

## *Passive Wooden Mobile Speaker*

### **Mitchell Clare**

My brief for practical 2 was to design and produce a functional passive speaker/amplifier for recreational use. My aim was to create an amplifier that doesn't use cords or wires or adapters to amplify the sound of a phone once in place. My brief presented me with numerous ways of tackling the project, many with their own limitations and constraints. After careful consideration and development, I was capable of establishing several different design parameters that included use of certain materials, overall aesthetics and function of the speaker. These parameters helped me develop and fine tune my original brief. Once through the planning stage, I was heavily influenced by the current aesthetic in my house (dark raw timber with industrial metal) as this is where the speaker would reside; the 10 principals of design by Dieter Rams and the work of timber furniture makers such as Sebastian Cox and Wales and Wales.

By looking in depth at furniture designers like Cox and Wales and Wales, I was able to distinguish specific aspects of their designs that were particularly interesting and that could possibly be incorporated into my design at some stage. For example, "Hutu" by Wales and Wales used alternating timber in its design. Also using differing timber, is "Huxley" by Wales and Wales with a light timber for the legs and a darker timber for the table top. Cox uses his design "MYCELIUM+TIMBER" to add differing texture to his strictly timber/wood designs. This is done by adding the fungus Mycelium to his traditional timber designs.

One of the biggest inspirations for my design was the current aesthetic in my house at the moment. Currently we have several pieces of furniture in the house that incorporate dark raw timber paired with industrial pieces of metal. Many of the pieces in the house were designed and produced by my grandfather. I have used this dark timber trend in my design also as seen in the alternating jarrah pieces of wood. The industrial metal, usually black in my house, was also incorporated. This can be seen on the right hand side of the speaker when looking at it. I have used aluminium to add a striking visual to the design. Without it I think that the speaker would look plain and boring on the right hand side.

I also looked at Rams in depth. I decided that I should base my speaker on his motto "less is more". This helped me in the designing process as often I can cram too many things into one design. However after looking at Ram' work I decided to stay simple.

I believe that I have successfully fulfilled my brief by exposing myself to a variety of different methods and concepts that have significantly broaden my understanding and comprehension of passive speakers and amplifiers. This was done be researching furniture designers, speakers and timber, ultimately leading a way to a finished produce and folio I am happy with.

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