BASTL INSTRUMENTS THYME Plus Sequenceable Robot Operated Digital Tape Machine Instruction Manual

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Bastl's THYME+ optimizes your sound and liberates you from the confines of routine work. With numerous parameters at hand, you can delve deep into time-based effects and explore their wildest combinations.

You have the freedom to experiment with delay, phaser, reverb, chorus, pitch shifter, multi-tap delay, tape delay, tremolo, vibrato, and much more – all in stereo!

For full manual and documentation, scan the QR code.

There's a lot THYME+ can do and we will slowly dive into it.
Follow these easy steps to comprehend it all, bit by bit…

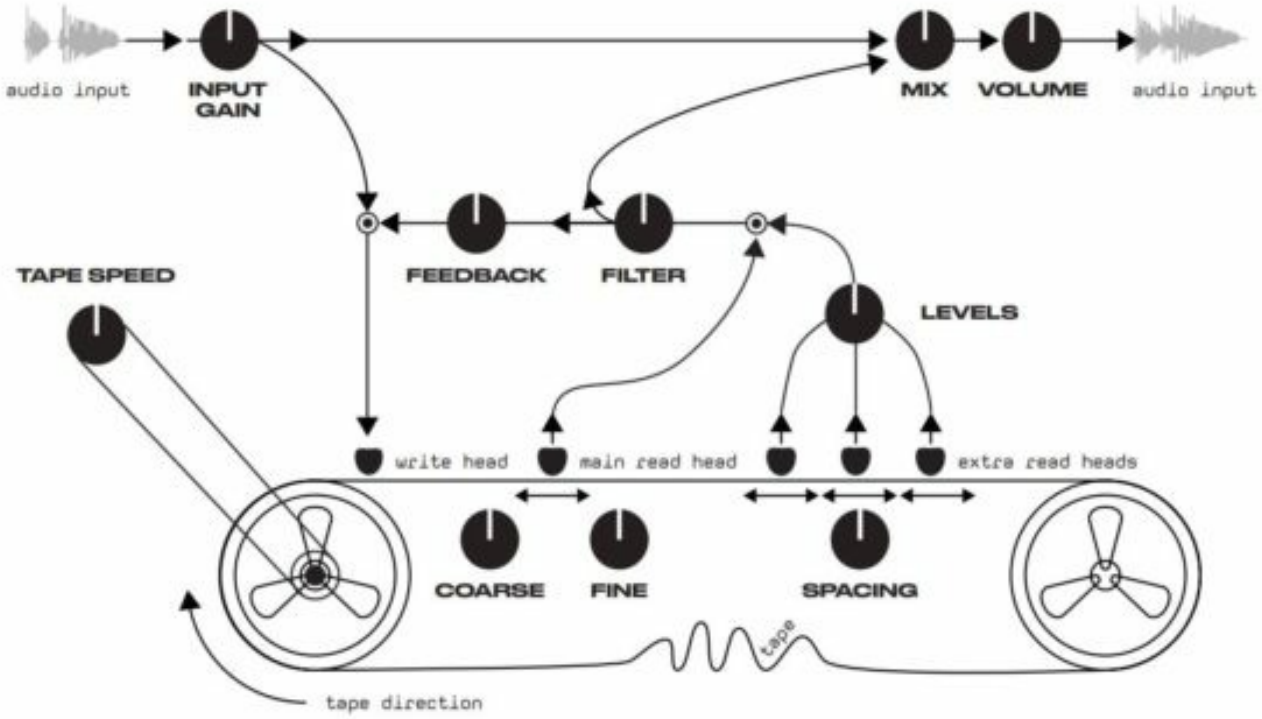
In this quickstart guide, we will look into:

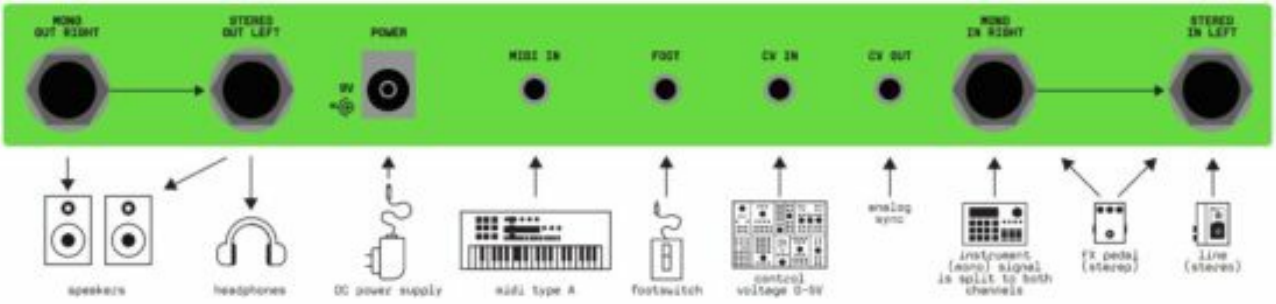
Tape delay : Sequencer (remember to save your progress as you go, it will be essential)

