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Etude I: Stranger Things

While looking around I came across many objects throughout the house, but none with any particular personal importance. I decided to explore some old boxes and was happy to find three objects that, despite not necessarily being conductors, held personal significance and I believed could be used to create interesting switches.

1. Trompo/Top: A traditional based little hispanic spinning top that I bought a long time ago in order to replace an even more personally important one I had lost by then. I vividly recall buying it during a sort of christmas festival at one of the larger malls in my country. It is made with a wooden body and a metal tip. A small rope is tied around it which is usually pulled with great force to make it spin. I was never good at making this one in particular spin well (maybe it's built a bit badly or I'm just bad) but I've still held onto it for a very long time.

2. Pop up Book: When I was very young, and didn't even speak any english yet, I got this book on the colours of the rainbow. It uses the colours to explore the relations between people and different cultures,. This book in particular continues to influence me to a degree even today. It is make of heavy paper, or cardboard. The last pop up page opens up onto a thin cardboard rainbow. Every page beforehand introduces a new colour, but does so with thin coloured ribbon. This is what I think could be used to make interesting switch, if made with conductive ribbon or some such thing.

3. Pan Flute: A wooden pan flute I bought the last time I visited my country. This one in particular has eleven thin tubes. It was also the last time I saw my father in person. The tubes could be used for some interesting switches. Nothing conductive but the string used to tie the parts together could if another is built with wire along with other materials, I think some interesting things could be made.

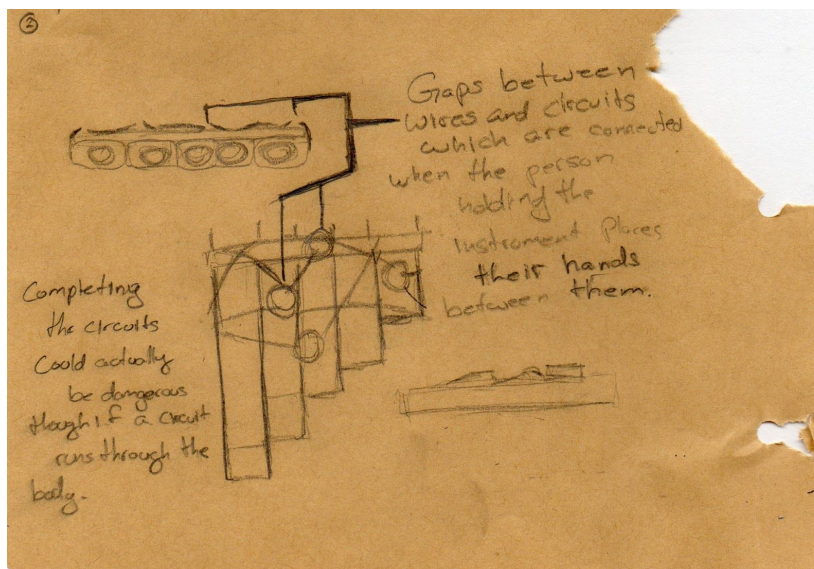
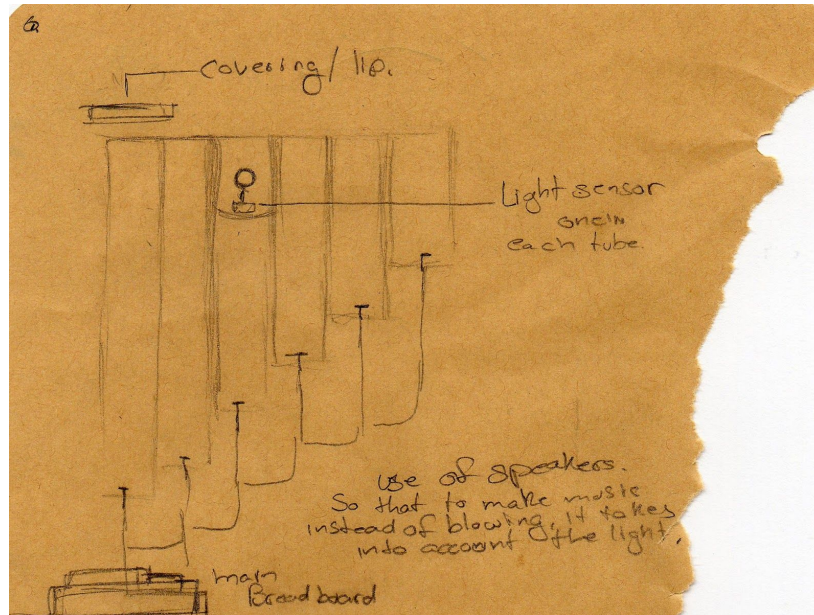


