



THRIFTFEST
UPCYCLED

NOISY TOYS



The Home Edition of
THE FESTIVAL OF THRIFT



Noisy Toys

NOISY TOYS IS ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN EXPERIMENTING WITH SOUND

We make amazing instruments from upcycled e-waste and broken things. Since 2008 we have taken our interactive noise contraptions, workshops and performances to events and schools all over the country.

Now we are taking advantage of this strange year to help share our Making and Tinkering methods through online workshops and videos in association with Thriffest Upcycled and Scavenger Labs.

WHAT IS E-WASTE?

Any electronic items that have been thrown away count as e-waste. Last year 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste was produced, that's more than the combined weight of all of the adults in Europe! Most of this e-waste ended up being shipped to developing countries, often illegally, and was either burnt or left in heaps next to peoples homes. Can we fix this situation by making a few fun toys from junk? Of course not, but we can increase awareness of where the materials come from and where the waste goes to.

E-waste can also be a useful resource for our own inventions, and we learn a lot of technical and practical skills, as well as come to understand more about the environmental and human consequences of consumer-driven disposable electronics. So let's get Making and Learning at the same time so we can Make a difference (and some funny noises).

We have produced two workshop videos for Thriffest Uncycled 2020; one is a step-by-step 'how to make' a quick and easy upcycled Noisy Toy; your very own Robo-Chicken. The other video will be a more general guide to the Art of Unmaking, which is taking things apart. We will also show you some of the fun things that you can make from the treasure that you can find inside an old computer tower.

Find out more about Noisy Toys here: noisytoys.org

More information about ewaste, upcycling and workshops here: scavengerlabs.org



WORKSHOP MATERIALS

Get ready to join the fun from home by collecting materials in advance of the workshops launch on the 12 September (8+ Supervised):

MAKE AN UPCYCLED ROBO-CHICKEN (VICTORIAN OSCILLATOR)

It doesn't look like a chicken and you might not think it sounds like one, but you can make beautiful screeches and squawks that are guaranteed to annoy almost anyone.

Essential materials:

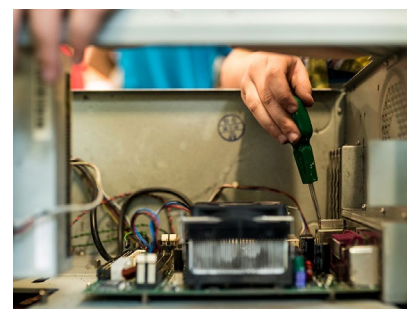
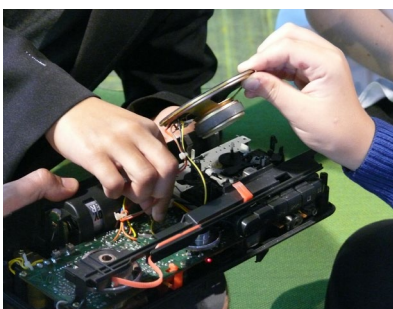
- Mini speaker driver, ideally with leads still attached. 0.5 watt is fine, more powerful should work as well.



The speaker driver the round bit that makes the sound inside a speaker (behind the grill). It's probably the only thing that you may not have around the house, but you can find small low-power speakers in many electronic items. Find something that makes sound (or used to) and you watch the Art of Unmaking demo to find out how to get the treasure out! Remember- keep the leads on, it will make your job much easier!

- At least 2 (ideally 3) X AA or AAA batteries, rechargeable.
- Wire strippers (or scissors if you don't have any)
- Mini long nosed pliers (or tweezers if you don't have any)
- Cardboard & scissors
- Masking tape (other tape will work but it ends up as plastic waste)
- rubber bands
- tin foil
- bulldog clips (or clothes pegs if you haven't got any)
- metal paperclips (not colourful plastic-coated ones)
- 3 X short pieces of electrical wire 10cm long minimum (or tin foil if you haven't got any)

If you don't have any of these, don't panic! You can usually work around with a bit of extra faff, but you will definitely need the speaker driver.



THE ART OF UNMAKING (Taking things apart/dismantling)

Start hoarding some quality e-waste ready for our Unmaking demo video. The best e-waste you could have is a computer tower- those boxy computers that come separate from screens and keyboards. Ask around to see if anyone has an old broken one lurking in a cupboard. Otherwise check this list:

USEFUL E-WASTE FOR UNMAKING:

- computer towers
- anything that runs on batteries and makes sounds: toys, radios etc
- anything with a fan inside: these are really fun
- anything with moving parts
- older technology and electronics is usually better

AVOID:

- anything that could -and is likely to be- fixed to work and be used again
- tables, pads, smart phones. Very boring inside, no moving parts
- A lot of new, digital tech is like this
- Screens. The glass is a hazard
- Anything with sharp edges
- Anything that looks really dirty or oily
- Be careful of any rusty batteries, they can be hazardous

If you can't wait for the video and just want to get started on Unmaking then please remember this **SAFETY CHECKLIST:**

- Unmaking can be dangerous in several ways, you will need an adult to help
- If you have never done this before it is better to wait for some guidance, whatever your age
- Our video will give guidance on safe Unmaking, so keep your treasure stored ready for ThriftFest Upcycled
- Make sure that your e-waste is really waste and that no-one wants it
- If your e-waste could be fixed to work again and someone might want to use it, then it is not waste, and you shouldn't dismantle it

TOOLS NEEDED FOR UNMAKING:

- Screwdrivers with small bits (cross and flat)
- Cable cutters
- Wire strippers
- Long nose pliers

