After two years of development GRP finally made it work: The **GRP R24**. This sequencer is a „tricky“ device. It can do a lot more than we would expect. Maybe too much for some users, assuming that is even possible.

Once in a while a musician just longs for the uncomplicated, the simple. Such as the **Moog 960** Sequenzer (just about the most reduced model in that category – stately and gorgeously crafted, no doubt about it, but extremely limited in its possibilities: 3×8 steps, just „one“ mode, that’s it). You can get the old Moog 960 newly constructed from **DotCom** (Q960 Sequential Controller) and from **COTK** (C960 Sequential Controller) …

Similar, if somewhat more elaborate sequencers: the Q119 24-Stage Sequencer from **DotCom** (once more) and the **Moon Modular** M569 Quad Sequential Voltage Source. Visually unique (with its circular step arrangement): **MFOS** 16-Step Rotary Analog Sequencer) and the KLEE Sequencer from **Scott Stites.**

The greatest step-sequencer, the cream of the crop is definitely the SAM-16 Sequential Analogue Memory from **SND**/Sebastian Niessen (unfortunately no longer in production). Then the air among the remaining 5HE-step sequencers gets rather thin.

The **GRP R24** fills a niche that has been unexplainably vacant for decades: the niche for an elaborate, flexible step-sequencer with BIG jacks, CV/gate and (!) MIDI and also a big cache for saving sequences. In glaring contrast to the dozens (and dozens) of analog synthesizers that have first seen the light of day in the last decades, almost nothing has been going on in the step-sequencer field.

But, as studio hardliners have known for a long time, you need an analog step-sequencer (with various modes) for a genuine groove. Which makes for a huge demand!

GRP has now closed that gap by releasing a versatile MIDI/CVgate-sequencer for the *creative* musician. Actually, they’ve gone even one step further: they built the R24 “and” the A2 – a brilliant sequencer “and” a superb synthesizer. So does that make a dream team? Could very well be! For the first time since that legendary package “Korg SQ-10 and MS-10” (or MS-20), there is again an analog sound- and performance-duo with matching outfits available.

But the outfits are not the point. It’s what’s INSIDE that counts. We’ve already discussed the GRP A2 in length in a test report. The following lines will be dedicated to the GRP R24.

A leave-it-as-it-be or a take-out-and-put-in-somewhere-else?

The GRP R24 is based on a dual hardware concept. Employ it as a stand-alone unit, or remove it from its housing and slide it in a DotCom/Moon Modular System. The required modul-/bus-socket is waiting there right on the main circuit board of the R24. Should the remaining empty housing appear useless, remember that it can be filled with other 5HE-modules. GRP thought of that, too.

Using the R24 as stand-alone device, still leaves you with 2 possibilities: either leave it as it is (with those elegant, rounded wooden side panels), or unscrew the wooden panels and replace them with rack-ears that come with the R24.

Features of the R24

The R24 offers:

- **64 memory locations** for sequences.

- 3 rows with independent **CV/GATE** outputs plus **MIDI** (In / Out) … each row can have its own MIDI channel. So, it's self-evident you can control digital and analog synthesizers at the same.

Global Performance-Features:

- **3 Sequencer-Modes**:
  – A,B,C: 3 parallel sequences (8 steps each)
  – A+B,C: 2 parallel sequences (16 steps and 8 steps)
  – A+B+C: 1 long, serial sequence (24 steps).
- **6 Advance-Modes** (directions), including random and alternating.

Individual Performance Features (each row):

- **Quantization** (on/off), **Portamento** and **Sample & Hold**.
- 6 Step-**Order Modes** (step-repetitions and back/fwd movements in a sort of mathematical way). User can programme own order-movements (up to 8 notes).
- 3 Step-**Repeat Modes** (x2 / x3 / x4).
- 4 **Sequence-Repeat Modes** (x2 / x3 / x4 / endless repetition).
- 6 Advance-**Divider Modi** (/2 /3 /4 /8 /16 /no division). Actually, this is a "Clock" divider function, which is why the term "Advance" is a little irritating.

