

How to add new vocabulary to Talko, the easy way

Previously, I had described [here](#): how to do compress sound using a venerable Windows 3.1 tool: Qbox Pro. The process what quite long to set up and does not always produce good results.

Today I discovered BlueWizard from this [post](#).

BlueWizard runs on Mac and allows to tweak the process in real time to optimize the output! The author has been kind enough to make some small tweaking just for the Arduino and Talko!

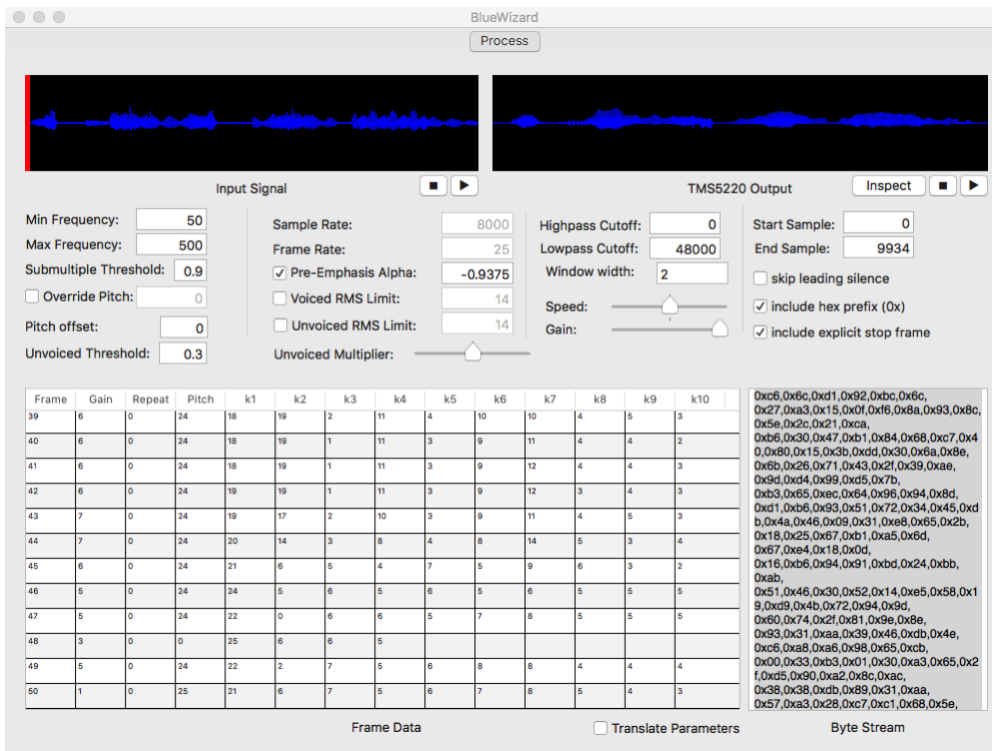
Simply open your file (which has to be recorded at 8 kHz with 16-bit depth), click on the 2 tick boxes:

– “include hex prefix (0x)” to allow direct pasting into the Arduino IDE

(if you are using it for Emy’s SD card do not tick this box)

- and “include explicit stop frame” to avoid the library producing gibberish noise a the end of the sound

then copy the resulting the data from the “Byte Stream” windows.



Open the Arduino IDE and paste the data stream into your code before uploading it to Talko.

Let's make a sound and process it:

```
say -v"alex" "We are charging our battery. And now we are full of energy. We are the robots." -r 100 -o roboater.wav
```

converting to 8 kHz with 16-bit depth using SoX

```
sox roboater.wav -r 8k -b16 roboater.wav
```

and the compressed version made with Talko :

the Arduino code:

```
// Talkie Adafruit library
// Copyright 2011 Peter Knight
// This code is released under GPLv2 license.
```

```
#include "talkie.h"
```

```
Talkie voice;
```

```
const          uint8_t          spROBOTS[]
={0xa6,0xd6,0x4a,0x67,0xd8,0xed,0xa8,0x9a,0x35,0x37,0xd5,0x8a,
0x1c,0x72,0xbf,0x84,0xcd,0x2a,0x4a,0xca,0x42,0x50,0x77,0xed,0x
6a,0x25,0xcb,0x1a,0xb3,0xa3,0xa3,0xa4,0x34,0x4b,0xb2,0xe9,0x0c
,0x9b,0xd2,0xc4,0xd9,0xa7,0xca,0x6c,0x49,0x8a,0x26,0x9d,0xaa,0
x28,0x2d,0xc9,0x96,0xad,0xbc,0xaa,0xb6,0x24,0x47,0xb5,0xd0,0x1
c,0xd3,0x92,0x9c,0xcd,0x43,0x7c,0x68,0x4b,0x72,0xd6,0x2c,0xf6,
0xa2,0x25,0xcd,0x9d,0xb3,0x4d,0xc6,0xa4,0xb4,0x4c,0x8a,0x32,0x
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,0x26,0x04,0xd8,0x79,0x2c,0x01,0xbb,0x5e,0xb6,0x68,0x8e,0xed,0
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0x36,0x5d,0x9c,0xaa,0x38,0x4c,0xc7,0x75,0x52,0xaa,0xc3,0x14,0x
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8,0x0c,0x2b,0x69,0x9a,0xa4,0x49,0xbd,0xb2,0x56,0x69,0x46,0x55,
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52,0x8f,0xac,0x53,0x9a,0x62,0xd1,0xab,0x2a,0x72,0x68,0xb3,0xc1
,0xd8,0xcc,0xd0,0xae,0x8b,0x8a,0xe2,0xd2,0x4c,0xb9,0x4e,0x1b,0
xed,0x56,0xb7,0x62,0x3a,0x63,0xa4,0xdd,0xd3,0x4a,0xe8,0x8a,0xc
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,0xcb,0x32,0x7f,0x54,0xea,0xd8,0xac,0x5a,0xed,0x76,0xaa,0x63,0
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e,0x8e,0x15,0x99,0x93,0xea,0x58,0x38,0x43,0xbd,0x32,0xab,0x6d,
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,0xb0,0x68,0xcb,0x30,0x23,0xcf,0x49,0xa3,0x3c,0x43,0xb7,0x34,0
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a9,0x28,0xd2,0x9a,0x8c,0x1d,0xa6,0x66,0x88,0x63,0x2a,0x4e,0x98
,0xba,0x61,0xf2,0x99,0xd0,0xee,0x1f,0x0a,0xc5,0x2b,0xad,0x88,0
x7f,0x6a,0x50,0x6f,0xb5,0x03,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00
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```
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xa3,0xd6,0x62,0xc3,0x5d,0xdd,0x34,0x59,0xba,0x74,0xcf,0x08,0x4
b,0x08,0x58,0xa9,0xc3,0x30,0xc3,0x65,0x84,0x7b,0x1c,0x0,0x0,0x
0,0xf0,0xff,0xff};
```

```
void setup() {
}
void loop() {

    voice.say(spROBOTS);
}
```

