

#### Menus

Sounds in game menus

Context: Sound Places

Peers: Title Screens, Cut-Scenes, Gameplay

Often uses: Music, Contextual Music, Sound Effects

May use: Foley



Sound during the presentation of a game product

Sound Places, Signature

Menus, Cut-Scenes, Gameplay

Often uses: Music, Sound Effects



#### **Sound Places**

Components of a product where sound may appear

Context: Sound Design in Games

Parts may include: Title Screens, Menus, Cut-Scenes, Gameplay

Makes use of: Acoustic Ecology



# Sound Design in Games

A deck-based approach to a Pattern Language for Sound Design in Games, strongly influenced by Acoustic Ecology and subject to the principle that Sound Design in Games benefits from being embedded in the overall Game Design

Includes:

Genre, Sound Places,
Sound Layers and Semantics,
Acoustic Ecology,
Sound Input, Sound
Visualization, Signature, Narrative, Emotional Script



#### Sound Visualization

Graphical perception of the occurrence of sound

Sound Design in Games

Less frequent context: Play the Beat

May use: Subtitles and Captions

May relate to: Sound Input



#### Genre

Characteristics of gameplay

Context: Sound Design in Games

Relates to: Sound Input, Gameplay, Musical Outcome, Narrative

May relate to: Play the Beat, Sing to Act, Stealth

#### Gameplay

All kinds of sound happening and being performed during gameplay

Contexts: Sound Places, Genre, Narrative, Emotional Script, Trance

Peers: Title Screens, Menus, Cut-Scenes

May Include:
Consequent Sound, Awareness,
R-A-E-D Iterations,
Musical Outcome

May need: Sound Input

## **Cut-Scenes**

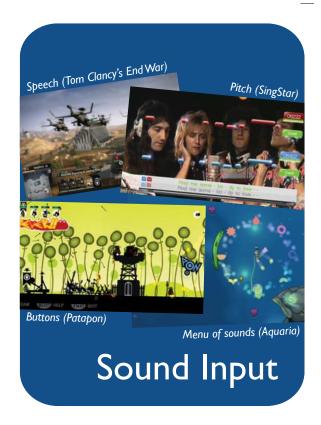
Sound of the cut-scenes

Contexts: Sound Places, Narrative, Emotional Script

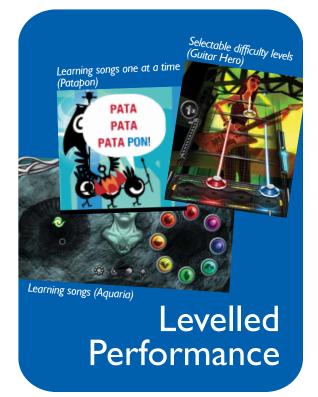
Peers: Title Screens, Menus, Gameplay

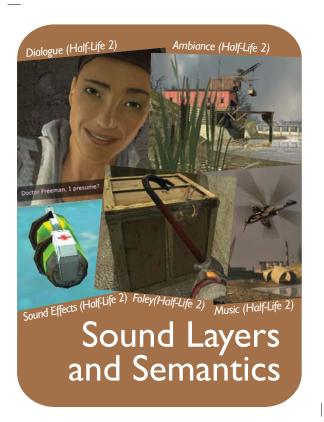
Close to: Gameplay

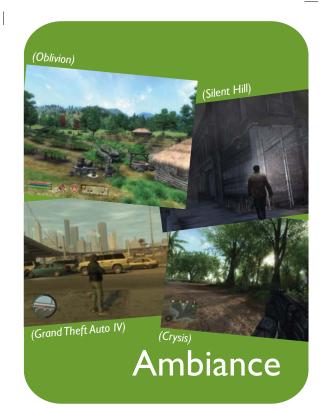


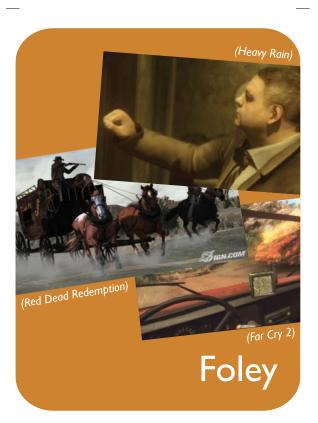
















## Sound Layers and Semantics

Grouping design decisions according to their semantics

Sound Design in Games

Ambiance, Foley, Sound Effects, Music, Dialogue

Makes use of: Acoustic Ecology



#### Levelled **Performance**

The progressive sophistication of gameplay performative actions

Sound Input, Narrative

Less frequent context: Play the Beat

Relates to: In-game Feedback



#### <u>I</u>n-game Feĕdback

In-game feedback on sound input performance

Contexts: Sound Input, Awareness, Emotional Script

Less frequent context: Play the Beat

Relates to: Levelled Performance



## Sound Input

The way sound enters the gameworld

Contexts include:
Sound Design in Games,
Gameplay, Consequent Sound,
Make Sound not War, Address Others, Play the Beat, Sing to Act

Relates to: Genre

May relate to: Sound Visualization

May call for: Levelled Performance, In-game Feedback



## Dialogue All kinds of conversation

Many contexts, including: Sound Layers and Semantics, Narrative, Emotional Script, Character Soundprint, Seeking for PC, Chitchat, Audio Logs, ...

