# System-care

**ARX Sixgate:** Everything that a drummer's heart desires

Percussionists often struggle to be heard in the mix. The simple and easy six way remedy in one 19" RU is the totally professional ARX Sixgate

**TEST by RALPH LARMANN**

Whether live or in the studio, for true separation of individual percussion instruments, you must have Gates. On drums you need a bigger number of Gates on more channels. ARX made this assumption when they initiated the development of the Sixgate, a 6 channel Noise Gate. The Sixgate was the first product from the ARX production line and incidentally ARX was the first and only company in the world to integrate six independent Noisegates into a single rack unit device. Besides the excellent technical data in the manual, the Sixgate has many 'user-friendly' practical features which end users will easily be able to put into practice.

**ARX SIXGATE**

**TECHNICAL DATA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Input Impedance: | 20 kOhm (Balanced) |
| | 10 kOhm (Unbalanced) |
| Headroom: | +20 dB |
| Output Impedance: | 300 ohms (Balanced) |
| | 150 ohms (Unbalanced) |
| Output level: | +20 dB max. |
| Frequency Response: | 20 Hz-20 KHz |
| Signal-to-noise ratio: | -105 dB (A), Gate closed, Depth min |
| | -98 dB (A) Gate open |
| Distortion: | 01% THD (0dB/1 KHz) |
| Dynamic range: | 125 dB |
| Connections: | Input/Output 6.3 mm balanced jack |
| Key-Input: | 6.3 mm jack |
| Sidechain: | 6.3 mm stereo-jack |

**OVERALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| Flexibility: | Very good |
| Live-efficiency: | Very good |

Quality: 5 4 3 2 1 peak

Price/Value:

Beside the three standard parameters "Release", "Depth" and "Threshold", there is also a Hardwire Bypass switch per channel on the front panel, with red and green LEDs as Open/Close status indicators of the Gate channel.Green for open and red for closed .

The Threshold control is adjustable between -40 dB and +12 dB. It controls the level that the signal has to reach before the Gate will open. If the signal level falls under the Threshold level, the Gate will close, at a time constant determined by the setting on the "Release" control. The adjustable time-value lies here between 100 ms and 2 sec. How much of the incoming signal is kept back when the Gate is closed is adjusted with the "Depth" control. At the lower edge of the Sixgate front panel is a numbered space designed to be used for channel identification marking. ARX recommend using Chinagraph or grease pencils only. Never use a felt-tip pen or anything similar, since it leaves a permanent mark on the front panel and cannot be removed.

On the rear, beside the power cord connection, each channel has a balanced 6.3 mm input and output jack socket. Between these jacks, the Sidechain Insert/Key input is also 6.3 mm standard jack connector. Using this socket, a Sidechain or Key Input function can be activated per channel. When you use the Key function, the Gate is not controlled by the signal running into the normal input but by the signal running into the Key Input. If you want to synchronize a Bass and a Kick drum together for example, this can be quite simply done. To this the kick drum signal must be fed into the Key Input of the Bass Gate channel so that the Bass Gate opens in sync with the Kick drum signal.
When this connector is used as a Sidechain access point, it is possible to insert an Equalizer as a low or highpass filter for example. This way, one can tune the Gate channel on the instrument even more accurately. It often happens that the Gate on a Tom is opened by a loudly played Crash or a Snare drum. With help of an Equalizer in the Sidechain, you can determine the highest and the lowest frequencies which will open the Gate. This way, you can stop cymbal splash and Snare drum hits opening the Gate.
To sum up, the ARX Sixgate is a very useful and accurate tool for any application requiring multiple gates.

**RESULTS**

**The ARX Sixgate offers everything that you might expect in a professional Noisegate, capable of handling any production. And in the smallest size, namely one 19" rack unit. However it is not complicated or hard to use - on the contrary, even Gate beginners will find it quick and easy to use.**
**The ARX Sixgate is recommended for everybody - not just for drummers. The price/value relationship is very good.**

**The only downside is the lack of a power switch**