

Project #1 Audio

Proposal Due: Fri., Sept. 22, 11:59 pm

Project Due: Fri., Sept. 29, 11:59 pm

1. Download 4-5 interesting high-quality *sound effect* audio files from a Web-based sound effects library such as the *BBC Sound Effects Library* – <https://sound-effects.bbcrewind.co.uk>.¹

The sound effects you download should differ in quality; e.g., train whistle, people talking in a crowded room, crickets, footsteps coming toward you, and bell sound.

2. Import each file into Audacity and use Audacity's *Effects* (or other functions) to creatively *transform* each file.

Create a stereo *Audacity Project (.aup3)* that contains your working *edit*. When you are finished with your transformed sound, export your work to an MP3 file. (Be sure to save a copy of the original *source file* so you have it for comparison and as a backup.) Your *transformed sound* should be significantly different from the source file. Try to find transformations that both lend themselves to the sonic nature of the source file and correspond to the exigencies of your artistic ideas for transforming it.² Keep detailed *artistic/technical notes* as you work so you can describe your transformations the required *supporting paper*, and try to keep your artistic and technical ideas in balance with each other. Each transformed file should be ca. 10-15 seconds in duration. **Only submit your 3 best transformed sounds**. Carefully *trim*, *fade in/out*, and *normalize* a final professional-sounding audio product. *Clipping* is NOT allowed!³

For your **4th audio file**, find a brief “iconic” musical passage (10-30 sec.) by one of your favorite musical artists and reverently transform it; i.e., use it as the launching point to create something totally “new.”⁴ Be sure to experiment with *pitch shifting* and *time stretching*⁵ first, then experiment with other effects. Make your goal to create a significantly transformed sonic variation of the original passage(s) that meets your stated artistic/technical vision.

Deliverables

Audio file submission: Submit 4 MP3s: *LastNameSound1.mp3*, *LastNameSound2.mp3*, *LastNameSound3.mp3*, and *LastNameMusicalTransformation*. Upload the four files into the Audio Project Blackboard Assignment along with your supporting paper.

Supporting paper submission: FORMAT: .docx, typed, double spaced, bullet-point style, 2-3 pages in length; CONTENT: Describe the artistic/technical process you used to create each audio file. Provide appropriate credits for all of your source files (e.g., a description and url). Put the following header information at the top of your paper: BAIN MUSC 336; Audio Project; *FirstName LastName*. Be sure to include a bold heading for each sound file. Upload your .docx file into the Blackboard assignment.

Grading

Explicit content is NOT permitted.⁶

- Followed project guidelines – 40%
- Supporting paper: Required elements present; bullet-point approach; clarity, length, and depth; correct audio file credits – 40%
- Accomplished artistic/technical goals; effort and/or creativity displayed; final quality of final audio product– 20%

¹ Other options include: <https://www.freesfx.co.uk>, <https://freesound.org>, etc. In your paper, be sure to cite the website where you obtained each source file.

² You may also *mix* multiple sound files together, *morph* one sound into another (e.g., using a *cross fade*), use multiple copies of the same sound file, etc.

³ Points will be deducted for any sound file that contains *clipping*.

⁴ Alternatively, you could mash it up with another iconic passage.

⁵ See the Audacity Effects: *Change Speed*, *Change Pitch*, *Change Tempo*, *Paulstretch*, *Sliding Stretch*, etc.

⁶ E.g., see iMusician – <https://support-en.imusician.pro/article/154-what-is-considered-as-explicit-content>