

MUS421: Electroacoustic Music Composition
LAB 1 — DUE FEB 12

For each of the exercises below, complete the task and render the results as a new audio file. Please label each file with your LAST NAME–LAB#–ITEM#. Files may be turned in either over email/Google drive/Dropbox or via file transfer at the beginning of class.

Using any of the sample sounds provided in Lab 1 soundset (and only those files):

1. Splice the attack from one sound onto the sustain and release of another contrasting sound.
2. Sculpt a new envelope for one sound using the volume automation controls.
3. Create a long cross-fade between two contrasting sounds, one of them having been reversed.
4. Create a short phrase/musical gesture that employs dynamic cross-fades between sounds on multiple tracks by drawing volume envelopes.
5. Attempt to lengthen one sound using only splicing, fades, reverse, and volume control
6. Start with your favorite sound created in exercises 1–5 above as the basis for a short composition that uses only splicing, volume control (including fades), and reverse. Include other sounds from the Lab 1 soundset as desired.

Having trouble finding a place to start?

Some Devices for Composing

Gestures

“Home and Away” or “A and B”

Call and Response

Free Dialogue

Textures and Counterpoint: homophony, heterophony, polyphony, monophony, layers

Harmony (one sound reinforces another), layers

Morphing (a sound/idea changes over time by controlling the mix of similar layers)

Imitation

Permutation

Consider the construction of your piece on multiple scales

Singular sound / timbre

Motive / Cell / Seed

Phrase

Section

Movement