New Talko firmware : VCO mode can play semi-tones

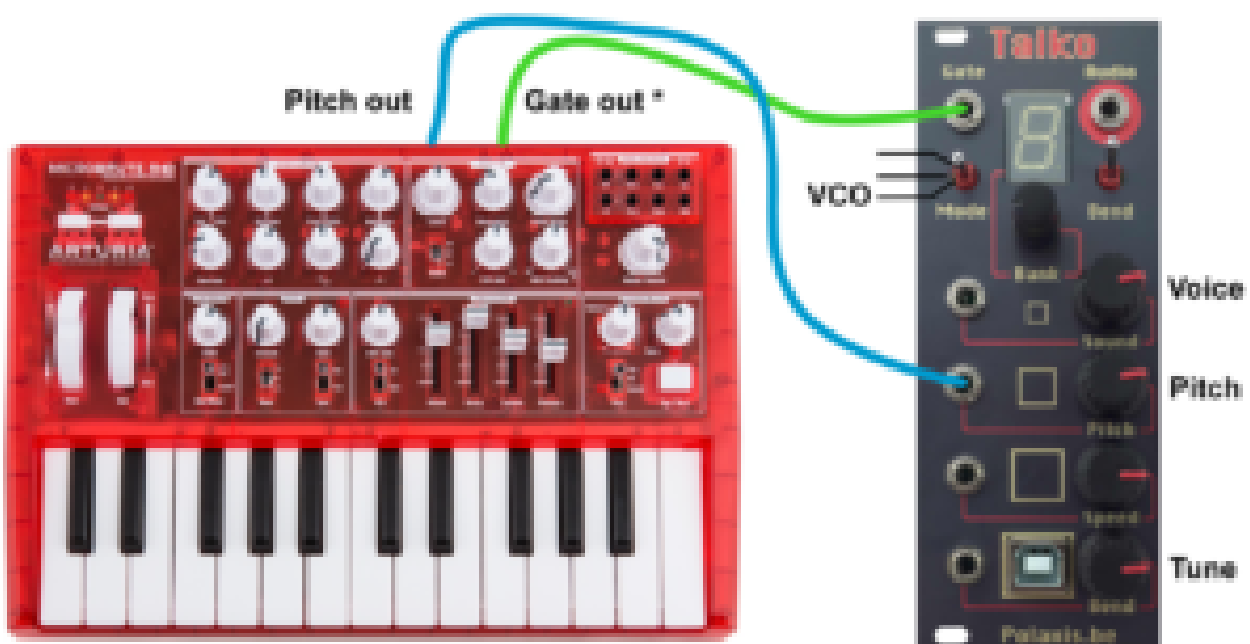
The [rev 2 of Talko's firmware](#) can now play notes over 2 octaves.

It may seem obvious to have a 1V/octave CV to note in a VCO mode but this was quite challenging to achieve. (I may explain the process in another post as it could be also applied for another of my speech synths)

Connections

Quite easy: just feed a pitch signal into the Pitch entry. Tune the synth up and down with the Bend pot and trigger the note with the Gate.

