

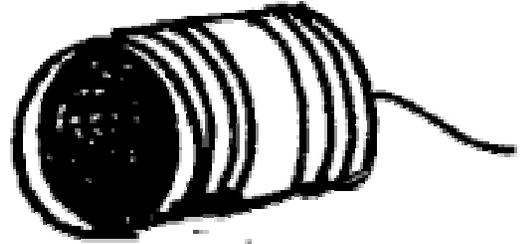
“Worn” project

Tsila Hassine - Piet Zwart Institute, Rotterdam

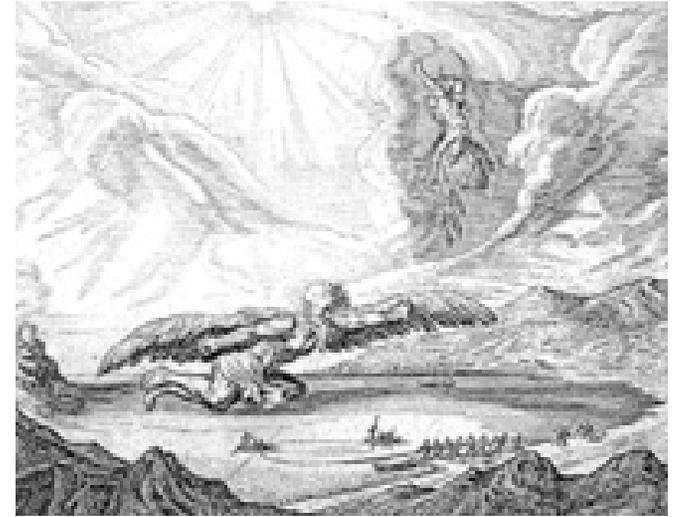
In Collaboration with:

Kristina Andersen - STEIM, Amsterdam

Stock - V2, Rotterdam

Reclaim your public space! 

“Worn” project Introduction



Worn project is an introduction into the world of wearable augmentations.

Wearable technology is motivated by our constant desire to improve ourselves - body augmentation.

Naturally these machine augmentations of the body raise a lot of questions

Some principal issues deal with the change in perception of body, space, physical, virtual, public and private.

“Worn” motivation: Desire

The next step was motivation.

We were asked to dream up a “desire object”, that will endow us with powers we never had before....



Since I am obsessed lately with the proliferation of pervasive and wireless communication...

My Desire

This was the wild desire I came up with



Reclaim your public space !

- Fragmentation of our public space
- A random collection of temporary virtual spaces
- My frustration: your business is none of my business!



Looking for a solution

Apparently I was not the only one with those feelings...

There's a growing need for a "cellular" etiquette

<http://www.cellmanners.com/>

A bit of research revealed several solutions to that problem,
both by industry and the arts

Solutions - Arts

i-bomb



Digital Shelters



and the simple (and somewhat brutal) solution....



A different proposal

These proposals have several problems:

- Illegal

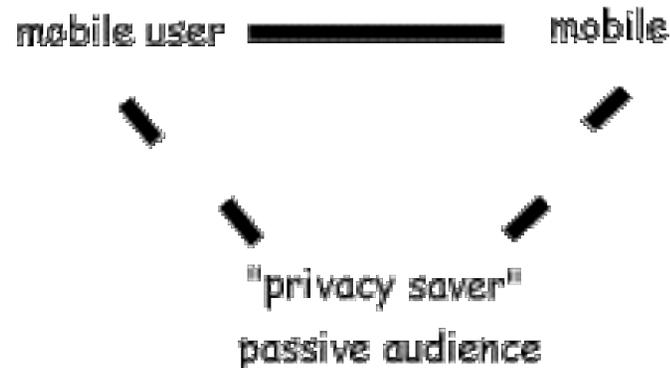
- Emit their own EM radiation

- Brutal - both on the physical and the virtual layer (EM jamming is also brutal...)

my proposal: Noise for Noise

I propose a device that responds to those incoming nuisances “mano a mano”, or rather device to device, nuisance to nuisance.

This device enters the triangular relationship temporarily established between the mobile phone, its user, and their passive audience



