

Cart 360  
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Final Project Reflection

When I first started this project, I was eager to create a project that combined my love of sewing, smart textiles and theatre. I was excited to work with new tools, learn new things about coding arduino and overall improve my understanding of tangible media. While I achieved these accomplishments and improved my skill set during this class, I was displeased with the final result of my project. I anticipated that more importance laid with the digital aspect of my project instead of my tangible build and so I sacrificed a lot of time trying to make sure my code was running correctly instead of playing to my strengths and finding a harmonious point between my skills as a seamstress and my interest in electronics. Consequently, while my code worked fine my final project lacked conviction and honestly didn't meet the vision I had originally pitched in October. I convinced myself that it would be fine as long as my code was running but I think I was denying the fact that I was lacking a lot of my own personal touches to the end result. What followed was many stressful weeks of electronic circuits malfunctioning, not working at all and very little sewing and design incorporation. The fabric speaker I had designed didn't work because I hadn't taken into consideration the size and make of my materials (my fabric was too thin, the spiral was too big, and my magnet was too small). I wanted to accumulate more voice recordings but ran out of wire to connect my soundboard to my arduino and I never restocked due to feeling depressed and dismayed at my lack of foresight. After a time I became frustrated and struggled to even finish the project.

I think I personally would have preferred having the entire semester to work on my project so that I would have had more time to plan out and conceptualize my project and been more critical of my strengths and weaknesses. I would have started with the materials and the look of my project rather than the code and circuitry (which is what I did in this instance). In the future I would like to try to recreate this project knowing the mistakes I made and putting more time into planning the project rather than experimenting with tools I wasn't familiar with. Overall, I am pleased with what I learned in this class during the semester but I wish I had better planned and executed this project.