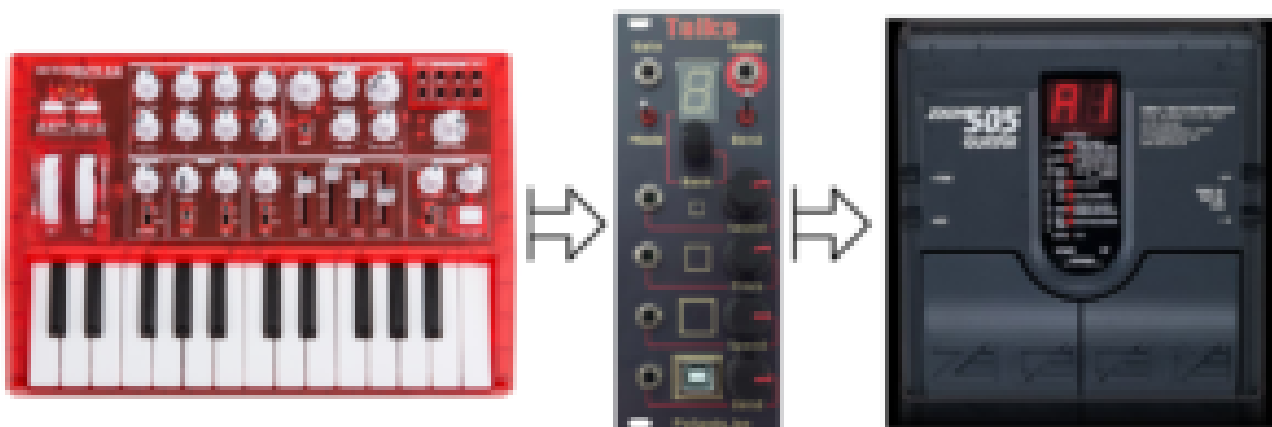
Set it to Bank 16 and play with the Sound pot to choose among the 26 vowels sounds.



(*) Please note that the Microbrute's gate out can't trigger Talko directly (it's a Microbrute know impedance issue): use a gate buffer in between.

Sounds

The VCO sound very much like an organ and it's quite fun to pass the audio through a guitar pedal like the Zoom 505:

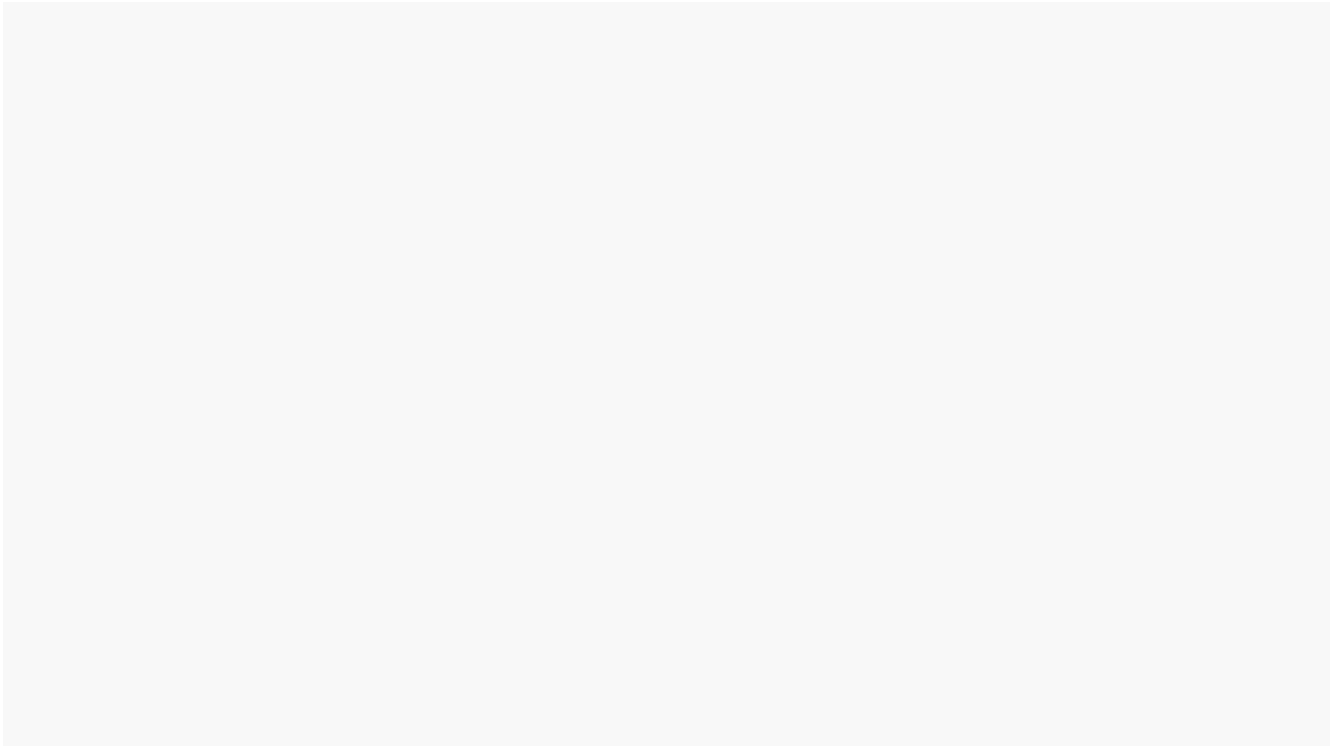


#Talko new firmware : the VCO mode can now play semi-tones ! #arturia keyboard driving #talko pitch cv in . I apologize for my poor keyboard skill

(^_^)

Une publication partagée par Jean-Luc Deladrière (@polaxis) le 24 Févr. 2017 à 14h04 PST

The Microbrute can also send notes via its sequencer: this allows instant fun for the poor keyboard player like me!



#talko in VCO mode with the #arturia #microbrute as sequencer

Une publication partagée par Jean-Luc Deladrière (@polaxis) le 24 Févr. 2017 à 13h26 PST

Firmware

The code is available here: [Talko 1.2 rev2](#)

Right click to save it as a .hex file and use [Easy uploader](#) to install it into Talko.