Peers: Ambiance, Foley, Sound Effects, Music

Calls for: Requisite Variety, Acoustic Ecology

May call for: Subtitles and Captions

## **Sound Effects**

Sounds that make abstract or imaginary objects concrete

Many contexts, including: Sound Layers and Semantics, Menus, Signature, Engagement, Window of Opportunity, Beacon Locator, ...

Ambiance, Foley, Music, Dialogue

Close to: Foley

Calls for: Requisite Variety, Acoustic Ecology

May call for:
Subtitles and Captions



## Foley

Sounds of ongoing actions

Many contexts, including: Sound Layers and Semantics, Engagement, Character Soundprint, Footsteps, Grunts, Sound Decoys, ...

Peers: Ambiance, Sound Effects, Music, Dialogue

Close to: Sound Effects

Requisite Variety, Acoustic Ecology

May call for: Subtitles and Captions



#### **Ambiance**

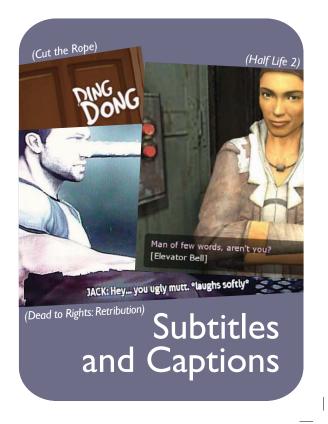
Sounds of the environment

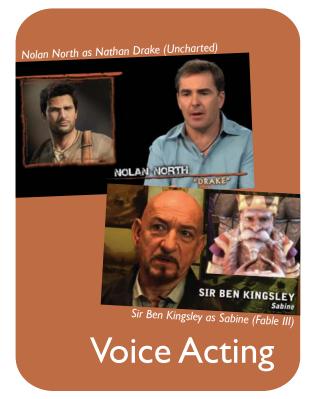
Contexts: Sound Layers and Semantics, Relaxation, Emotional Script, Narrative, Entrainment

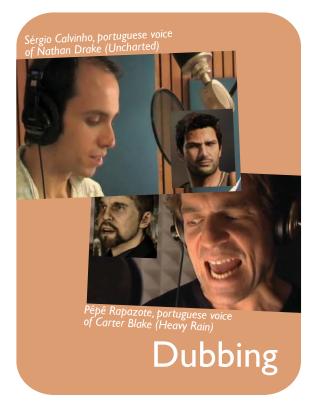
Peers: Foley, Sound Effects, Music, Dialogue

Calls for: Acoustic Ecology, Requisite Variety

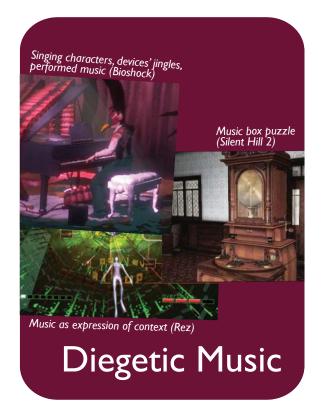


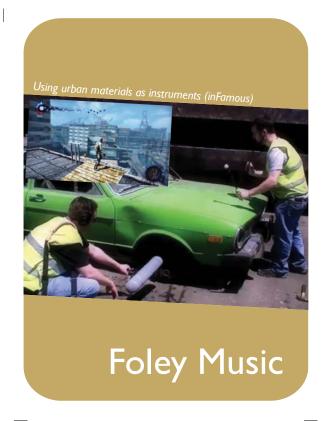


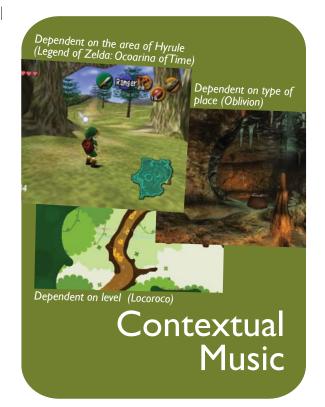


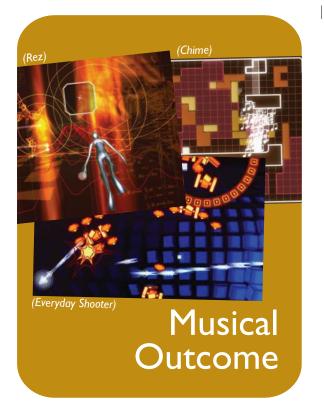












#### Music

All kinds of music heard during the game

Many contexts, including: Sound Layers and Semantics, Entrainment, Relaxation,
Anticipation, Engagement, Decay,
Emotional Script, Trance, Narrative,
Window of Opportunity, Diegetic
Music, Contextual Music, Musical
Outcome, Signature, ...