Individual Performance Features (each step):

- Each step generates a CV (control voltage) signal, but also 2 GATE signals. Summing this up, you get **3 CV tracks** and **up to 6 GATE tracks.** If the Gate switch is in the OFF position, there is no gate-signal – that's how you programme rests. It's quite simple to create heaps of rhythmical variations just by switching gate-signals on and off …

  Depending on positioning of the gate-switch, each LED flashes RED (Gate 1), BLUE (Gate 2) or remains dark (OFF – rest).

- Function 1 (**FNC 1**) and Function 2 (**FNC 2**) are strange extras. When activated, the step is repeated twice (double stroke) or three times (triplet).

  Double Gate and Triplet are the "factory" settings. However, there are four possibilities to choose from:

  – Portamento on/off (portamento yes/no per step!)
  – Double Gate (= factory setting FNC 1)
  – Triplet Gate (= factory setting FNC 2)
  – Quadruple Gate

- **SKIP** and **END STEP** are further subleties to create rhythmical variations. Useful (and necessary) to realize any sort of poly-rhythms and any sort of Minimal Music.

  It takes a lot of patience if you wanna do stuff like this on a computer / with a software MIDI sequencer …

In order to represent the R24's flexibility, we created demos with various MIDI- and CV-synthesizers:

- **R24** and **Vermona 14** Analog Synthesizer: MIDI (notes) and CV (VCA IN).
- **R24** and **Arturia MiniBrute**: MIDI (notes) and CV (VCF IN).
- **R24** and **Novation KS5 (01)**: interesting PPG sounds in that Novation! (MIDI control.)
- **R24** and **Novation KS5 (02)**: we don't know why, but the organic character of the KS5 forms a perfect symbiosis with the R24 sequencer. (MIDI control.)
- **R24** and **Octave The Kitten II**: the cute kitten is a MONSTER! (CV/Gate/VCF control)
- **R24** and **Roland Jupiter-8 (01)**: R24 controls the Jupiter-Arpeggiator (trigger), VCF and VCA (all analog, so to speak).
- **R24** and **Roland Jupiter-8 (02)**: we added a Boss CE-1 chorus to beefen up the Jupiter-8 sound. Again: R24-to-arpeggiator-triggering …
- **R24** and **Yamaha TX-802**: Surprise! Organic FM sounds! (MIDI control).

1. GRP-R24-Vermona-14-JohnBowen-Solaris-Novation-KS5
2. GRP-R24-DSI-MonoEvolver-Keyboard
3. GRP-R24-Novation-BassStationII-01
4. GRP-R24-Novation-BassStationII-02
5. GRP-R24-Octave-TheKittenII
6. GRP-R24-Arturia-MiniBrute
7. GRP-R24-Vermona-14
8. GRP-R24-Yamaha-TX802
9. GRP-R24-SH101-01
10. GRP-R24-SH101-02
11. GRP-R24-Novation-KS5-01
12. GRP-R24-Novation-KS5-02
13. GRP-R24-Roland-Jupiter-8-01
14. GRP-R24-Roland-Jupiter-8-02

GRP R24
MIDI / CV-Gate 3×8 Step Sequencer

Price:
1,990 Euros + VAT. + shipping
= approx. 2,350 Euros / 2,850 USD
(01/2025)

Website: www.grpsynthesizer.it

Open / Download:

- GRP R24 User Manual (English)
- GRP R24 User Manual (German)

- R24 front pic (1700 x 1133 px)
- R24 side pic (1700 x 1133 px)
- R24 rear view (1700 x 1133 px)
- R24 with rack ears (1700 x 1133 px)
- R24 panel graphic

Link:

- GRP R24 Part 2

- GRP A2 Review (synth module, matching with the sequencer)

Part 2 of the report ...