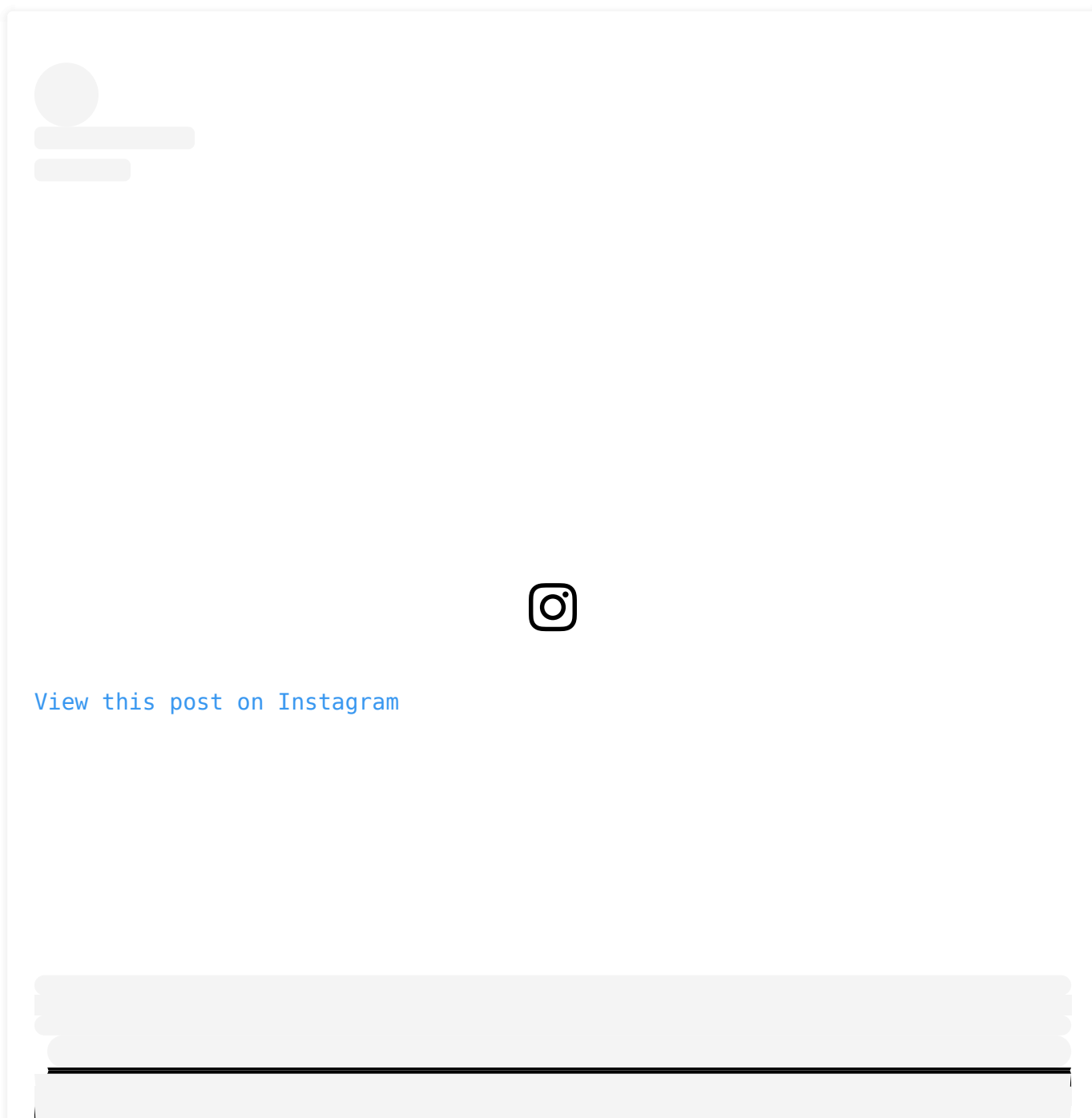
User Manual

The manual has been updated to reflect this revision : <http://www.polaxis.be/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Talko-Manua>

3 new sounds banks for Talko

Talko's code has been updated with 3 new sounds banks :

Bank 15 : French Vowels Male (5)



A post shared by Jean-Luc Deladrière (@polaxis)

Bank 16 : English voiced allophones (72)

Bank 17 : VCO friendly voiced allophones (25)

This bank is a selection of allophones from bank 16 that produces nice looping sounds in VCO mode (great for mouth drumming for example)

The new code is available [here](#) and can be uploaded with Easy uploader as described on the [downloads page](#).

The updated manual is to be found [here](#).

Have fun !

Talko as Ginkosynthese Grains

Both Talko 1.1 & 1.2 share some hardware with the Ginkosynthese Grains.

