

Four distinct firing patterns in dorsal horn EGFP+ neurons. (**A-D**) Top; Responses to depolarizing current steps. Middle; Injected current. Bottom, Output firing frequency and input current (F-I) relationship in neurons corresponding to top panels. Closed circles indicate the number of action potentials while open circles indicate the mean instantaneous frequency (<F>) in the current injection protocol (1 sec, 0 to 120 or 240 pA increment of 5 or 10 pA). (A) Tonic-firing neurons were characterized by linearly increased response over a wide range of stimulation intensities. (B) Delayed-firing neurons showed a delay (arrow) between the onset of the current pulse and the first action potential even after higher current injections. (C) Phasic-

firing neurons tended not to respond to mild stimulation with repetitive firing and instead showed an abrupt increase in frequency as the stimulus intensity was increased above rheobase. (D) Single-spike neurons generated only one or a few action potentials at the beginning of the current pulse at just suprathreshold pulses.



The effect of SR95531 on EGFP+ cell excitability. (A) Typical examples of action potentials induced by current injection (85 pA; left, 120 pA; right panel) under 2 conditions (Control; NBQX (10  $\mu$ M) and AP5 (50  $\mu$ M), SR; NBQX, AP5 and SR95531 (30  $\mu$ M)). Resting membrane potential was kept at - 65 mV. Bottom traces show injected currents. (B) F-I relationship of EGFP+ neurons before and after application of SR (n = 6). (C) SR decreased the rheobase (n = 6). (D) SR decreased the current amplitude required for action potential firing at 20 Hz (n = 6). Data are shown as means  $\pm$  SEM. \* P < 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01.



Standard deviation of holding current (SD of  $I_{HOLD}$ ) changed with pharmacological manipulation. (A) The change in SD of  $I_{HOLD}$  after application of strychnine was not correlated with the glycinergic mIPSC frequency at 3W (n = 18). (B) The changes in SD of  $I_{HOLD}$  5 and 10 min after application of ORG were correlated with the glycinergic mIPSC frequency (n = 10, 5 min; filled circles and black line, 10 min, open circles and dotted line). (C) The change in SD of  $I_{HOLD}$  after application of strychnine was correlated with the glycinergic mIPSC frequency at 5W (n = 10). (D) The decrease in  $I_{HOLD}$  and in SD of  $I_{HOLD}$  under BIC and BIC+STR conditions was correlated at 5W (n = 10, BIC; open circles and black line, BIC+STR; filled triangles and dotted line).



Effect of glycine transporter 1 inhibitor, ORG 24598, in GABA d EGFP+ neurons obtained from 5W animals. (A) Baseline shift is shown as induced by bicuculline, followed by co-application with ORG 24598 (ORG; 10  $\mu$ M) and finally ORG plus strychnine. Holding membrane potentials was 0 mV. (B) All-points histograms plot the amplitude of I<sub>HOLD</sub> under different conditions (control; black circles, after application of bicuculline (BIC); red circles, 5 and 10 min after co-application of ORG (BIC+ORG (5) and (10)); green and yellow circles, after co-application of strychnine (BIC+ORG+STR); blue circles). (C) There was no difference in I<sub>ORG</sub> (left columns) or I<sub>ORG</sub> normalized by cell capacitance (right columns) between the neurons obtained from 3W (n = 6) and 5W (n = 4) animals. The scale was kept with the same as Figure 5G to facilitate comparison. Data are shown as means  $\pm$  SEM.



Synaptic and tonic charge transfer through glycine and GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors. (A) The ratio for inhibitory charge carried by total tonic and synaptic conductance  $(Q_{TC} / Q_{SC})$  was greater in Lamina II/III border neurons (3W; n = 9, 5W; n = 6, white bars) than in lamina I/IIo neurons (3W; n = 9, 5W; n = 4, green bars) at 5W but not at 3W. (B) The ratios for negative charge transfer through tonic GABA<sub>A</sub>R- and GlyR-mediated conductance (tonic GABA/Gly ratio) in lamina I/IIo and in lamina II/III border neurons were not different at 3W, but were different at 5W. Data are shown as means ± SEM. \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\* P < 0.001, two-way ANOVA with post hoc Bonferroni test.

## Supplemental Table 1

Delayed-firing Phasic-firing Tonic-firing Single-Spike ANOVA (P) (SS; n = 4)(T; n = 28)(D; n = 17)(P; n = 6)Resting membrane potential (mV)  $-61 \pm 1$  $-61 \pm 2$  $-56 \pm 3$  $-64 \pm 4$ 0.13  $340 \pm 59$  $811 \pm 64$  $635 \pm 64$ 0.03 Input resistance (M $\Omega$ )  $757 \pm 63$ \* T & D Membrane capacitance (pF)  $48 \pm 3$  $38 \pm 4$  $53 \pm 4$  $54 \pm 4$ 0.06  $155\pm50$  $55 \pm 9$ Rheobase (pA)  $30 \pm 2$  $27 \pm 3$ < 0.0001 \*\*\* All No. of action potentials at rheobase  $1.9 \pm 0.3$  $1.0\pm0.0$  $2.1 \pm 0.3$  $1.0 \pm 0.0$ 0.21  $473 \pm 65$ Delay at rheobase (msec)  $94 \pm 18$  $123 \pm 63$ < 0.0001  $217 \pm 28$ \*\*\* All  $69 \pm 10$ CV of interspike intervals (%)  $13 \pm 3$ N/A < 0.0001  $22 \pm 3$ \*\*\* T & D  $0.41 \pm 0.04$ Half-width of action potentials (msec)  $0.51 \pm 0.02$  $0.45 \pm 0.03$  $0.49 \pm 0.06$ 0.12

Passive and active membrane properties of EGFP+ dorsal horn neurons (3W) classified according to their firing patterns

CV; coefficient of variation

\* P < 0.05, \*\*\* P < 0.001, one-way ANOVA with post hoc Tukey test