

Sound installation proposal

Schrödinger's box

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Metadata

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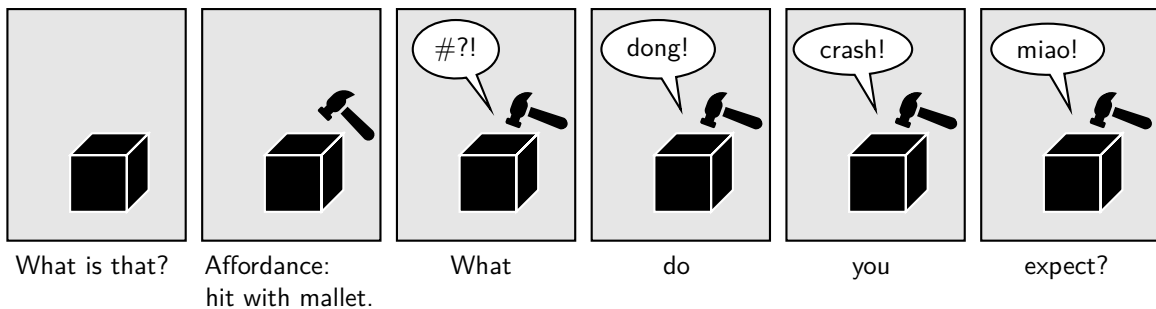
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Corresponding paper submission: "Schrödinger's box: an artifact to study the limits of plausibility in auditory augmentations"

Description

Schrödinger's box is a mysterious glossy black cube, accompanied by a matching mallet. Visitors are invited to perform the obvious action. Nothing more. The box follows its own logic. While its auditory reality shifts, it challenges the visitors' expectations. Their curiosity is maintained by a large collection of different sounds, covering a wide sound parameter space. From solid wood to breaking glass, to water, to machinery, to animals.



Program notes

Imagine a physical object that doesn't give any visual indication on its material, its internal structure or contents, its meaning, or its purpose. Something similar to a black box. In fact, it is a black box. You don't need to imagine it anymore. It is already there. What is it? The black mallet that is lying besides the box evokes the irresistible desire to strike it and—finally—resolve the mystery simply by listening to the resulting sound. Does it contain alien life forms or will it just explode? Maybe you'll never know. How would you expect it to sound in response to the mallet? What kind of sound would be plausible, and what kind of sound would be implausible? That is the question. Try it yourself!

Relevance to Audio Mostly 2022

What you hear is what you see? But what if you don't see? What if what you see is fake? Fake is already reality. Everything we see can be faked. We are still used to the fact that sound always tells the truth. But in our physical world, every sound we produce sounds different. Does it mean there are different truths? Alternative realities? The fact we are used to is no fact anymore. In Schrödinger's box, what we see is a black box. Do we also hear a black box? What does a black box sound like? It may contain anything. Is then any sound it makes already plausible? We might see it differently, depending on its sound. What we see is what we hear? Sounds plausible.

Technical requirements

The sound installation is intended to be freely accessible during the whole conference, e.g., in an entrance hall, gallery, etc.

What we bring:

- the box (23 cm × 23 cm) and the mallet
- 2 × K&M 26735 speaker stand: one for the box, one for the mallet
- power supply for charging (we don't know yet, how many hours the battery will last)
- WLAN router and laptop computer for calibration
- 10 m power extension cord, power distributor
- gaffer tape to secure cable runs

What we require:

- free space of at least 1.5 m × 1.5 m
- a free power socket in 10 m radius

Demo videos

Demo videos of Schrödinger's box are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/am22-schroedinger>