Peers: Ambiance, Foley, Sound Effects, Dialogue

Calls for: Requisite Variety, Acoustic Ecology

## Dubbing

Replacing original voices, to adapt to other language

Context:
Dialogue, Voice Acting, Narrative
Character Soundprint

May call for: Subtitles and Captions



## Voice Acting

Performing and recording voices for characters and/or narrators

Context:
Dialogue, Narrative,
Character Soundprint

May call for: Subtitles and Captions, Dubbing



## Subtitles and Captions

Text that represents occurring sound

Sound Visualization, Narrative, Dialogue, Foley, Sound Effects, Voice Acting

Relates to: Dubbing



#### Musical Outcome

Music generated as a by-product of in-game actions

Context: Gameplay

May relate to: Genre, Contextual Music, Diegetic Music

Makes use of: Music



#### Contextual Music

Music specific to particular contexts or levels

Narrative, Emotional Script

May relate to:
Diegetic Music

Makes use of: Music



### Foley Music

Music made out of foley sounds

Context: Music

Makes use of: Foley, Acoustic Ecology



## Diegetic Music

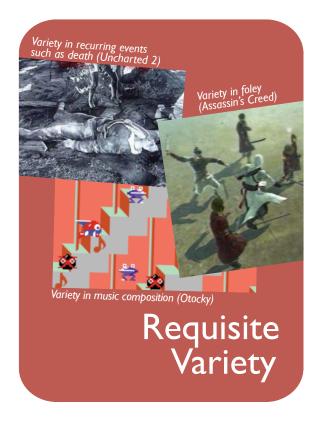
Music happening in the game world

Narrative, Emotional Script

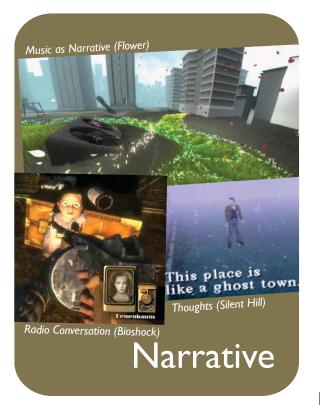
May relate to:
Contextual Music, Musical Outcome

