



La Madrugada is a 4 track lo fi sample recorder with 2 built in microphones – 1 contact mic and 1 electret condenser mic. You can also record aux sources.

Built in echo fx can be applied to the main mix and to in coming aux audio. The echo uses germanium limiting diodes in the feedback path giving it a special sound character.

The mounted baby kalimba provides an easy and fun sample source.

And the built- in speaker can be used for auditioning ideas without any other gear, or to play around with feedback or resampling.

----Samplers-----

The 4 sample channels use an obsolete voice recorder chip that was initially manufactured for answering machines to replace micro cassette tape. The sound is very lo fi and there is a slight pause and a click when the sample loops. Additional circuitry has been added to minimize and filter the click, but these are nevertheless quirky devices that are full of character and have a transformational quality if you take the patience to locate sweet spots and material that can be good sample sources given the grainy texture.

The 4 samplers are arranged with each channel occupying a vertical column. At the very bottom there is a record button for each channel. Directly above is a volume knob. Above that there is a speed knob.

The speed knob tends to like being in the 9-3 o'clock position when recording. Record time can go up to 20 seconds but it depends on the speed the knob is set at as to how much actual time you get. At higher speeds there is less time and the sound is slightly improved.

-----Sampler Modes-----

Above the speed knob is the mode select switch. When no gate source is connected, putting the switch into either the left or right position will cause the sample to loop, while middle position will mute all gates and allow the sample slot to be recorded into.

When a gate source is connected, far left position will retrigger the sample from the beginning every time a gate is received. Middle position will ignore incoming gates, allowing the sample slot to be muted or to be recorded into even while gates are incoming. And far right loops the sample while incoming gates open an low pass gate that allows the sound to pass through. Great for creating non repeating loops etc...

-----External Sampler Control-----

In each column there are two 3,5mm sockets. The bottom socket is for pitch cv. And the top socket is for gate inputs.

-----input mixer-----

Above the samplers you have the input section. The left most switch here will turn monitoring of the input signal on or off. The switch to the right turns the condenser microphone on or off. The knob to the left of the condenser mic controls the input level of external aux signals, or if nothing is connected to the aux socket, the level of the contact microphone mounted inside the unit.

Note that connecting an AUX source into the AUX input on the right will mute the internally mounted contact microphone.

The socket to the left can be used as an *output* to send the contact mic signal out to effects pedals or other processors and then sent back in to the AUX input. Or it can be used to *input* an AUX source while still keeping the contact microphone in the input signal.

-----feedback fx and master out-----

To the left, above the mounted baby kalimba, you have the echo fx and a built in speaker, with controls for speaker on / off. Echo Feedback, Mix, and Time. And Master volume.

-----power-----

La Madrugada uses a standard 2,1 x 5,5mm center positive dc power supply 9-12v