The Grains is also an Arduino module (based on the famous Audino code from Peter Knight) with the 3 first analogues port being used to manipulate the sound



Grains

Talko 1.1

Talko 1.2

Talko can also do this and the Grains code need just to be tweaked a bit to get the output on pin 3 (very easy to do)

I tested a few examples found here:

<http://www.ginkosynthese.com/product/grains/>

I uploaded some example on the [Github](#) and also posted their compiled firmware here so can be uploaded directly using [EasyUploader](#) :

[fresh.hex](#)

TALKO 1.1 control

Sound : sample offset

Pitch : loop length

Speed : pitch

TALKO 1.2 control

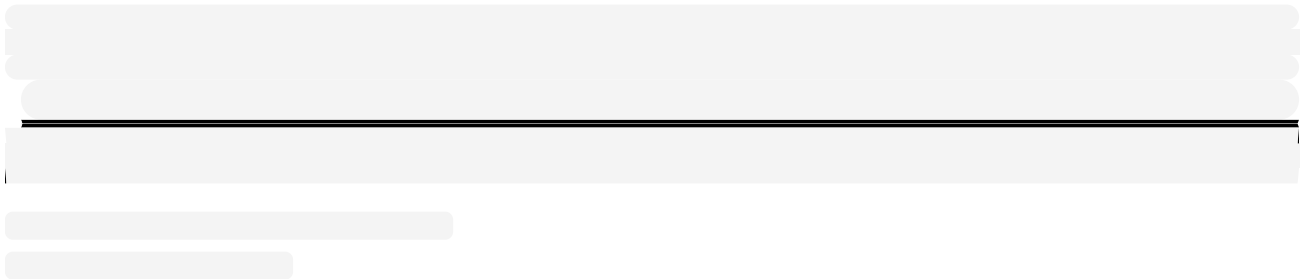
Pitch : sample offset

Speed : loop length

Bend : pitch



[View this post on Instagram](#)



A post shared by Jean-Luc Deladrière (@polaxis)

[hrtl-cereals-V2](#)

TALKO 1.1 control

Sound : sample start

Pitch : grain size

Speed : pitch

TALKO 1.2 control

Pitch : sample start

Speed : grain size

Bend : pitch

[jgb-patternrain-v2](#)

TALKO 1.1 control

Gate : clock in

Sound : select pattern

Pitch : select bank for patterns

Speed : stop/reset and then pattern rotate (to be able to make it fit better to other parts of your music)

TALKO 1.2 control

Gate : clock in

Pitch : select pattern

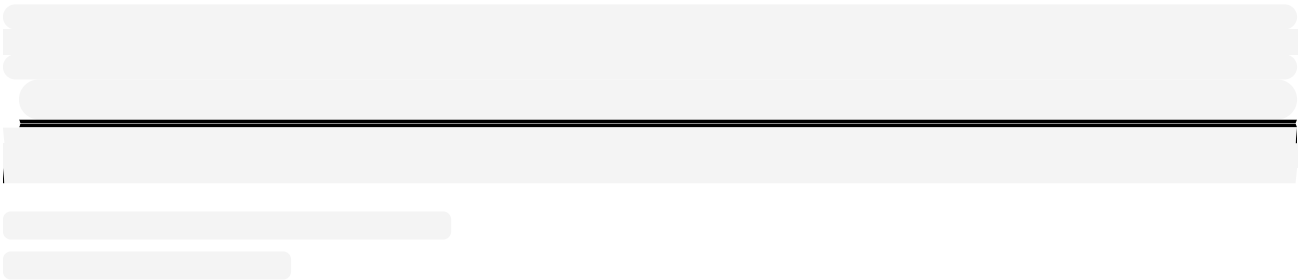
Speed : select bank for patterns

Bend : stop/reset and then pattern rotate (to be able to make it fit better to other parts of your music)





[View this post on Instagram](#)



A post shared by Jean-Luc Deladrière (@polaxis)

[jgb-RZ1-drums](#)

TALK0 1.1 control

Sound : Pitch CV 0-5 V

Pitch : Play on / off. Set it to max for normal function

Speed : SAMPLE_SELECT between two wavetables 0-5 V

TALK0 1.2 control

Pitch : Pitch CV 0-5 V

Speed : Play on / off. Set it to max for normal function

Bend : SAMPLE_SELECT between two wavetables 0-5 V

If you would like to adapt other Grains code, just let me know so I can post there here too.

LPC encoding for the Arduino's Talkie library

Adding new sounds or vocabulary for the Talkie library is not straightforward and I needed a checklist to smoothen the process.

Here are the main steps :

Recording audio with Audacity

- The recording has to be made at 8 kHz with 16-bit depth
- Export to Wav signed 16-bit PCM(note that you can also use Audacity to re-sample the audio to 8000 kHz via the [track/re-sample] menu)

Converting sounds using SoX

Alternatively, you can also convert various audio format to 16 bits 8 kHz with SoX, using the following command:

```
sox audiodump.wav -r8000 -b16 audio-8k.wav
```

Coding with QBOX pro

QboxPro was made to code sounds for the venerable TMS5220 chip

that Talkie library is emulating.

It runs only on an ancient system like Window XP or older

[fac_icon icon="exclamation-triangle" color="#dd3333"]Note: it seems that QBOX doesn't like when the audio starts immediately. In that case the compressed audio is totally inaudible, so adding a little pause before the sound starts helps a lot

Installation

Get the software here :
<ftp://ftp.whtech.com/pc%20utilities/qboxpro.zip>

Don't forget to install QBOX at the root of the disk : c:\QBOX
and to move the QBOXPRO.ini file to c:\WINDOWS

Coding

The process of coding has already been described in detail here :
<http://furrtek.free.fr/index.php?a=speakandspell&ss=9&i=2>

The process goes like this:

- Create a new project using the following project parameters : Byte / 8 Khz / 5220 coding table
- Goto Project and add the audio file
- Choose process using : medium bit rate and pressing OK
- Edit concatenation : insert concatenation after by adding a name; then insert phrase and press ok
- Format it by choosing the first line in the format menu : LPC 10V, 4UV