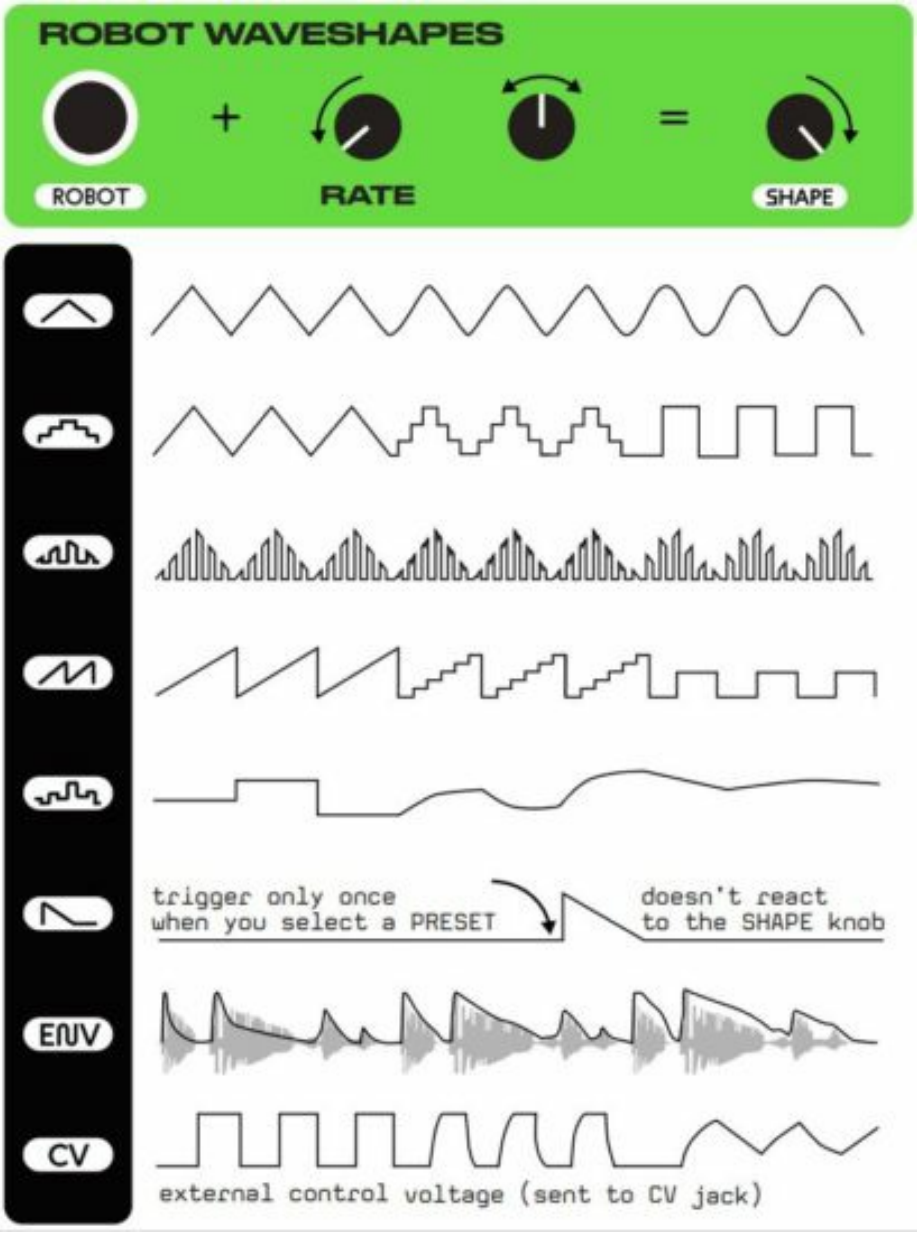
Memory: Freeze mode

For the best results follow each step, the way it's written.