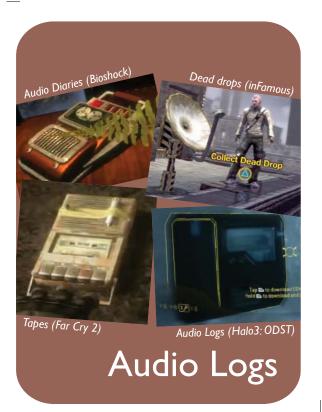
Makes use of: Music, Acoustic Ecology

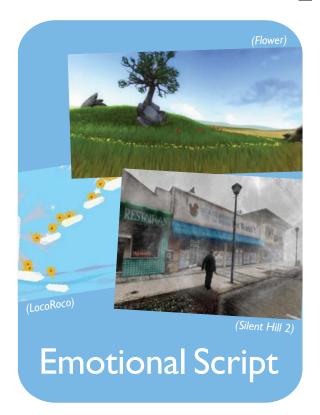


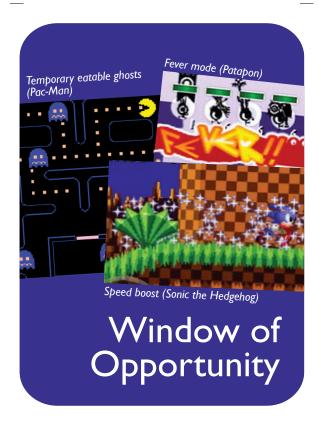


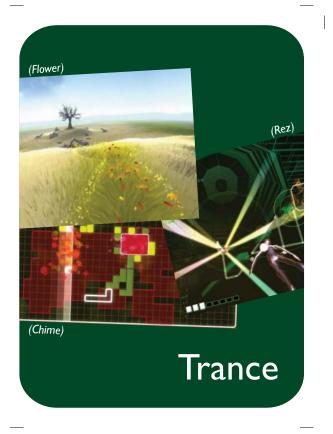


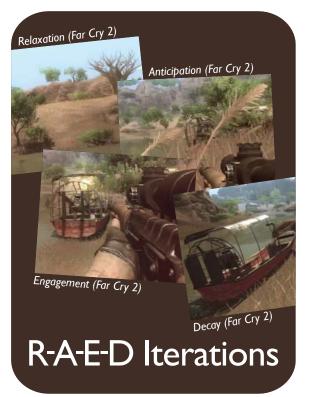












## Audio Logs

Dialogue recordings, frequently scattered through the gameworld

Context: **Narrative** 

Possibly with: Beacon Locators

Makes use of: Dialogue



#### **Narrative**

The contributions of sound to the narrative

Sound Design in Games

Relates to: Genre, Emotional Script

May use many, including: Dialogue, Cut-Scenes, Gameplay, Acoustic Ecology, Contextual Music, Levelled Performance, Eavesdropping, Audio Logs, Chitchat, Grunts, Footsteps, ...

### Signature

Memorable association between sound and source

Contexts: Sound Design in Games, Identification

May use many, including: Character Soundprint, Footsteps, Grunts, Music, Sound Effects



## Requisite Variety

Triggering alternate sounds not to compromise the experience

Contexts: Foley, Sound Effects, Ambiance Music, Dialogue, Identification



### R-A-E-D Iterations

Iterations of the sequence: Relaxation Anticipation

Engagement Decay

Gameplay, Emotional Script

Parts: Relaxation, Anticipation, Engagement, Decay

Makes use of: Entrainment



## Trance

Sound contributing for trance during the experience

Context: Emotional Script

Often uses: Music, Entrainment, Gameplay



## Window of Opportunity

Enhancing the perception of a short time opportunity

Awareness, Emotional Script, **Narrative** 

Hurry Up!, Imminent Death

Often uses: Sound Effects, Entrainment



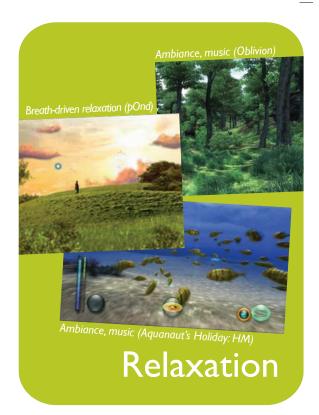
## **Emotional Script**

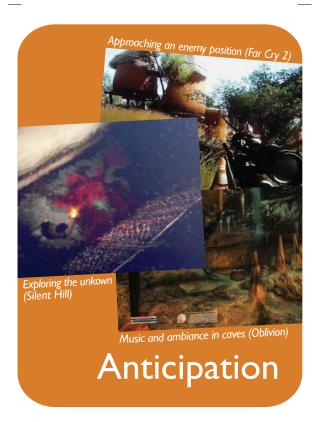
Sound designed to contribute to the game's emotional script

Context: Sound Design in Games

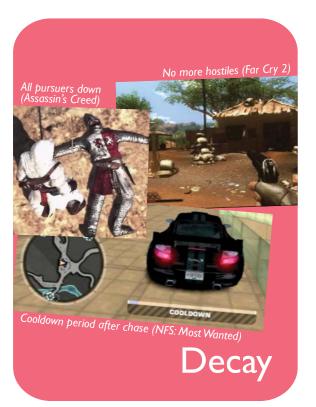
Narrative

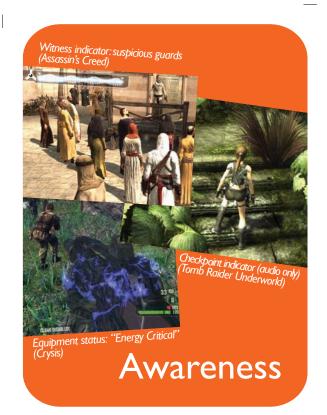
May use many, including: Trance, Cut-Scenes, Gameplay, Entrainment, R-A-E-D Iterations, Failure, Achievement, Contextual Music, Grunts, Window of Opportunity, ...