Arduino code

Recuperate the .bin file that Qboxpro has generated This file contains the LPC stream and need to be translated into C++

I use this small Python script to convert the .bin

```
import binascii
fname="SOUND.BIN"
f = open(fname, "rb")
#print "{",
code ="const uint8_t sp"+ fname[:-4]+"[] PROGMEM ={"
try:
    byte = f.read(1)
    while byte != "":
        # Do stuff with byte.
        byte = f.read(1)
        code = code + "0x"+(binascii.hexlify(byte)) +","
        #print "0x"+(binascii.hexlify(byte))+",",

finally:
    f.close()
    code = code[:-4]
    code = code +"}";
    print code
    print
    print("voice.say(sp"+fname[:-4]+"");")
```

Simply paste the script's outputs at their respective places into the Arduino code and upload

Here is an example I generated with the Mac's say command (note the 0.3-second silent before the speech starts)[edit : it's fine with 0.1 too]

```
say -v"Yannick" "[[slnc 300]] Wir sind die Roboter" -r 100 -o
roboter.wave
```

then I converted to the appropriate format using SoX

```
sox roboter.wave -r 8k -b16 roboter.wav
```

After the QBOXpro coding and the Python converting, I copied these lines into the Arduino IDE

```
// copy this part before the setup() section
```

```
const      uint8_t      spROBOTER      [ ]      PROGMEM
={0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,
0x80,0x4a,0x6a,0xca,0xac,0x2a,0x26,0x29,0x79,0x50,0xf1,0xae,0x
88,0xae,0xb4,0x2a,0x54,0x33,0x5a,0x87,0x36,0x4b,0x65,0x35,0x8b
,0xd3,0xba,0xe6,0x43,0x45,0x44,0x49,0xe9,0x86,0x32,0x61,0x92,0
x24,0xad,0x1c,0x36,0x04,0x45,0xe3,0xb6,0x62,0x58,0x25,0xb1,0x5
8,0x72,0x8a,0x69,0x14,0x25,0x72,0xf1,0x29,0x36,0x17,0x92,0xaa
,0x59,0xab,0x58,0x9c,0x28,0xab,0x26,0x9d,0x62,0x71,0x26,0xaf,0x
9e,0x74,0xf2,0xc5,0x85,0xac,0x6a,0xf6,0xc9,0x97,0x56,0x94,0xaa
,0xc5,0x27,0x9b,0xde,0x50,0x33,0x67,0x9f,0x6c,0x18,0x43,0xcb,0
x5c,0x7c,0xb2,0xa2,0x44,0xba,0x6a,0xf2,0xc9,0xaa,0x32,0xce,0xa
c,0x39,0x27,0x2b,0xc6,0x24,0x63,0xaa,0x9c,0xbc,0xc9,0x60,0x97,
0x9c,0x7d,0x8a,0xca,0x52,0x5c,0x62,0x76,0xab,0x0a,0x4b,0x51,0x
f3,0xc9,0xa5,0xae,0x2c,0x45,0x34,0x1a,0xa7,0xaa,0x53,0x57,0x25
,0x8f,0x5b,0xca,0x6e,0x42,0x44,0xd4,0x4e,0xc9,0x3b,0x77,0x31,0
xf1,0xd4,0xa5,0xae,0x32,0xc9,0xd4,0x6b,0x9f,0x21,0xab,0xc0,0xc
c,0x28,0x7d,0x8a,0xa2,0x1d,0x33,0x62,0xf4,0x29,0x9b,0x0c,0xcc
,0xf0,0xd1,0xa7,0xec,0x2a,0xd1,0xdd,0x46,0x9f,0xb2,0xeb,0xc0,0x
30,0x1b,0x73,0xca,0xae,0x83,0x42,0x6c,0xcc,0xa8,0xab,0x12,0x09
,0xec,0xaa,0xad,0xac,0x92,0x64,0xdc,0x67,0x97,0xaa,0x28,0xe8,0
xf0,0x72,0x93,0xaa,0x2c,0x61,0x22,0x53,0x75,0x69,0xa2,0xc4,0x6
9,0x0b,0xd7,0xa1,0xb1,0x92,0x37,0xad,0x1c,0xb9,0xc6,0x73,0xcd
,0x2c,0x4f,0xd2,0x9a,0x11,0x5c,0x29,0x42,0x6c,0xa9,0x9b,0x22,0x
76,0xaf,0xca,0xa3,0x1a,0x9c,0x28,0xaa,0x27,0xaf,0x6a,0x49,0x26
,0xcd,0x9e,0x73,0xea,0x65,0x04,0x39,0x6b,0xf6,0xa9,0xa7,0x57,0
xe4,0xa8,0xd9,0xa7,0x1a,0x41,0x48,0x23,0x97,0x9c,0xba,0x1b,0x6
6,0x8b,0x5a,0x7c,0x9a,0x2a,0xdc,0xc4,0x62,0x4e,0x00,0xb4,0x4e
,0x71,0x40,0xf0,0x49,0x0a,0x48,0x6a,0x4d,0x00,0x96,0x8d,0x0b,0x
40,0xf8,0x15,0x05,0x88,0x69,0xb4,0xaa,0x90,0x36,0x45,0x6d,0xf2
,0x29,0x43,0xee,0x12,0xf1,0xc9,0xa7,0x0c,0x75,0x8c,0x3d,0x6b,0
x9d,0x32,0xe4,0x75,0xcc,0x8e,0x7c,0x8a,0x18,0x36,0x31,0xb3,0xf
2,0xca,0x83,0x9e,0x26,0x8d,0x99,0xa9,0xf0,0x66,0x0b,0xd3,0x43
,0xab,0x82,0x85,0x4a,0x61,0x8b,0x45,0x32,0x66,0xd3,0x5d,0x35,0x
4e,0xaa,0x07,0x77,0xd7,0x0a,0x2b,0xad,0x9f,0x54,0xc3,0x33,0xe2
,0x84,0x3a,0xf1,0x2a,0x55,0x89,0xb5,0xd2,0xe0,0xd6,0xd9,0x62,0
xe2,0xc9,0x43,0x59,0x63,0xcb,0x51,0x27,0x8f,0x79,0x52,0xc4,0x6
f,0x9d,0x3c,0xa6,0x4a,0xd5,0x98,0x72,0xb2,0x14,0xca,0x4c,0x7d
,0xd1,0x49,0x53,0x28,0x75,0xc9,0xda,0x2d,0x0d,0x31,0xd4,0x25,0x
ab,0x10,0x80,0x26,0x4b,0x02,0x48,0x6f,0xc1,0xf2,0x6a,0xcd,0x45
,0x54,0x6a,0x4b,0xba,0xf5,0xaa,0xd2,0xc4,0xa3,0x99,0x32,0x35,0
x3c,0xea,0x8c,0xb1,0xab,0x64,0xb7,0xa8,0x7c,0xb6,0xa2,0x4d,0xc
```

```
a,0xab,0xf4,0xe9,0x8a,0x56,0x2b,0xcd,0xc1,0xa7,0x2f,0xc1,0xd4,
0xad,0xcb,0x9c,0xbe,0x04,0x73,0xd7,0xac,0x7c,0xc6,0x92,0xdd,0x
5d,0x72,0xce,0x19,0x4b,0x4c,0x0b,0xf5,0x39,0xa7,0x2f,0x21,0x3c
,0x34,0xe6,0x9c,0xa5,0xf8,0x88,0x94,0x5c,0x72,0x8e,0xea,0xc2,0
x4b,0x6d,0xc9,0x59,0xaa,0x4b,0x2f,0xd5,0x26,0x67,0xad,0x2e,0xb
d,0x54,0xd7,0x9e,0xb3,0xba,0xf2,0x52,0x5d,0x73,0xba,0x6a,0xca,
0x4a,0x75,0xcd,0x59,0xaa,0x6b,0x2b,0x91,0x35,0xa9,0xca,0x69,0x
28,0xdc,0x67,0x91,0x2a,0xe4,0xd4,0xd2,0xae,0x88,0xaa,0xe0,0xc7
,0xdc,0xb2,0x01,0xaa,0x82,0xc8,0x2c,0x33,0xdb,0x00,0x00,0x00,0
x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x0f};
```

