

Master's Thesis for Jeppe Hjersing Knudsen & Martin Geertsen
Engineering Psychology 10th semester

Master's Thesis

Something Something...

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Contents

1	Introduction	5
1.1	What should be in the introduction	5
1.2	The TonePrint concept	6
2	TonePrint	7
2.1	What is TonePrint?	7

Chapter 1

Introduction

The following project is the master thesis investigating yada yada TonePrints something something Community something something TC Electronic.. 10th Semester.

1.1 What should be in the introduction

- A short description of TC Electronic (Just the basics)
 - TC laver effektpedaler og er kendt på verdensplan
 - A very short description of the principal of TonePrint (A later chapter/section will go more in depth section 1.2)
 - Something about TC wanting to enable the users to share their UserTonePrints
- TC wish to include their users in the development of the new sharing platform (Community).
 - Hvorfor er det generelt en god ide at inddrage brugere til at løse designproblemer?
 - Hvad er typiske problemer?
- Something in general about how communities works and why it's important to include the users in the development of one.
 - TC's Koncern community
 - Generelt ønske fra brugerne, at de gerne vil have et TonePrint community. - Det kræver kun et besøg på diverse fora for at finde dette ønske

Processen skal gå fra at TC har ønske om at lave et TonePrint Community. Det vi så skal arbejde hen imod er at finde ud af, hvordan en virksomhed som TC kan foretage brugerinddragelse, og hvordan de specifikt skal gøre det i forhold til dette.

1.2 The TonePrint concept

In 2011 TC Electronic revealed their first TonePrint pedals, opening a new playground for musicians and tone tweakers. By applying the smartphone as tool for setting the desired parameters for an effect type, the user can beam a preset from his or her smartphone directly to the pedal holding the effect type in question. The number of parameters varies between pedal types, and each setting of these parameters is what is simply referred to as *TonePrints* (**WEB:AboutTonePrints**).

TC Electronic's application holds multiple templates made in-house with different effect types and styles, but it also holds multiple TonePrints created in collaboration with famous guitarists. These presets are referred to as *Artist TonePrints*, and the expectation is that the user will have a clear expectation of the sound of the TonePrint, when it comes from his or her favourite guitarist (**PDF:TonePrintAnalyse**). As such, the user has the option of either using a specific effect type as a starting point or having the desire of matching the sound of a famous guitarist. In either case the TonePrint is beamed to the effect pedal in question, allowing for further tweaking of the sound before it is send through the rest of the setup and perceived from the speaker. The user may also want to explore TonePrints from guitarists unknown to them and maybe influence his or hers way of playing (**PDF:TonePrintAnalyse**).

Despite the various templates and artist TonePrints, the motivation of the users may also be to develop their own unique sound from scratch, these presets are referred to as *User TonePrints*. The user also manages these in the TonePrint app, but at its current stage these TonePrints are still constrained to reside in the user's app without a straightforward way of sharing the settings with other guitarists. The next step for the TonePrint concept therefore seems to be a community in some form, allowing users to share their unique TonePrints with each other.

Chapter 2

TonePrint

This chapter works as a in depth description of the TonePrint Concept. This information in this chapter could be essential to understand the later thoughts and considerations, regarding the development of a TonePrint community.

2.1 What is TonePrint?

Effect pedals is a normal piece of equipment used by guitarists and bassists, in many different music genres. An effect pedal works by changing the input signal from the instrument, accordingly to the effect type. This gives the musician the ability to change the sound of the his/hers instrument, with a simple stomp on a box on the floor. By using normal effect pedals, you're normally limited in the sense of only being able to adjust a small number of parameters on physical knobs on the pedal. A simple guitar pedal is shown on Figure 2.1. On this example there is three separately adjustable parameters on the pedal (Dwell, Mix and Tone), which each have its own knob. This limits the range of different sounds, which a pedal enables the user to create. In 2011 TC Electronics wanted to get rid of this limitation so they created the tonePrint concept.

In collaboration with multiple famous guitarists and bas players did TC Electronics create effects for a number of pedals used by the artists them selves (**PDF:TonePrintAnalyse**) called TonePrints. The TonePrints are created by tweaking all the parameters which are able for the given pedal, which isn't just the ones that are represented by the physical knobs. When the creators of the TonePrint is satisfied with the result is the TonePrint uploaded to the TonePrint library, enabling every one with a pedal of the same type the TonePrint was designed fore, to download the TonePrint and use the effect to sound just like the artist whom created it.



Figure 2.1: This figure shows a Drip spring reverb effect pedal by TC Electronics.