high (1) when at least one input is high. The NOR Gate remains high when all inputs are low, and goes low when at least one input is high. In the truth tables above, 0 represents 0V and 1 represents +5V.

S-Trig and V-Trig Conversion

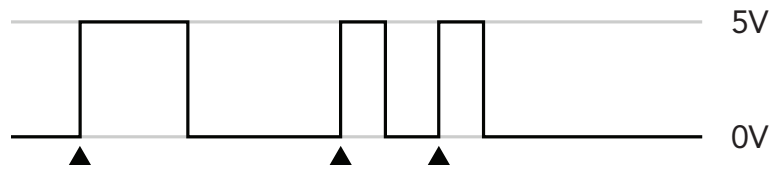
The gate/trigger inputs on most synths, drum machines, and sequencers are activated by a rising voltage (such as 0>5V). This is commonly called a V-Trig circuit. But some devices use a different circuit called an S-Trig (or shorting trigger), in which the circuit rests at a positive voltage and responds when the voltage drops to 0V.

Converting between these two standards is not as simple as inverting the voltage. Passing a 0>5V gate signal through an inverter circuit will result in a voltage that jumps from 0V to -5V when active. Since most gate inputs expect a 0>5V pulse, an inverted gate is not generally usable as a logic signal. A positive offset is still needed to create a pulse that activates the logic circuits used by most modular synths.

Binary is designed for logic signals in the positive (0V>5V) range only, so it can be used for conversion of S-Trig signals to V-Trig and vice-versa, without the need for the additional offset. This applies to drum machines and sequencers as well as “note on/off” events generated by (or required by) some analog synths.

OR Gate: V-Trig to V-Trig

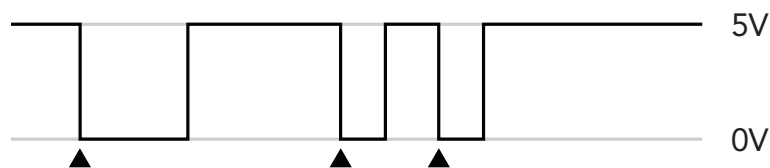
Output is high when incoming voltage is high



In the diagram above, black triangles indicate the onset of an incoming $0 > 5V$ signal. With the OR gate active, input equals output: when input is high, output is high. This is the most common application of Binary, and works with most modern devices.

OR Gate: S-Trig to S-Trig

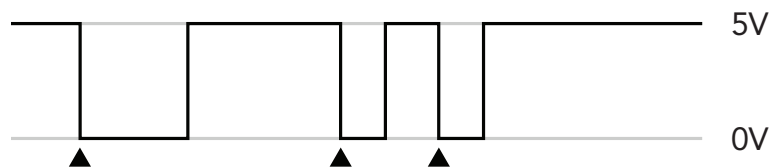
Output is low when incoming voltage is low



The OR gate is also used when S-Trig signals should pass through without being negated. S-Trig outputs are normally high, so the logic output of Binary will remain high when S-Trig sources are patched to the inputs. The output will fall when the input falls, correlating to an active gate/trigger from an S-Trig device, and signals will pass through the circuit without being negated.

NOR Gate: V-Trig to S-Trig

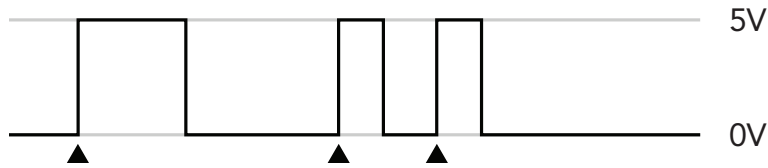
Output is low when incoming voltage is high



Things get a bit more interesting when you want to send V-Trig signals to a device with an S-Trig input. To make this conversion, choose the NOR gate. Now the baseline output is 5V (the "off" state of an S-Trig circuit). V-Trig input pulses will be negated, dropping the output level to 0V, which is the "on" state of an S-Trig circuit. When the V-Trig input pulse goes low, the output goes high again. No offset is needed.

NOR Gate: S-Trig to V-Trig

Output is high when incoming voltage is low



Binary can also convert S-Trig signals to V-Trig. Patch an S-Trig signals to an input and use the NOR gate. Because the baseline S-Trig voltage is normally high, the NOR gate will negate this logic and cause the baseline output voltage of Binary to be low (which is the “off” state of a V-Trig circuit). S-Trig input signals will be negated, and the output will remain high for as long as the S-Trig input is held low. No offset is needed.

Manual Gate Source

Binary can also be used as a manual gate source. Switching from OR to NOR will cause the Logic Out voltage to increase from 0V to 5V. The output voltage will remain high until the logic gate is switched back to OR. For this patch, the inputs would typically not be connected to anything. Only the output would be used.

Audio Rate Experimentation

Binary’s fully-analog design enables it to handle audio-rate frequencies. Try patching different waveforms from the same VCO to different inputs and monitor the output. The result will be a high-frequency square wave with a variable pulse width.

Technical Support and Warranty Information

Send an email to contact@grayscale.info with requests for service or technical support.

Warranty coverage is provided for a period of one year from the date of purchase. Problems with a module under warranty may be remedied through repair, replacement, or refund, at the sole discretion of the manufacturer. The warranty does not cover damage caused by the user, including but not limited to system power supply malfunction, electrostatic discharge, introduction of excessive voltage levels into the module, or physical damage to the components.