Signal-flow and controls






ROBOT WAVESHAPES
ROBOT
+
RATE
=
SHAPE
ENV
CV
trigger only once
when you select a PRESET
doesn't react
to the SHAPE knob
external control voltage (sent to CV jack)

FREEZE MODE

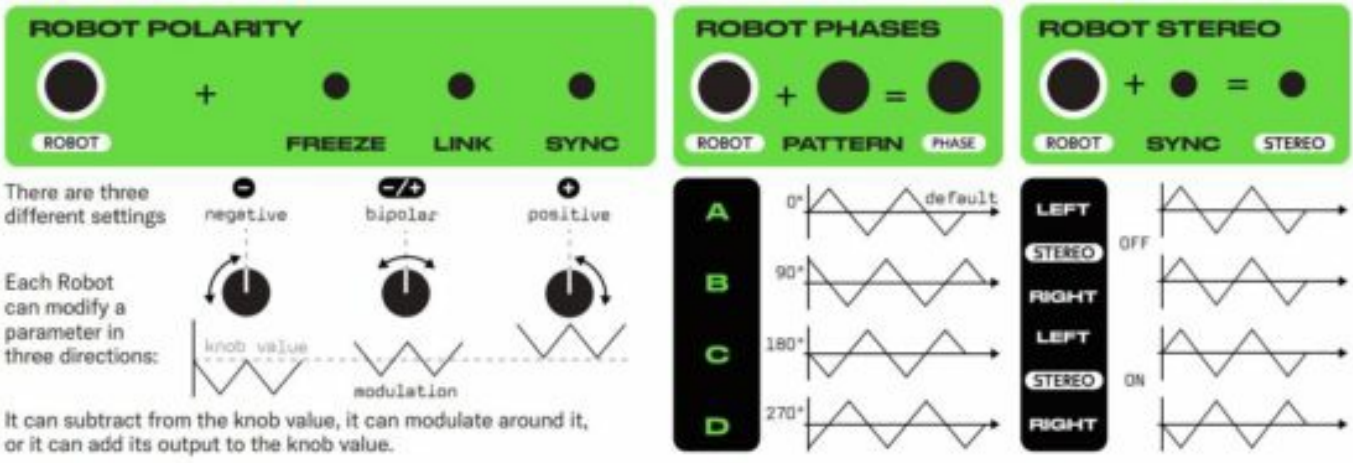
The **FREEZE** mode samples a short loop, with the length defined by the delay time.

FREEZE allows you to create drones with longer time frames, "lag" the sound with shorter ones, create feedback pitches with the shortest delay times, or glitch the sound with gradual movements.

Change the length of the frozen loop using the **COARSE** & **FINE** knobs.

Control the intensity of the loop with **FEEDBACK**(when fully to the right, the loop will stay indefinitely).

Mix in the extra read heads to the output with **LEVELS**. In the second half of the knob, the signal from extra read heads gets written into the frozen loop. Have fun!



BUTTON COMBOS

Tape machine

SHIFT +	**FREEZE**	set tape speed to half
	DELAY SYNC	set tape speed to double
	TAPE SPEED	lo-fi/analog tape
	FEEDBACK wiggle	negative/positive feedback
	SPACING wiggle	synced/unsynced read heads

Robots

	any **KNOB** wiggle	select for modulation
	any **KNOB** movement	set amount of modulation
	SYNC robot	stereo robot mode
ROBOT +	**PRESET 1–8**	select waveform of LFO
	RATE	modulate shape of waveform
	A/B/C/D PATTERN	select phase of LFO
	FREEZE/LINK/SYNC	select robot polarity
	BYPASS	erase selected robot

Sequencer and clock

WRITE + **PRESET 1–8**	record preset (live mode)
SELECT + **PRESET 1–8**	select preset (write mode)
hold **PRESET 1–8**	select substeps (write m.)
SHIFT + **TAP**	modeselect clock source
SHIFT + **A/B/C/D**	select tempo divider

Memory

SHIFT +	**PRESET**	select bank
	SELECT	save bank
	WRITE	copy preset
	PLAY	paste preset
BYPASS + SHIFT + **PRESET**		erase bank
BYPASS + **PRESET**		erase preset
BYPASS + **A/B/C/D**		erase pattern
PRESET 8 + **PLAY**		in test mode memory format

Randomize

ROBOT + SHIFT +	**FREEZE**	all robots parameters
	LINK	tape machine parameters
	SYNC	tape and robots parameters