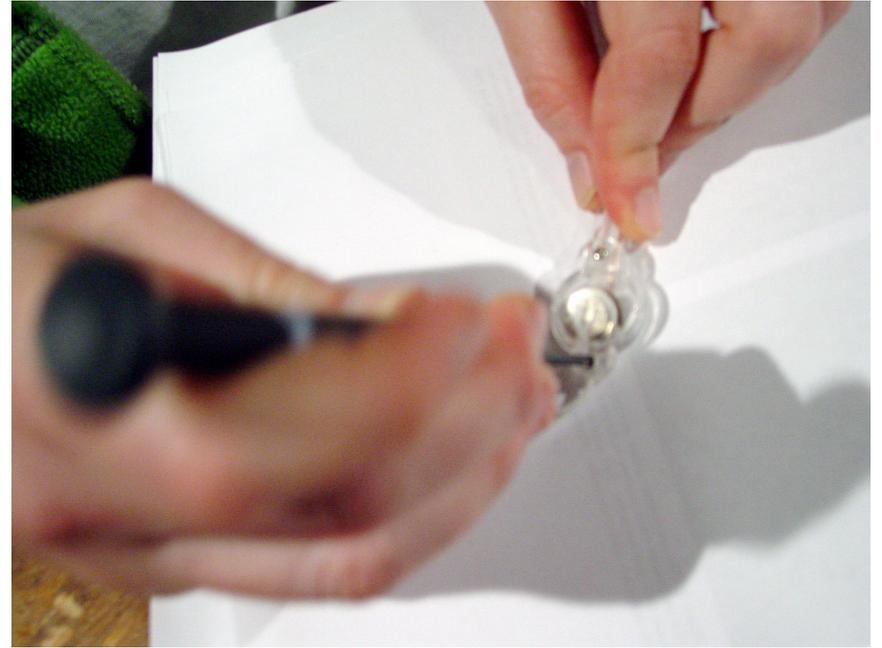
my proposal: Noise for Noise

A device that reacts to cell calls around you

Detection of wireless communication triggers a voice message

This message can consist of anything the user wishes to record

Design by hacking



Where do I start?

Certainly not by re inventing the wheel !

We broke the dream device down to simple components: a detection unit, a recording unit, a playback unit.

All these units are abundant in the gadget industry, and therefore quite cheap to get.

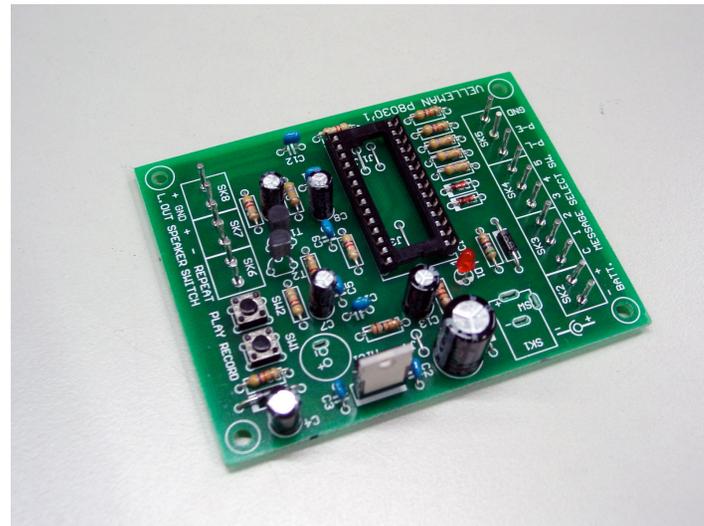
Prototype

First prototype - the “proof of concept” was realized with a detection unit extracted from one of those cheap gadgets that blink when they detect an incoming call.



The recording and playing unit was a

Velleman kit - a recording and playing circuit.



Prototype

After we proved that this device can be realized, other issues were raised:

- size

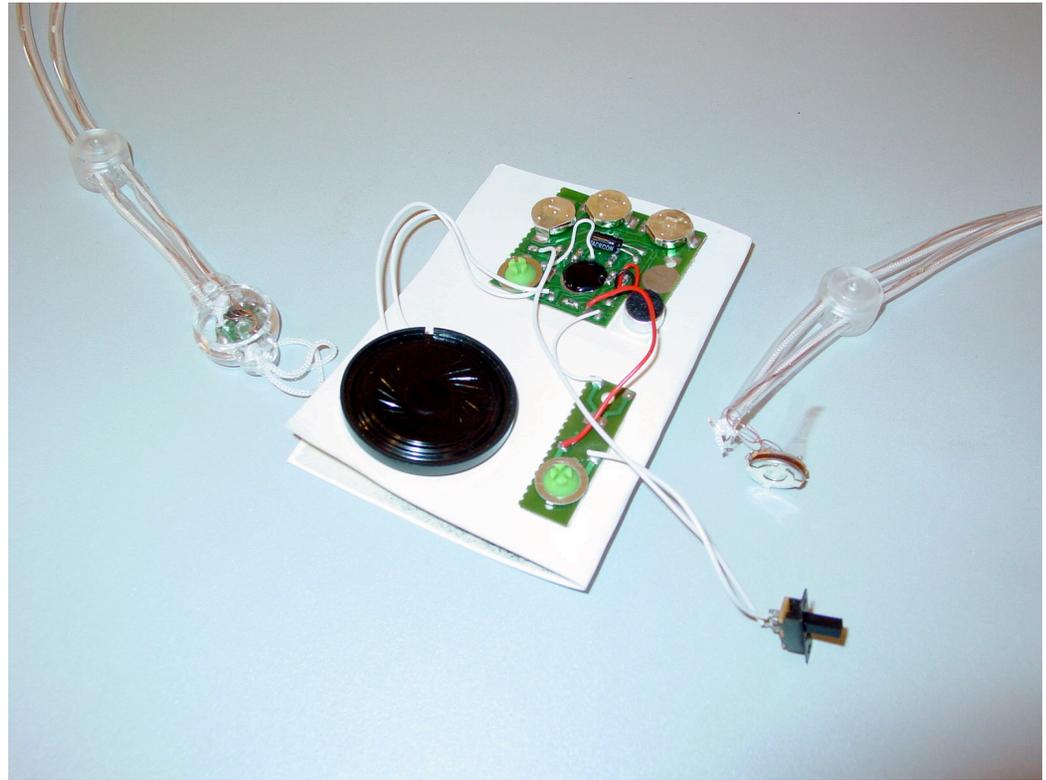
- production cost

- design

Prototype

Velleman kit
replaced by a
recordable
greeting card
circuit,

Light and
cheap



Design issues

Design was rather an open problem.