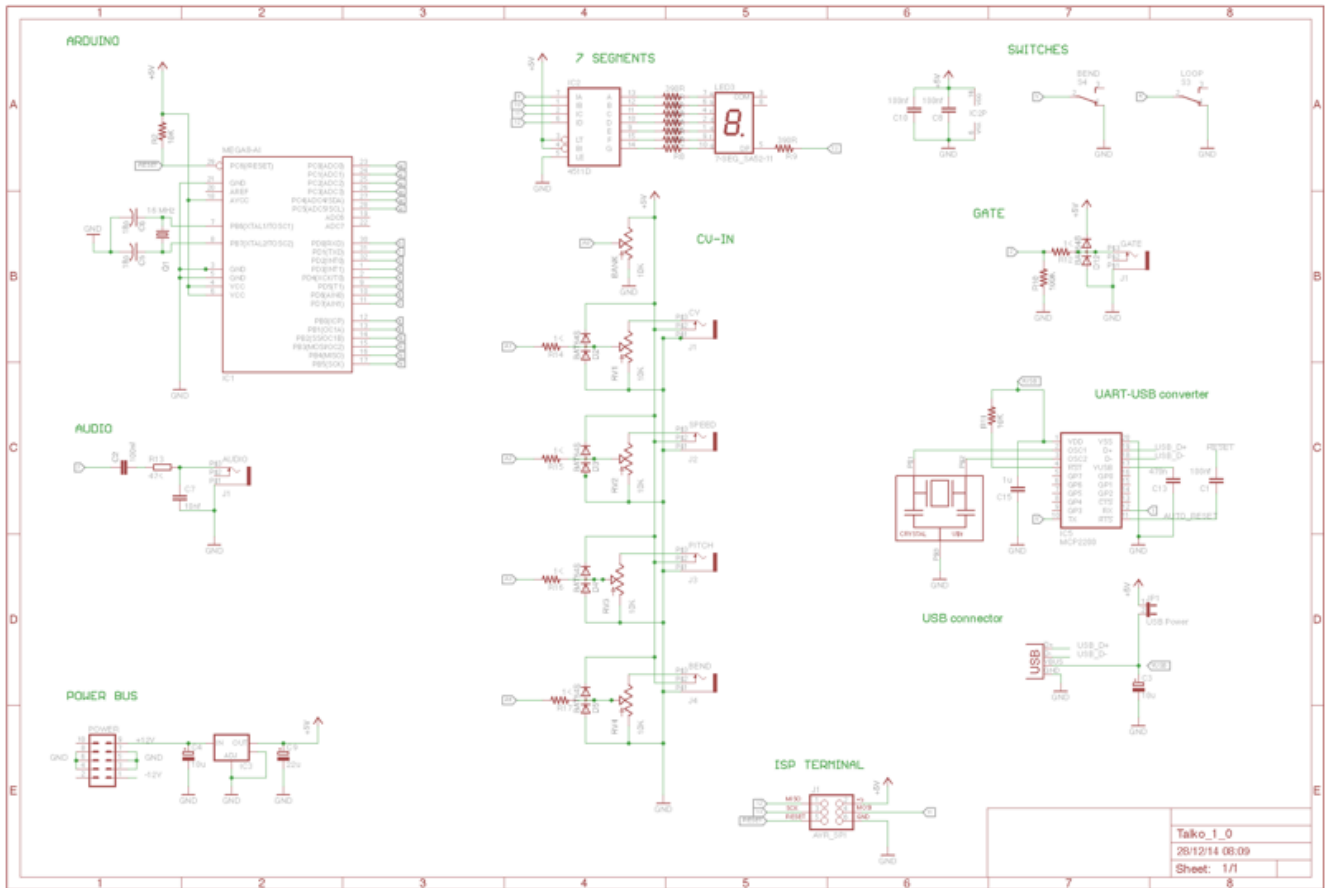
```
// copy this code in the main loop
voice.say(spROBOTER);
```

