

# Moog DFAM Knob Upgrade

The otherwise truly excellent Moog DFAM is slightly let down by the control stalks in the sequencer section and to a lesser extent, those in the mixer section. These stalks seem at odds with the excellent build and component quality of the rest of the synthesiser and although they work, repeatability and precision of patches is made more difficult by the lack of physical resolution.

The solution is quite simple – just fit larger knobs directly to the stalks and Thonk UK have put together a little bundle containing all the knobs you need to make the upgrade. However, ensuring that you fit the knobs so that their pointers all match in orientation and that they are equally spaced above the DFAM's faceplate is a fiddly task so I hope these instructions offer some assistance in this regard. **HOWEVER, YOU CARRY OUT THIS UPGRADE AT YOUR OWN RISK AND I OFFER THIS ONLY AS A REPORT ON HOW I CARRIED OUT THE WORK!!**

## Tools and materials required



**Steel ruler**

**Craft knife**

**Scissors**

**Jeweller's flat-bladed screwdriver**

**Plastic drinking straw**

**Smooth cardboard**

## Preparation

Ensure that the surface of your DFAM is free from dust to avoid the risk of scratching the surface when removing the knob spacer later on.

Cut 19 x 8mm lengths of plastic straw then cut each one longitudinally down one side so that they will clip over the control stalks on the DFAM.

Choose a piece of smooth card of the thickness that you would like to space the skirt of the knobs from the faceplate of the DFAM. Cut the card into a strip approximately 20mm wide by 85mm long using a

craft knife and steel rule. Cut a section out of the centre from one end, exactly 6mm wide by 60mm long to form a slotted card spacer. This will be used to set the same height for all of the knobs.



## Assembly

Rotate all the Pitch and Velocity control stalks fully counter-clockwise. Slide a piece of the cut straw over each stalk and arrange for the gap in the straw's cut edge to expose the white line on the control stalk.



Place the slot on the card spacer from the front of the DFAM over the first Velocity and Pitch stalks then place a *small* upgrade knob on the Pitch stalk. Adjust the position of the card until the open end is flush with the top edge of the Pitch knob. Remove the upgrade knob then, while holding the card still, mark a line extending the position of the two white pointers on the stalks onto the card so that you can align the upgrade knobs accurately. These marks can be used for all the Pitch and Velocity knobs.



Place the upgrade knob back onto the stalk of the Pitch control then adjust its position to line up with the marker line. Press the knob down firmly onto the card and tighten the small retaining screw on the opposite side of the knob to the pointer line to retain the knob in position. Repeat for the Velocity knob then gently pull the card spacer outwards and remove it. Repeat the procedure for each of the other Pitch and Velocity pairs (16 *small* knobs in total).

Rotate the VCO1 LEVEL, NOISE /EXT LEVEL and VCO2 LEVEL control stalks fully counter-clockwise. Slide a piece of the cut straw over each stalk and arrange for the gap in the straw's cut edge to expose the white line on the control stalk. Place the slot on the card spacer from the rear of the DFAM over the three stalks then place a *mini* upgrade knob on the VCO 2 LEVEL stalk. Adjust the position of the card until the open end is flush with the bottom edge of the VCO 2 LEVEL knob. Remove the upgrade knob then, while holding the card still, mark a line extending the position of the three white pointers on the stalks onto the card so that you can align the upgrade knobs accurately.

Place the upgrade knob back onto the stalk of the VCO 2 LEVEL control then adjust its position to line up with the marker line. Press the knob down firmly onto the card and tighten the small retaining screw on the opposite side of the knob to the pointer line to retain the knob in position. Repeat for the NOISE /EXT LEVEL and VCO2 LEVEL knobs then gently pull the card spacer outwards and remove it.

Your upgrade knobs will now be spaced above the faceplate of the DFAM and accurately aligned with the original pointer lines on the stalks.

