

# The DishJockey: Integrating Multimedia into Everyday Activities

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## Scope

### Innovative Interfaces

- Limited interaction with ordinary computers inhibits innovative use of digital media
- To further explore the possibilities with digital media, we have to find new ways of interacting with computers.
- The question is, where do we find them?

### Digital Media and Reality

- Integrating digital media with reality
- Related work: augmented reality, ubiquitous computing, ambient and tangible media
- Most work concentrates on how to make computers less obtrusive
- This work aims at exploring concepts and computers to make everyday life more fun and enjoyable

### Using Activities as Interfaces

- Work has been done on how to use multimedia to enhance artistic performance
- Everyday activities differs from artistic performance, being more subtle and optimised for the present task
- We probably do not want to alter our ordinary behaviour in order to control computerbased multimedia
- We have to use natural affordances of everyday activities
- The scenario described here is one such possibility to use affordances of activities

Take my card...

...or leave Yours!



## Scenario

### Being a DishJockey

You start with saying "Salsa" to the sink. As you pick up the brush and start cleaning a plate, it sounds like you are playing the guitar. You start stepping your feet and a basic salsa beat appears. Little by little your kitchen turns into a Rio de Janeiro carnival!

When you are finished with the plate you put it in the plate rack and the "guitar" keeps playing. Then you pick up a glass and when you start brushing it, you notice that it sounds just like an agogo bell! As you clean up more and more of the dishes, more and more instruments are heard making this rather ordinary and boring activity enjoyable and interesting.

## The Affordances of Dishing



### Using a Brush

- Rhythmical movements
- Already used in a musical context (e.g. jazz)
- Can also be used as a "bow", e.g. cleaning a plate could be like playing the cello
- The brush can also be used to "recover" an already existing melody, rhythm etc, so when the object is clean, the whole melody will be heard
- Using the brush to recover pieces of music is a lot easier than creating it from scratch
- A combination of both creating and recovering music, might be the most interesting option



### The Plate Rack - "Play Track"

- Several "slots" or "positions" that can be used as a multi-track tape recorder
- When an object is put in the plate rack, the corresponding take of the user performance is played back
- If an object is taken from the plate rack, the take is muted
- If the user is not satisfied with a particular take, he or she can take the corresponding object from the plate rack and brush it again to do a re-take.



### Plates, Glasses etc.

- Music most often consists of parts (i.e. parts played by different instruments)
- These parts can be mapped onto the different objects to be dishd
- Different objects can "sound" like different instruments
- Doing the dishes could also be like a part for part exploration of an existing piece of music

## Suggestions

### Conclusions

- Multimedia can be integrated into everyday activities
- Everyday activities can be made more artistic and enjoyable using digital media
- Everyday activities differ from artistic performance, but can nevertheless be used as interfaces thanks to rich affordances
- Tomorrow's man-computer interfaces might not only take metaphors as a basis for interaction, but also use the original physical objects themselves as a part of that interaction

## Contact Us

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