The main goal was to maintain a “cheap” look to it, in accordance with the the device’s cheap hacked circuits.

I was looking for cheap plastic boxes, with a mass production feel to them.

Then I remembered a communication toy we used to build as children....

Tin can phones

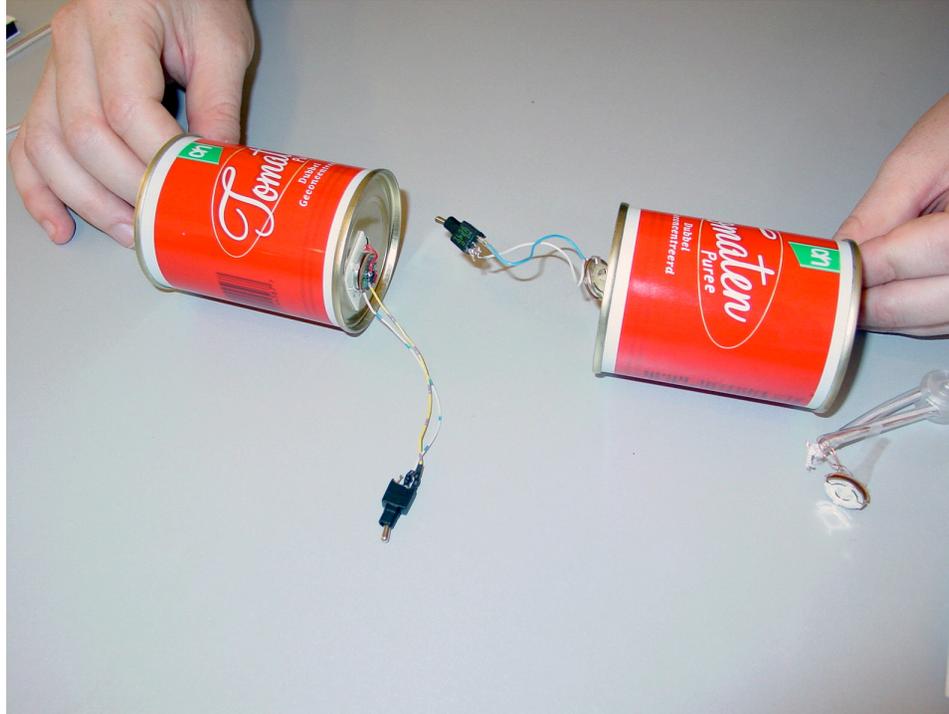


Culture gap:

Holland: Tin cans

Israel: Joghurt cans (“Eshel”!!!)

Tin can design



These tin cans are reminders of a time when communication wasn't pervasive, and required a wired environment....

Public reaction

I exhibited the device during this year's graduation show.

Most visitors tested its functionality by generating a phone call, so at that point I achieved the opposite of my goals: instead of limiting mobile use, I generated some extra ones!



Testing in Holland

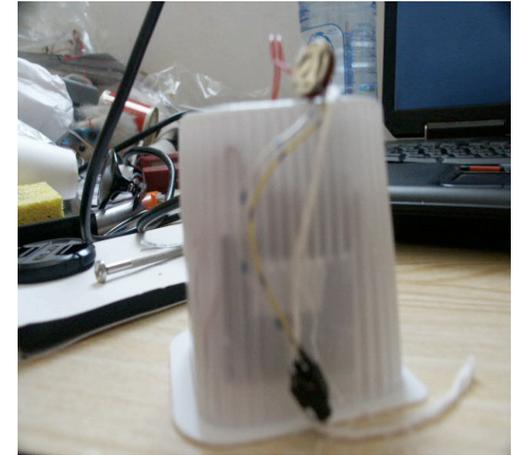


I tested the device on the train from Rotterdam to Amsterdam.

It went off when the woman in the seat next to me engaged in a very long conversation. Amusingly enough, she was so wrapped up in her conversation, that she hardly noticed the message that was repeated over and over.

Only at the end of the conversation she noticed it, gave us a suspicious look, and turned away her head, without saying a word

Testing in Israel



My primary testing ground was the bus, but everyone I know advised me against going on a bus wearing a device with electric wires coming out of it....

So I switched to coffee places, where I discovered that they were so noisy, that the recorded message was drowned by the noises from the barman's shaker, passing buses, air conditioners, and the loud chatter....

On the other hand, my travel agent loved it - she suggested I integrate a smoke detector in it!

Conclusion-advantages

Cheap

Easy

Portable

No violence

No radiation

Noise for noise

Elegant

End



<http://pzwart.wdka.hro.nl/student/thassine>

Tsila.hassine@gmail.com