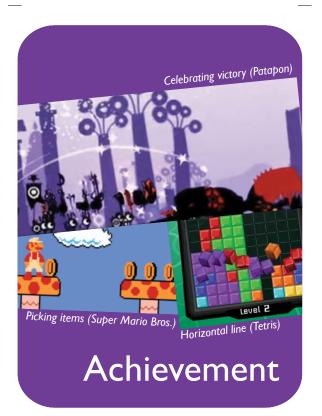


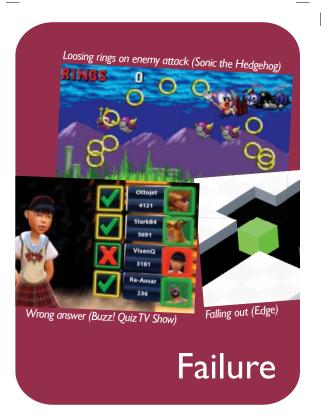


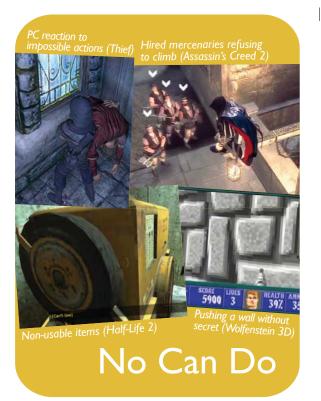












#### Decay

A phase of gameplay of restablishment after an engagment

Context: R-A-E-D Iterations, Gameplay **Emotional Script** 

Peers: Relaxation, Anticipation, Engagement

May use: Music, Dialogue, Entrainment



## Engagement

A phase of gameplay of explicit conflict

Context: R-A-E-D Iterations, Gameplay, **Emotional Script** 

Relaxation, Anticipation, Decay Decay

May use many, including:
Foley, Special Effects, Music,
Dialogue, Entrainment, Seeking
for PC, Shout and
Yell, Sonic Weapon,
Make Sound not War

### **Anticipation**

A phase of gameplay anticipating an engagement

R-A-E-D Iterations, Gameplay, Emotional Script

Peers: Relaxation, Engagement, Decay

May call for: Stealth

May use: Music, Entrainment, Heartbeat



#### Relaxation

A phase of gameplay promoting relaxation

Context: R-A-E-D Iterations, Gameplay, **Emotional Script** 

Anticipation, Engagement, Decay

Often uses: Ambiance, Music, Entrainment



#### No Can Do

Signalling something impossible

Awareness

Failure

Makes use of: Sound Effects, Foley, Dialogue



#### **Failure**

Signalling something negative

Context:

Awareness, Emotional Script

Includes the parts:
Ouch!, Imminent Death, Death

Contrasts with: Achievement



#### Achievement

Signalling something positive

Awareness, Emotional Script

Contrasts with: Failure



#### **Awareness**

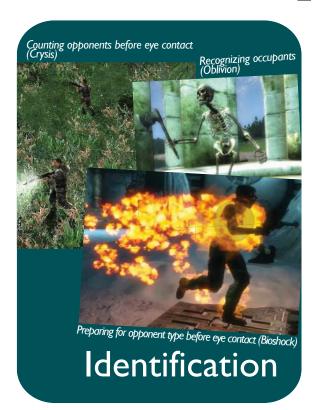
Sound promoting awareness for some gameplay aspect

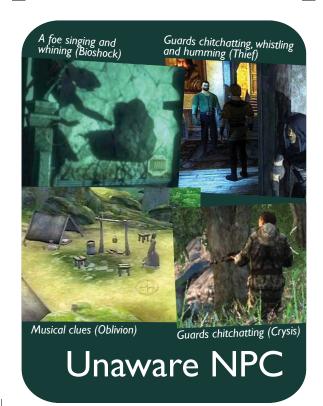
Context: Gameplay

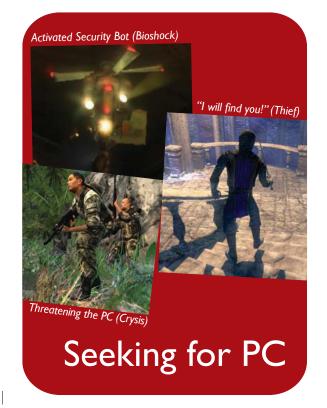
Relates to: Emotional Script, Narrative

May use many, including: Character Soundprint, Failure, Achievement, No Can Do, Hurry Up!, Window of Opportunity, Beacon Locator, Identification, Ouch!, Imminent Death, Seeking for PC, Unaware NPC, ...



