

The purpose of this course was to create an individual composition that would be used in a collaborative group composition. This composition was supposed to be 3-5 minutes long and related to the group discussion. The project was given to us with a lot of flexibility; the only limitations were the file format and bit depth: (Wav 16-bit 44.1Khz stereo, Wav.) It was strongly advised that we stick to the group topic.

When the major responsibilities in the classroom had been assigned, we all started having subject discussions. Evaneh opened the discussions by noting that she, Kiana, and Robin had discussed the topic for the tracks and how to ensure that everyone may contribute regardless of skill set or interests. Instead of narrowing down the theme to something some people may not enjoy, it would be best to keep the theme vague/ open. "stepping out of comfort zones" was what was finally decided by the whole class.

It was very difficult to settle on a theme as I am someone who is not comfortable with many things. After lots of brainstorming, I decided to do the sounds of the underground. I have hyperacusis so the screeching of the underground tends to make me physically uncomfortable.

To begin the process, I tried to think of which underground/tfl lines I have been on that have been the most uncomfortable for me. I had many ways of collecting sounds but the majority of them were collected by just riding on the underground. I used my personal experience of which lines are the loudest and squeakiest to pick which ones to go on/record . The loudest lines, from my experience, are Bakerloo, Circle, Jubilee, Piccadilly and Victoria. I spent the afternoon of the 10th of march going from Elephant & Castle to Harrow & Wealdstone recording the most painful/ uncomfortable noises then editing them together into one 2-minute WAV file.

I didn't just want the noises to just be train noises I also wanted some announcements. I did some research and found out (Via the [London Transport Museum website](#)) the Northbound platform of the Northern line at Embankment station still plays the original recording from the late 1960s/early 1970s to this day. That is what is heard at the beginning of my piece. Once I had collected all the sounds, It was just a case of editing them together and adding effects. I panned the main recording and added reverb and EQ to the other sounds.

I wanted to experiment with using non-underground related sounds that I could manipulate into sounding like the underground. A sound that I thought had potential was the sound of my running washing machine. I sat in front of it and with my Tascam Dr-40 up against the glass. similar to the sounds of the underground, it had a rhythmic musicality.

For this unit, I had to do a lot with Protools which is not something I particularly have experience with. I had to buy the program and teach myself a few things. Including pan automation and equalisation. To do this, I had to go through articles and tutorials. I had never panned a recording before so had to learn how to via the AVID website. All of this was vital information that I am positive I will use in the future.

It was quite hard to do this unit due to the topic. As to be expected, the topic of "stepping out of comfort zones," was very uncomfortable for me. It was a good challenge to do something I usually never would. It helped to be pushed into it. If I were to do this again, I would hope to more actively take part in group discussion. Overall, I would say this unit was successful.