Gentle Fire

Collect, on tape, examples of ambient sound events such as those made by

Screeching brakes Chattering guests Warring gangs Rioting prisoners Stalling motors Colliding meteors Orating politicians Arguing lawyers Heating kilns Shooting rifles Coughing engines Droning turbines Squealing tires Manouvering tanks Drilling squads Buzzing saws Landing jets Drilling rigs Dripping faucets Knocking radiators Dragging tailpipes Hawking newsboys Squeaking shoes Tapping canes Wailing sirens Spurting blood Roaring trains Hissing cats Rattling snakes Raging fires Snarling dogs Collapsing mines Bursting bombs Burning houses Sinking ships Nagging wives Snoring husbands Braking trucks Crashing planes Diving bombers Ripping fabric Tearing paper Falling trees Breaking windows Shattering glass Gnashing teeth Spraining ankles Stretching muscles Snapping vertebrae Flooding rivers Erupting volcanoes Gushing wells Flaming burners Spinning wheels

Reaming rotors Crumbling cakes Snorting hogs Tolling bells Rasping coughs Gnawing rats Scratching claws Fracturing bones Stampeding herds Laughing hyenas Scraping forks Sinking boats Horns in fogs Freezing bogs Ringing phones Slipping cogs Fraying cables Groaning tables Popping corn Skidding bikes Howling mikes Humming choirs Closing banks Rolling logs Bawling brats Creaking doors Rotting tombs Stabbing knives Heaving seas Slipping discs Slamming drawers Digesting food Melting snow Whirring blades Scolding maids Scalding kettles Steeping tea Cracking ice Clicking dice Splitting diamonds Limping legs Draining dregs Frying eggs Marching bands Swelling glands Sizzling steaks Crashing boors Embarking tours Drying lakes Rising bread Dying ponds Drooping fronds Hardening arteries Clogging drains Eroding cliffs Boring drills Spilling oil Sliding hills Driving piles

Turning stiles

Hammering jacks
Belching furnaces
Stomping boots
Splintering bats
Sputtering fats
Roaring crowds
Moaning victims
Clanking chains
Pelting hail
Springing traps
Ringing alarms

Using an electronic music synthesizer or any equivalent configuration of electronic components, process these examples in such a way that they become transformed into what could be perceived as sound events of different origin such as those made by

Ocean waves Wind in trees Flowing streams Boiling tea Cooing doves Droning bees Jumping fish Walking spiders Crawling babies Purring cats Crying loons Hooting owls Laying hens Snapping turtles Swaying palms Barking dogs Cracking ice Falling rain Squeaking shoes Buzzing saws Hatching eggs Bouncing balls Passing ships Rocking boats Squirting clams Clicking stones Croaking frogs Warbling birds Howling wolves Cackling geese Running water Perking coffee Whooping cranes Thumping rabbitts Cawing crows Scolding squirrels Clattering hoofbeats Flapping wings Burning embers

Crackling fire Whistling kettles Snapping twigs Crunching snow Chewing beavers Swimming tuna Sounding dolphins Spouting whales Blowing gales Popping corn Tooting horns Neighing horses Baaing sheep Mooing cows Blowing breezes Drifting sands Rising bread Pitching hay Sucking pigs Billowing sails Jingling coins Straining loins Draining pipes Murmuring pines Humming birds Lofting passes Escaping gasses Flowing gowns Combing tresses Dragging carts Playing parts Ascending balloons Laughing girls Frowning clowns Running boys Chanting braves Blooming flowers Mowing lawns Nuzzling fawns Sprouting chives Quaking aspen Spinning tops Wringing mops Swishing tails Hammering nails Opening jails Laying rails Emptying pails Stacking bales Wiring speakers Frying eggs Making beds Painting reds Buttering muffins Erasing errors Assuaging terrors Stopping bottles Screwing corks

Entering ports

Swaying dancers Healing cancers Cheering teams Jumping beans Splitting jeans Waving queens Scuttling crabs Honking geese Winding tape Hanging crepe Smacking lips Bumping hips Creaking ships Clapping hands Marching bands Rattling bones Hewing beams Rubbing towels Turning cogs Nibbling mice Passing floats Weaving strands Watering hoses Easing throttles

For example, snarling dogs become crunching snow, crashing planes, laughing girls and manouvering tanks, ocean waves.

Record these transformations on tape in any sequence on any number of channels, using any manner of mixing, overlapping or fading, taking care only that the process of change from each original sound event to its final state of transformation is slowly, gradually and clearly heard.

Deploying microphones in remote places, bring about these transformations in real time by the human manipulation of the synthesizer or with the help of self-governing control systems.

Based on these procedures and experiences, design for your personal use and store in your mind an imaginary synthesizer with which, when used in conjunction with blocking, masking and pattern recognition techniques, you can willfully bring about such transformations at any time in any place without the help of external equipment.

Alvin Lucier October 9, 1971 Middletown, Connecticut