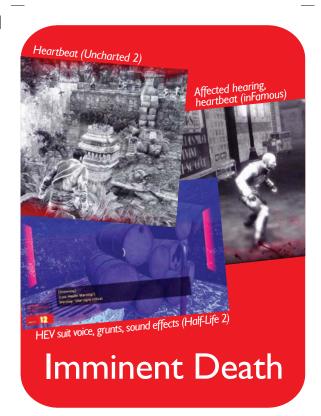


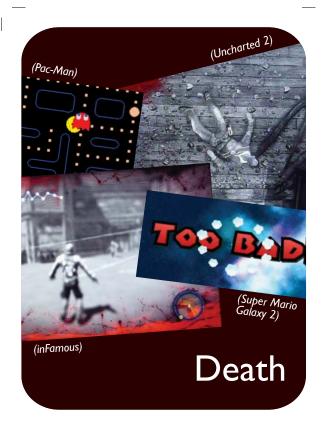


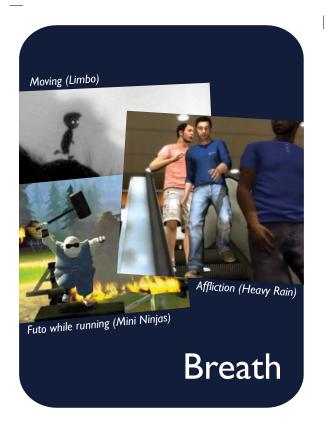












## Hurry Up!

Contributing for the sense of urge in completing something

Emotional Script, Awareness, Window of Opportunity

May relate to: Imminent Death

Often uses: Special Effects, Music, Entrainment



## Seeking for PC

NPC's manifestations of active chasing of the PC

Contexts:

Awareness, Engagement, Anticipation

May use: Dialogue, Shout and Yell, Grunts

May relate to:
Stealth, Character Soundprint,

Contrasts with: Unaware PC

### **Unaware NPC**

NPC's behaviours evidencing unawareness of PC's presence

Awareness, Anticipation

May use: Chitchat, Grunts

Relates to: Stealth, Character Soundprint, Sound Suppressing, Sound Decoys

Contrasts with: Seeking for PC

## Identification

Promoting the recognition of entities through their distintive soundprints

Context:

Awareness

May call for: Signature, Character Soundprint, Beacon Locator, Requisite Variety, Acoustic Ecology

Should not compromise: Requisite Variety



#### Breath

Perceptible sound of breathing

Character Soundprint, Awareness, Emotional Script, Entrainment

Relates to: Grunts

Makes use of: Foley



### Death

Portraying death

Failure, Emotional Script, Awareness

Imminent Death, Ouch!

May use:

Grunts, Foley, Sound Effects, Dialogue



#### Imminent Death

Urging a change of behaviour to avoid death

Context:

Failure, Awareness, Emotional Script, Window of Opportunity

Peers:

Death, Ouch!

May relate to: Hurry Up!

May use:

Heartbeat, Grunts, Foley, Sound Effects, Dialogue Dialogue



#### Ouch!

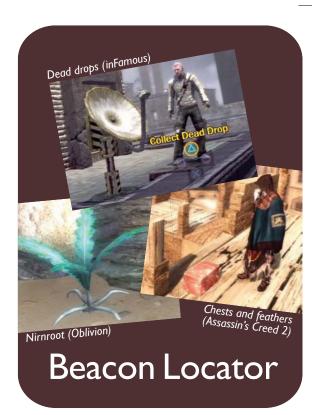
Signalling a painful or damaging interaction

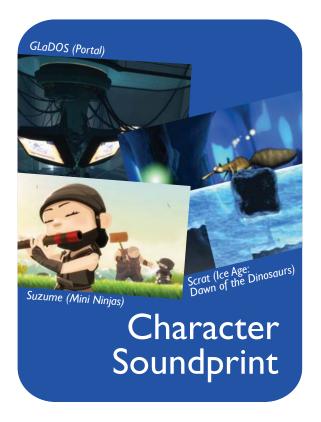
Contexts: Failure, Awareness, Emotional Script, Narrative

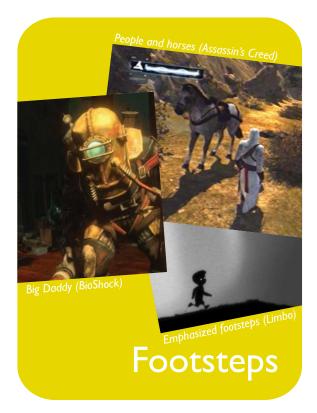
Peers: Imminent Death, Death

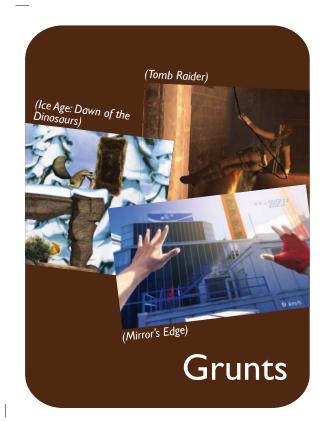
May use: Grunts



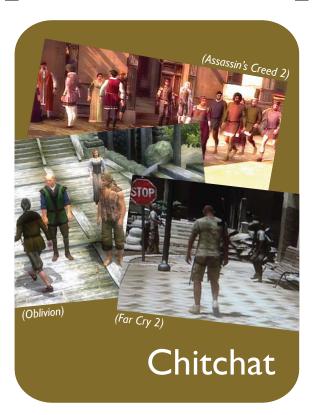




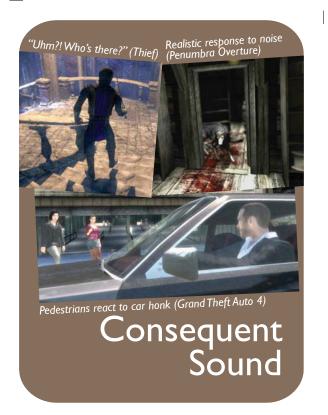












#### Grunts

Utterances associated to physical actions or conditions

Many contexts, including: Character Soundprint, Awareness, Ouch!, Shout and Yell, Emotional Script, Narrative, Signature, ...

