

Introduction

(Following informed consent...)

Thank you for agreeing to participate. For the next **30 minutes**, we will be looking at a website to gain insight into how you would use it and how to make it easier to use. Keep in mind that **this is not a test of you, we are evaluating the website.**

I will be taking notes during this interview for evaluation purposes, so I can go back and review it in case I missed anything. At the end of the study, we will destroy the notes. Your name and any other personal information will not be included in the notes and will be kept strictly confidential.

While you use the website, I would like you to “**think out loud**” and let me know what you are doing and thinking – what you like and dislike, what surprises or confuses you, and any other thoughts you have.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

Background

First, let me ask you a few questions about your previous experience using music apps.

How often do you listen to music? What type of music do you generally listen to?

How much do you use music apps?

If so, are you satisfied with the songs you're getting recommended?

Have you ever been interested in music theory?

Clarifications

Treat the app as a prototype. When carrying out the tasks, assume that the song recommendations match your expectations. While doing so, please describe out loud what your expectations are in order to make your thought process clear to me.

One of the tasks will involve using the music streaming app Spotify as a comparison. We will be using my Spotify account for this. During this usage, feel free to create and modify playlists.

Tasks

Task I

You've been listening to Eye of the Tiger, and it's been your favorite song lately. You want to find other songs that have a similar vibe and flow well into each other. Try to make a playlist of around 3-5 songs that includes Eye of the Tiger.

Task completed successfully ☐ Yes ☐ No

On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very Difficult" and 5 is "Very Easy", how would you rate completing this task on this prototype? Why?

Task II

You're a DJ playing this list of songs (the playlist from task 1). You are playing the second song in the list, but the crowd isn't really feeling the vibe of this song, so you want to drastically switch it up. Try to modify the rest of the playlist to take things in a different direction.

Task completed successfully ☐ Yes ☐ No

On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very Difficult" and 5 is "Very Easy", how would you rate completing this task on this prototype? Why?

Task III

You're done with your playlist but you want to save it so you could come back to it later. How would you do that?

Task completed successfully ☐ Yes ☐ No

On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very Difficult" and 5 is "Very Easy", how would you rate completing this task on this prototype? Why?

Task IV

Try to do the same thing as task 1 using the music streaming app Spotify. Try to create a Spotify playlist starting on 'Eye of the Tiger'. We will be using my Spotify account for this, but feel free to create and modify playlists.

Optional: You want to organize this playlist to flow better using the app Sort By Tune. Try to use Sort By Tune to determine an order that you think will work well for the first 3-5 songs.

Task completed successfully ☐ Yes ☐ No

On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very Difficult" and 5 is "Very Easy", how would you rate completing this task on this prototype? Why?

Debrief

General Feedback

Were there any things that felt particularly frustrating when using either app?

DJ Song Match	Spotify and/or Sort By Tune

Do you feel like there's any features missing from the app (DJ Song Match)? What are they, and why do you want them?

Do you think you'll ever try to do the tasks you did today again in the future? Which ones?

This concludes our user study. *(Thank the participant for their involvement)*