and here is how it sounds:

Talkie Eurorack Module – Part 2 : Schematic & Pcb

Schematic

Here is the schematic. Nothing really special : A simple RC filter I have used before with the Talkie library and a few pots to fiddle with the various functions. All the entries (cv and gate) are now protected with diodes to allow connections with modulars synths modules using higher voltages. A simple 7 segment to show the current playing mode. I plan to use the dot as the clock led



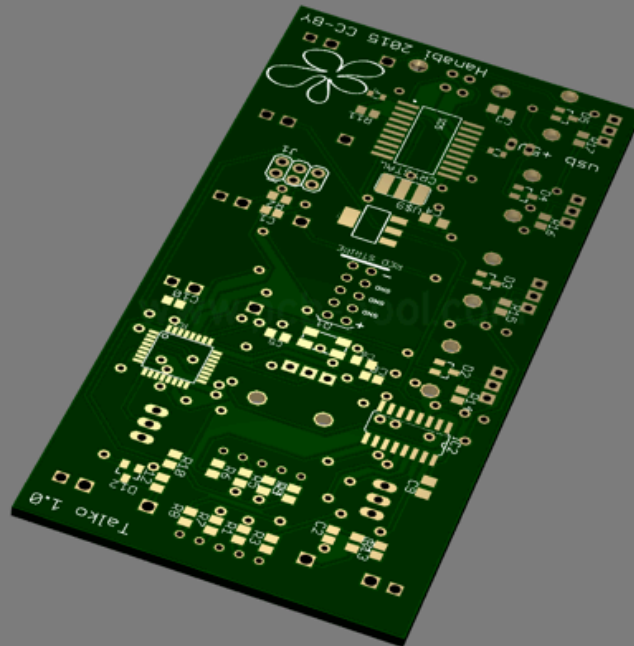
PCB

I am ordering 8 Pcb from Beta Layout.
 Here is the preview I got by uploading the file to their web site

25 YEARS Beta

LAYOUT

create : electronics



www.pcb-pool.com

Software

Added female voice used in the [talking clock](#)

New sound demo

Here is the setup : a clock with variable pulse width is triggering the sound and stepping a sequencer feeding cv to the module. A bit of reverb is sometimes added just for fun

More demo on my [Soundcloud](#)

Github

You can find all the files (hardware & software) on my [Github](#)

Next

- To share the Mouser cart
 - Module assembly
 - Eurorack Panel design
-

Talkie Eurorack Module – Part 1 : Concept

Credits

This arduino based module works thanks to a clever library : Talkie from <https://github.com/going-digital/Talkie>

I have already used this library to build a [Talking clock](#)

It is so simple to use that building a sound module requires only 5 pots and a button to get going.

Software

I have slightly modified the original library to allow hacking it with various pots. The code is hosted on my [github](#) I edit the code and library directly from my favorite IDE : [UECIDE](#)

Functions



Mode

For the moment I have added 4 modes or sound banks :

- digits
- voltmeter (reading the CV voltage)
- frequencemeter (fake mode just saying "Hertz" instead of "Volts")
- alphabet
- nato alphabet

I plan to add a 5th mode with a large vocabulary and a 6th mode with weird sounds

CV

CV signal change the words or phrase to be said

Gate

Pressing the button start the complete sound in trigger mode.

(regardless of it's length)

If the trigger switch is off, the gate will start the sound and hold it as long as the gate level stays up. Very useful to create crazy rhythms.

If the cable is plugged in, the gate is triggered via an external signal

Trigger

Choose between trigger mode or gated mode

Bend

If bend is on, the bend pot ... distords the sound.

Speed

Change the speed

Pitch

Change the pitch

Sounds

First test of the differents functions. Manual gate via a button

Looping a sequence in Ableton Live to trigger gate & cv while I play with the mode /speed /pitch / bend knobs

Next

I am now working on a PCB and a panel.

I will upload these details and the schematics in a next post.