

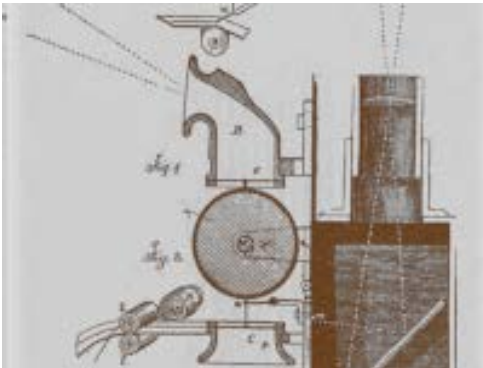
Objects, Perception and Time: The Present Moment Amplifier and the Coming of Auto-Generative Synthetic Sound.

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Detailed view of the *The Present Moment Amplifier*. Circa 1882

researched engineering diagrams, notebooks, and patent documents to uncover a unique history of a technology that, while never entering into production, retained the latent promise of cultural transformation through generative processes. Through machine aesthetics, the pair of researchers will perform an excerpt of generative residue, built from parts of the synthetic sound spectrum. The vision of synthetic sound arrives at a moment when the sound objects real-time relations resolve with paradoxical facticity. Thereby beautifully illustrating Paul Klee's phrase, *now objects perceive me*.

Abstract

In this historical lecture the authors present their findings concerning the discovery of *The Present Moment Amplifier*, a previously undiscovered electro-mechanical device from 1882 that was designed for capturing and distributing sound sources to the general public. Through years of research, Needham and Spahr have painstakingly