DECO1013 Sound Design and Sonification

The five sounds that I have designed for this assignment are all related to a well known and well used kitchen appliance, the fridge. A fridge is one of the most commonly used kitchen appliances and through observations; it seems to make very little sounds to alert users. The sounds designed are merely to alert, not alarm the user, and is sending off signals not to startle the user but to just remind and inform the user of the following situations.

Sound 1 - A part of the fridge is dysfunctional
This sound was designed for the function of alerting the owner that something has broken, or has stopped working in the fridge. For example, the light bulb in the fridge may have burned out, or the ice cube dispenser or water dispenser is not working.

The sound is a dull and somewhat flat alert which is played repetitively on one note. The pitch is set low to create a low sound as its purpose is to tell the owner that something has stopped working, not to startle the owner into thinking that the fridge has dismantled itself.

Sound 2 - The item has been in the fridge for set time
The second sound is generated to alert the owner that whatever product or item has been placed in the fridge for long enough. For example, if the user was making jelly or making a meal and needed the item to be in the fridge for only an hour, the sound will be generated to remind the user that the time is up, and the item is to be removed as it has reached the time limit set to be inside the fridge.

The sound is just to alert, not alarm, therefore it has been designed to sound soothing, somewhat like a melody. I chose to make it sound like a melody, as it is just a reminder that something is complete. The idea of using a “melody” rather than more cliché alarm sounds was taking from alarm clocks, where the user could pick to use something more soothing to the ears to wake them up rather than something loud creating annoyance. The volume is moderate throughout as these three notes are played. The sound will be repeated until the item is taken out of the fridge, as it is a constant reminder.

Sound 3 - The door cannot be shut due to blockage
The third sound is a very soft sound that alerts the user that the door has not been shut properly due to the fact that there may be too many items that is blocking the door from shutting properly, or something is jamming the fridge from being shut.

The sound is two notes played alternatively, with a louder first note so that it is more attention grabbing to the user. It starts off loud, but then it slowly fades as the sound progresses. The pitch is relatively high when it
starts but it lowers as the different notes are played, it is just a small alert for the user therefore it is designed to be soft.

**Sound 4 - Something has spilled inside the fridge**

Unlike the other four sound designs, this sound design is a little more louder, more fast paced and more alerting because its function is to alert the user that something has spilled or dropped in the fridge and has to be cleaned out as soon as possible before it stains, sticks, or ruins the fridge in any way. Spillages of food or drinks of anything else will set off this alarm, and it will keep on sounding until the mess has been attended.

It is the sound of one note played repeatedly with silent gaps in between and is relatively louder than the others and has been placed at a higher pitch, to ensure that the user knows that this matter is serious and needs immediate attention.

**Sound 5 - Something has gone off**

This sound is to alert the user that an item in the fridge has gone off and is creating a foul smell or growing moulds which is a strong indication that it should be removed out of the fridge as soon as possible. This sound is used to not only free up space in the fridge by removing old and unwanted items, but also to keep the fridge clean and hygienic.

The sound is similar to a siren, but it is a lighter and softer sound of two notes playing alternately. The pitch isn’t set high, therefore won’t be creating an ear-piercing siren, but more rather more “relaxing” siren but at the same time, sounds out that something is incorrect.

These five sounds have been designed for the fridge to ensure that the fridge stays a more hygienic, cleaner and nicer kitchen appliance to use.

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