Midi, hardware test, firmware update

Hold buttons during power up:

WRITE	start/stop message
PRESET 1–8	midi channel 1–8
SHIFT + **PRESET 1–8**	midi channel 9–16
A+B+C+D	hardware test mode
TAP	bootloader mode to update

Let's get you STARTED with the BASICS

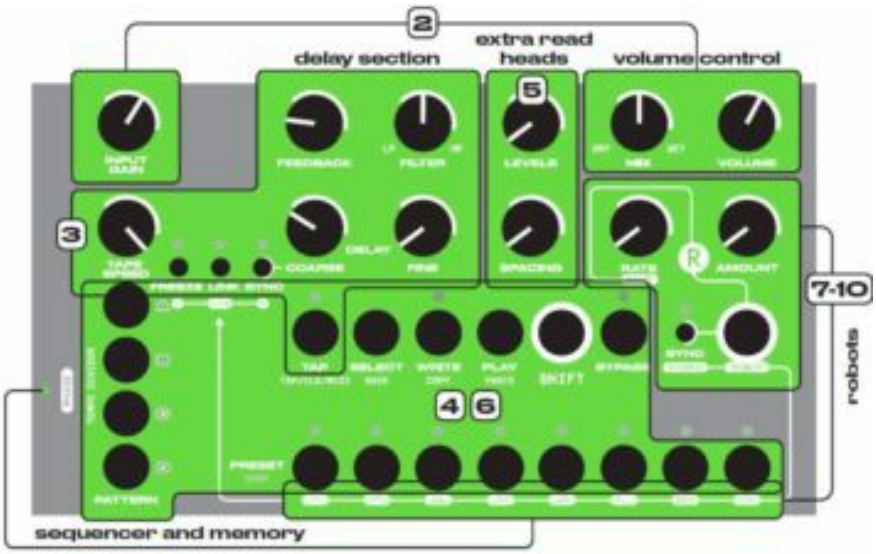
1. START HERE

Plug in your power supply, input signal, and output signal.

For starters, to learn the instrument and best hear the processes, it's best to use a simple continuous rhythm signal instead of drones or an instrument you would have to play actively.

- Select an empty BANK with empty PRESETS (SHIFT + **PRESET**)

- Select an empty **PRESET**



2. LET THERE BE SOUND

- Adjust **INPUT GAIN** to a desired level. A GREEN light indicates an incoming signal, while a RED light indicates clipping (the signal is too loud)
- Adjust **VOLUME**. Now you can hear your signal!
- Quickly turn **MIX** to unfreeze the knob*
- Adjust between DRY (original) and WET (processed) signal

*Knob freezing is a function keeping the knob values set. It applies to all the knobs except **INPUT GAIN** and **VOLUME**.

4. COPY & PASTE PRESETS

- Select a **PRESET** (or just stay in the current one)
- Press SHIFT + **WRITE** to COPY the current **PRESET** settings
- Select another **PRESET**
- Press SHIFT + **PLAY** to **PASTE**

5. ADDING DENSITY

You can add three more extra read heads to the tape. They will be added after the main read head.

- Unlock and adjust **LEVELS**. This knob controls the volume level of all three read heads
- Play around with **SPACING**. This knob controls the distance between the three extra read heads

These heads also react to **FEEDBACK** and **TAPE SPEED**. Let's try it out!

8. MORE ROBOTS

Using Robots, you can create interesting modulations, such as the following one, resulting in a flanger-like effect:

- Select a new **PRESET**
- Adjust **FEEDBACK**
- Turn the **FINE** knob, and listento the flanger effect
- Hold ROBOT and wiggle **FINE** to automate **FINE** with a Robot
- Release ROBOT and play with **AMOUNT**, **RATE**, and **FINE**

You can change the waveform shape from triangle to sine wave:

- Hold ROBOT and turn **RATE** fully to the left. It now functions as (SHAPE)

Choose a different waveform shape for the Robot modulating the **FINE** knob:

- Unlock and adjust the **COARSE** knob. It controls the main delay time
- Use **FINE** to make precise delay time adjustments
- Adjust **FEEDBACK** to control the amount of the signal fed back to the write head

- Press **BYPASS** + **PRESET** to erase the corresponding preset

Since you still have the first preset in your device's memory, you can always **PASTE** it again (SHIFT + **PLAY**).

Every waveshape reacts differently.

If you're curious, check the table on the next page for all the possible waveshaping variants.

