

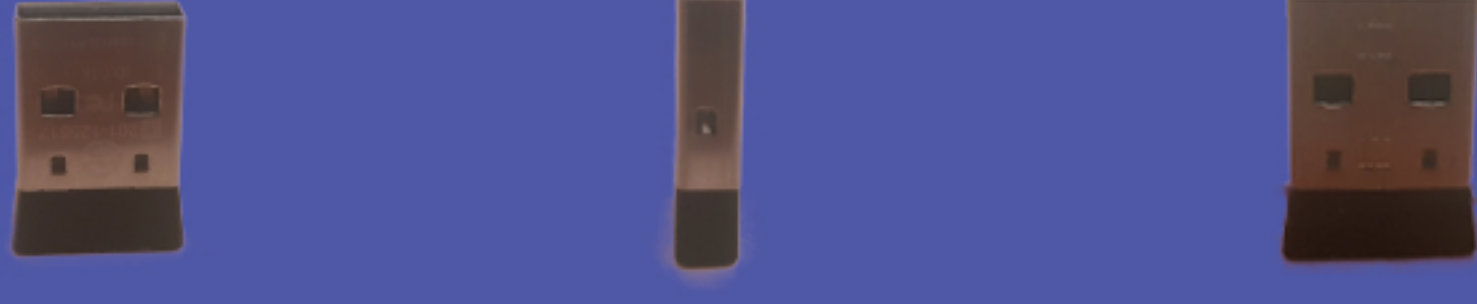
Etude I: Explore

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CART 361

Our physical world is delightfully enchanting and wondrous –our primary senses are heightened and stimulated, imbuing us with a sense of wonder and curiosity.

USB DONGLE

This object is very familiar. Its purpose to us is immediate when paired with its counterpart--a mouse. However, the mouse for this USB key is missing. The familiar useful key now becomes useless. Consequently, the USB dongle with its missing counterpart affords us the privilege of imagining it's purpose and perhaps crafting a new use for it. Its conductive metal surface may be used to trigger new unexpected happenings if made into a switch. With its function no longer at the forefront of its existence we begin to view it differently and its simple aesthetic properties begin to push their way to the forefront.



METAL DENTAL FILLING

This silver amalgam dental filling is composed of a combination of different metals. It's electric circuitry is linked closely with human systems. If met with another metal material the electrochemical potential difference between the two materials pushes electrons into the tooth which interact with nerve endings. The nerves then transmit a signal which is interpreted as pain by the brain. Saliva in the mouth helps fortify this circuit or battery that is created. This material becomes one with the body -- felt sensorily. Aesthetically this linkage of biological and electric systems is realised with the man made metal embedded in the tooth.

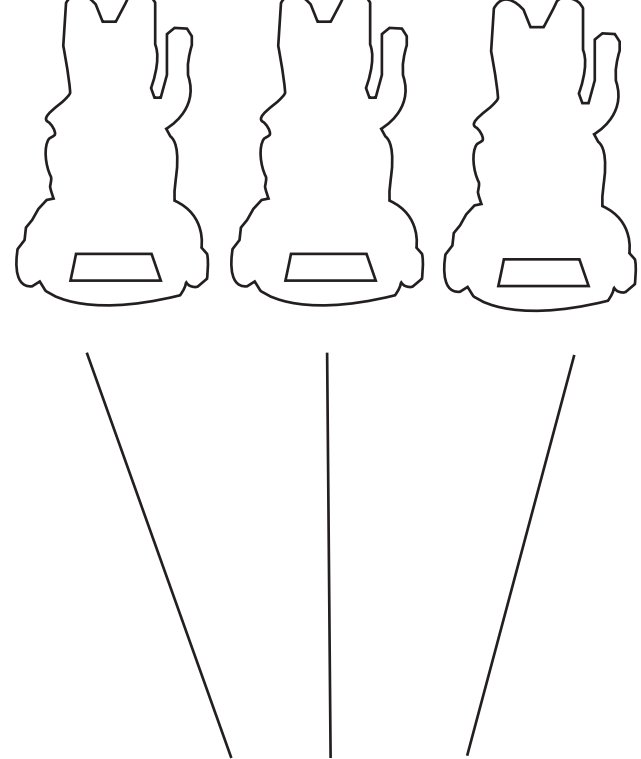


GOLD CAT (plastic)

This object is composed mainly of light flimsy plastic. There are conductive metal screws at its base, and a small solar cell mounted on the bottom. The cat's arm moves back and forth with the help of solar energy and a counterweight inside the model. Although we may initially count this to be a cheap kitschy object, the cat provides a kinetic manifestation of solar energy. The sun's energy is being interpreted in a temporal and rhythmic fashion, with the cat's arm moving in accordance to the level of sunlight available to the system.



As a Switch



LED

Using multiple cats, the solar energy could be combined to turn on an LED. Wire could run from the cats to an LED. This could create an interesting aesthetic--with an army of cats doing what looks like physical work to keep the LED light on. It would be interactive as it would rely on the environment.

Inside the cat there is a conductive metal counterweight that helps the cat's arm move with less energy. Attached to the bottom side of this counterweight would be a wire that would run to a device that makes a noise... a beep, or perhaps something more sophisticated. That way, every time the arm was in a downwards position, the a beeping noise would sound off. This would amplify the linkage of solar energy and rhythmic properties found in the object. The use could then cover and uncover the solar cell to increase or decrease the tempo of the noise.