May Relate to: Breath, Footsteps

Compromises with: Stealth

Makes use of: Foley, Dialogue



#### **Footsteps**

Character Soundprint,
Awareness, Signature, Emotional
Script, Stealth, Narrative, Entrainment

May Relate to: Breath, Grunts

Makes use of: Foley



### Character Soundprint

The set of sounds of a PC or NPC

Awareness, Identification, Signature, Émotional Script

May Use: Footsteps, Grunts, Breath, Heartbeat, Chitchat, Dialogue, Foley, Sound Effects, Acoustic Ecology

May Relate: Stealth, Unaware NPC, Seeking for PC

## Beacon Locator

Items that emit sound to ease their location

Contexts:

Awareness, Identification

Less frequent contexts: Audio Logs

Often uses: Sound Effects



#### Consequent Sound

Sound that matters to the gameworld

Context: Gameplay

May use many, including:
Make Sound not War, Sing to Act,
Play the Beat, Echolocation, Stealth,
Sound Decoys, Sound Suppressing,
Sonic Weapon, Address Others, Eavesdropping, ...

May imply: Sound Input

### Shout and Yell

NPC's loud utterances during engagement

Contexts:

Awareness, Engagement, Emotional Script, Character Soundprint, Seeking for PC

Makes use of: Dialogue, Grunts



#### Chitchat

NPC's Dialogue that is not central to the course of action

Contexts:
Character Soundprint,
Narrative, Emotional Script, Unaware NPC

Possibly with: Grunts

Makes use of: Dialogue, Acoustic Ecology



#### Heartbeat

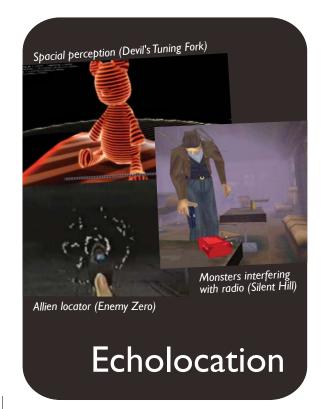
Perceptible sound of heartbeating

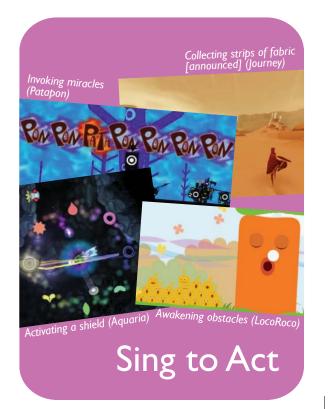
Character Soundprint, Awareness, Emotional Script, Entrainment, Anticipation, Imminent Death, Engagement

Makes use of: Foley

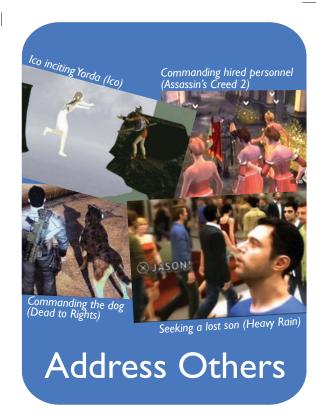




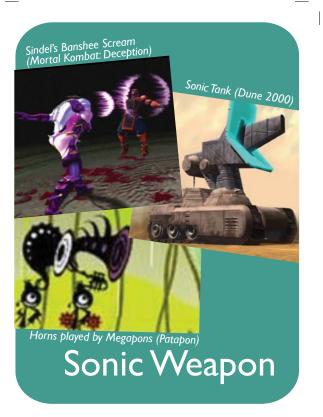


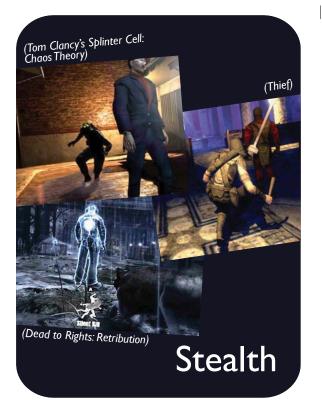












## Play the Beat

Acting in sync with a rhythm

Consequent Sound, Entrainment Make Sound not War

May relate to: Genre

May call for: Sound Visualization, Sound Input, In-game Feedback Levelled Performance



