

21M.370 Digital Instrument Design

Response 2 - Due Feb 16 at 2:00 pm

Reading for this week:

Tanaka, Atau. 2011. "Sensor-Based Musical Instruments and Interactive Music." In *The Oxford Handbook of Computer Music*, edited by Roger T. Dean, 233–57. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

This book chapter gives an overview of the history of sensor-based musical instruments, and also poses several important questions:

1. How do we validate an electronic or digital system as being a 'musical instrument'?
2. How is an instrument different than a tool and how does this affect the design process?
3. How can the design and use of sensor-based instruments reflect back on the technologies and infrastructures they depend upon?

Read the chapter with these questions in mind, and write a 1/2 page response which includes:

1. Thoughts on these these questions which draw from your own experience.
2. The names of two specific instruments which sound interesting from the many examples presented by Tanaka.