WAMOD: vactrol PiLL PLEASE READ EVERYTHING BEFORE STARTING and ask if you are not sure.

This is a simple circuit that is capable of making a wide variety of sounds. With a sequencer it can be used as a crude VCO, but fed other signals, such as from envelope generators and LFOs, it will sound like anything from a baboon with the squirts to a cheesy 80s video game laser cannon.

The name is drawn from the two main components that define the function and characteristics of the module. One is the vactrol which is a light controlled resistor, these have an interesting effect whereas there is always a time delay whilst the resistor changes its value – this is a good thing and has been exploited by many synth designers, notably Don Buchla. The PiLL is from a PLL – phase locked loop, this is a special purpose IC which contains number of subcircuits and usually used in radio and digital control circuits. It contains a VCO, logic gate and a phase detector = all fun stuff.

Parts

10R	1	or replace with a rectifier or schottky diode with at least 1A rating. Install with cathode (stripe) pointing towards edge of PCB
1k	3	
2k2	2	
4k7	1	
10k	1	
22k	2	vers.2 PCB
47k	1	
100k	1	vers.2 PCB
1M	2	
100nF	3	marked 104
10uF	1	be careful to insert +/- correctly
4046	1	PLL chip
BC547	1	NPN transistor
10 pin power connector	1	
16 pin socket	1	
vactrol	1	white dot indicates 'K'
3.5mm mono sockets	5	
LED	1	NOT USED IF USING WHITE/GOLD PANEL. INSTALL LINK INSTEAD

- 1. Install 10 pin power connector and 16 pin socket
- 2. sort out and install resistors (keep the cut-off resistor legs for step 6.
- 3. install capacitors, transistor & vactrol. If you have the white/gold panel, there is no hole for a LED, install a link instead.
- 4. Place sockets on the panel so that they line up with the holes on the PCB, the PCB will attach to the panel so the components are facing outwards.
- 5. Attach the PCB to the panel, make sure everything lines up nicely and the PCB is parallel with the panel (not on an angle)

- 6. Install wires to the ground tabs of the sockets, do not skip any sockets
- 7. Install 4046 chip in the correct direction.
- 8. test!
- 9. voila!