TAPE SPEED changes how fast the tape moves, so it affects the overall duration of the loop and, therefore, the audio sample rate. The slower the tape (turning the knob to the left), the more digital sound artifacts appear.

You can press **LINK** to compensate for the change in delay time caused by adjusting **TAPE SPEED**.

- Press **TAP** multiple times to set the tempo of the main clock. The tempo is indicated by the blinking green light above*
- Press the **COARSE SYNC** button to sync the delay time to the main clock
- Play around with all these parameters

*If there's no light indication, check the clock source (SHIFT + **TAP**) and select the TAP option. The setting is indicated by one of the three lights:

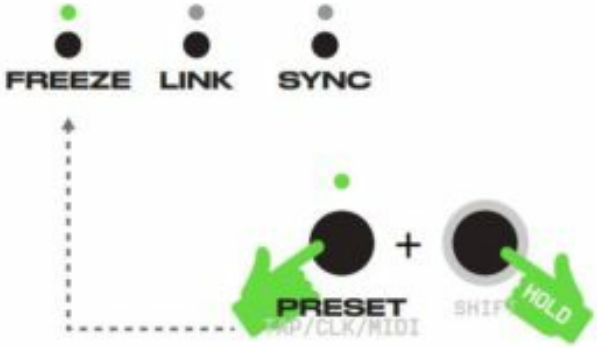
7. ROBOTS

Now's the time to learn how to automate parameters using Robots.

Let's try it on the **FILTER** parameter:

- Select an empty **PRESET**. PASTE your copied preset again
- Play around with the **FILTER** knob. On the left, it acts as a lowpass (LP), and on the right, as a highpass (HP)
- Hold the ROBOT button and then wiggle the **FILTER** knob
- While still holding ROBOT, the lightover the **FILTER** knob should light up green with full brightness. It indicates you've selected this parameter to be modulated by a Robot

- While still holding the ROBOT button, select one of the Robot waveshapes
- Release the ROBOT button



- Adjust the **RATE** and **AMOUNT** knobs to set the modulation. The R light indicates the modulation progress of the selected Robot

Adjust **FILTER**. The Robot still reacts to the knob's position. Its value is a refference point the Robot modulates around. Try it.

9. EVEN MORE ROBOTS

In this next example, we will build a simple tremolo effect:

- Hold ROBOT and automate **VOLUME**
- Set **RATE**, **AMOUNT** and **VOLUME**

Robots can be synced (quantized) to the clock in rhythmical intervals:

- Press the **SYNC** button next to the ROBOT button
- Hold ROBOT and press **SYNC** again. This turns the modulation into (STEREO). Really cool!

Try to automate more parameters using Robots in the same way!

There is even more to Robots on the next page.

10. TOO MANY ROBOTS

Hold ROBOT to see which knobs are automated. Those with an active Robot will flash briefly. Afterwards, the one knob with a lit light is the currently selected Robot.

To erase a Robot, select it with a wiggle of the knob and press ROBOT + **BYPASS**.

11. SAVE & ERASE

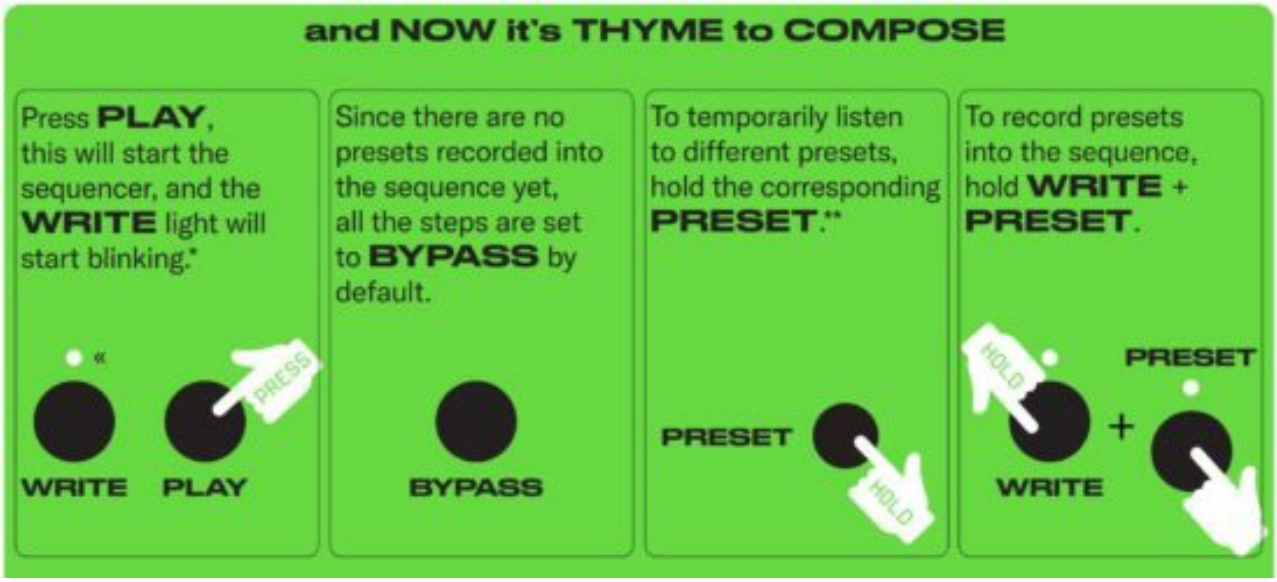
- Press SHIFT + **SELECT** to SAVE your whole BANK