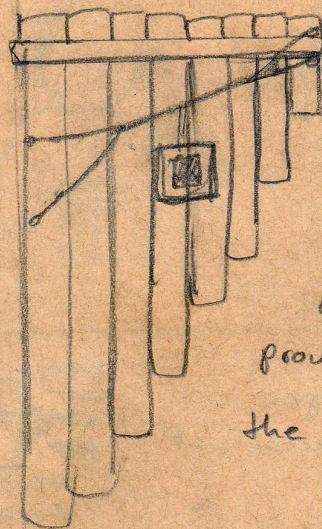


I do not know how others would react to the items chosen, other than perhaps see them as having some kind of cultural significance. I have Ideas for all three of the objects, but I think the Pan Flute has lots of potential.

1. Insert light sensitive sensors in each of the pipes. Instead of depending on sound and the person plowing on the instrument, the switch would rely on how much light makes it in based on whether a lip or anything else covers each tube/pipe.
2. Placing conductive wire on the Pan flute with maybe some breaks in between each so that the person playing the instrument would likely complete the circuit by placing their fingers on certain places. Maybe with different completed circuits having different visual feedback/ effects.
3. Using a thermometer to track the body heat transferred on to the instrument. Use it as a timer of sorts. Depending on how long the instrument is held it could serve as a switch.

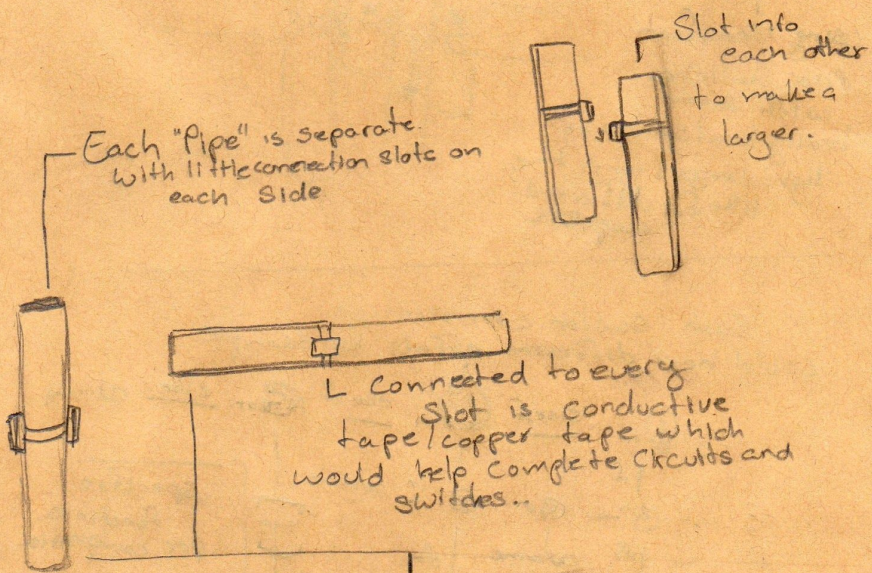
4. Playing with magnet switches could be interesting. Don't know how exactly (Placing them in the tubes and mixing and matching them to get different results) but there could be many different ways to play with switches.
5. Split the pan flute into multiple separate tubes, that when put together, in different combinations, complete circuits. Depending on how they're assembled different things could happen.





Thermistors
that track heat
from the
hands holding the
instrument.

Could do things like
change the pitch or
provide disturbance
depending on how long
the instrument is
played.



Each pipe would have its own
set of switches that when activated
caused different things to happen. But only
when they form a circuit.