## Sing to Act

Performing songs to achieve a purpose

Consequent Sound, Make Sound not War

May relate to: Génre

May imply: Sound Input



### **Echolocation**

Using sound to perceive the environment

Consequent Sound, Awareness, Emotional Script, Make sound not War

May imply: Sound Input



## Make Sound not War

Sound supporting creative alternatives to conflict

Context: Consequent Sound, Engagement, Emotional Script

Sing to Act, Play the Beat, Sound Decoys, Echolocation, Address Others

Contrasts with: Sonic Weapon

May imply: Sound Input



#### Stealth

Low profile behaviours that include adopting a small soundprint

Context:

Consequent Sound, Anticipation, Emotional Script

Includes: Sound Suppressing, Sound Decoys, Eavesdropping

May relate: Genre

Relates to:
Footsteps, Character
Soundprint, Unaware
NPC, Seeking for PC



## Sonic Weapon

Using sound as a weapon

Consequent Sound, Engagement

Contrasts with:
Make Sound not War

Relates to: Sound Decoys, Sound Suppressor



## Say that Again

Allowing the PC/player to request to hear again

Context:
Dialogue

May call for: Address Others, Requisite Variety

Makes use of: Dialogue



## Address Others

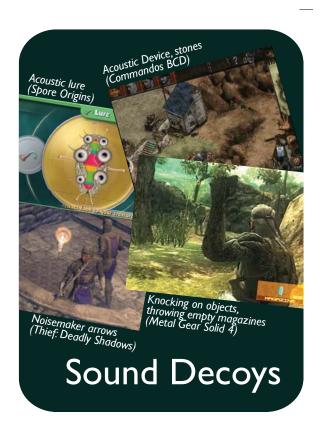
Enabling the PC to use sound to address NPCs

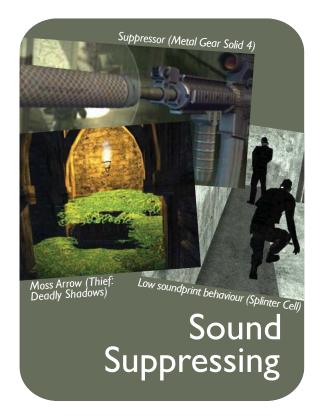
Consequent Sound, Make Sound not War

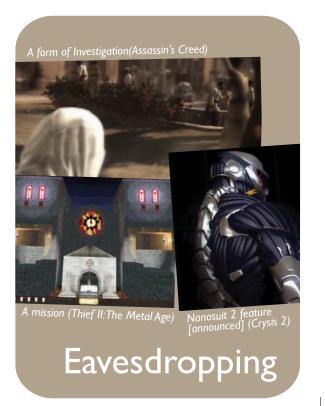
May imply: Sound Input

Often uses: Dialogue, Foley

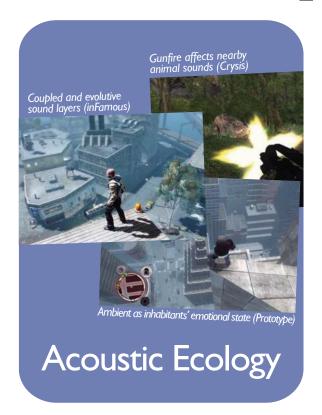












### Entrainment

Changing the player's internal rhythms through acoustic stimulation, eventually inducing emotions and behaviour

#### Contexts:

Emotional Script, Trance, R-A-E-D Iterations, Relaxation, Anticipation, Engagement, Decay, Window of Opportunity, Hurry Up!

May use: Music, Play the Beat, Heartbeat, Breath, Footsteps, Foley, Ambiance



## Eavesdropping

Adopting behaviours with intention of gaining knowledge by listening to others' conversations

Context: Stealth, Narrative, **Emotional Script** 

Relates to: Unaware NPC

Makes use of: Dialogue



# Sound

Suppressing
Enabling the reduction of PC generated sounds

Context: Stealth, Consequent Sound

Relates to: Unaware NPC, Sonic Weapon

Makes use of: Foley



## Sound Decoys Using sound to fool NPCs

Context:
Stealth, Consequent Sound,
Make sound not War, **Emotional Script** 

Relates to: Unaware NPC, Seeking for PC, Sonic Weapon

Often uses: Foley, Sound Effects



## Acoustic Ecology

Designing sound in a holistic way, as influenced by Acoustic Ecology

Contexts:
Sound Design in Games,
Sound Places, Sound Layers and
Semantics, Narrative, Identification, Character Soundprint, Ambiance, Foley, Sound Effects, Chitchat, Dialogue, Foley Music, Diegetic Music, Music