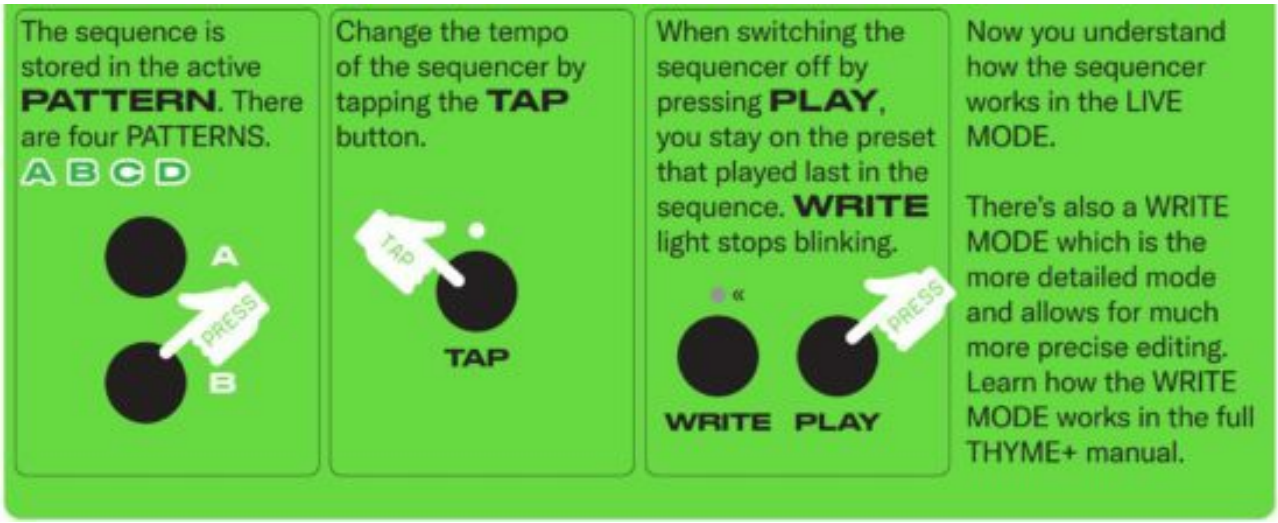
This will save all the current settings. All will stay saved even after restarting the device.

Save your presets, so that you can build a sequence with them.

- Press SHIFT + **PRESET** to select a BANK (1–8)
- Press **PRESET** to select a PRESET (1–8) from the active BANK

THYME+ is, by default, shipped with all the BANKS and PRESETS empty. However, if you need to clear a BANK, press **BYPASS** + SHIFT + **PRESET**.





Now that you have a few presets prepared & saved, let's learn how to turn them into sequences…

BASTL POST SOUND INSTRUMENTS

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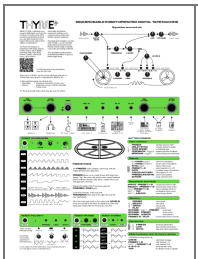	**BASTL INSTRUMENTS THYME Plus Sequenceable Robot Operated Digital Tape Machine** [pdf] Instruction Manual THYME Plus, THYME Plus Sequenceable Robot Operated Digital Tape Machine, Sequenceable Robot Operated Digital Tape Machine, Robot Operated Digital Tape Machine, Digital Tape Machine, Tape Machine, Machine

References

- **User Manual**