

(((!))) Experimental Sound Studio

5925 N Ravenswood • Chicago IL 60660 • P 773 769 1069 • F 773 769 1071 • www.experimentalsoundstudio.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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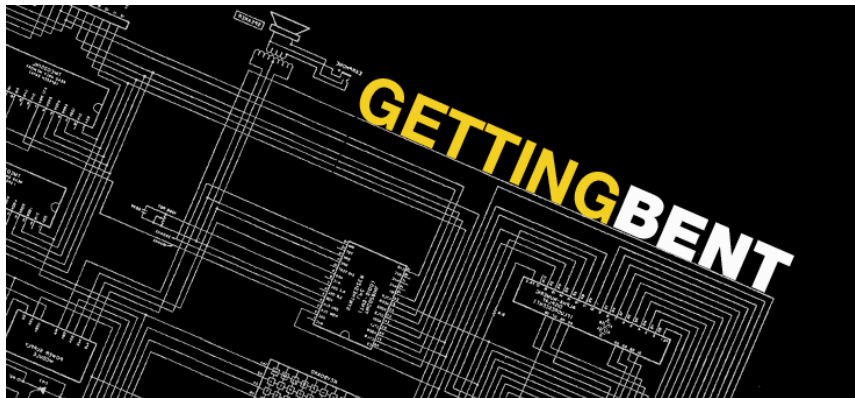
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ESS TO PRESENT MONTHLY SERIES OF FIVE CIRCUIT BENDING WORKSHOPS TAUGHT BY PATRICK MCCARTHY OF ROTH MOBOT

**GETTING BENT WORKSHOPS WILL OCCUR
ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, JUNE–OCTOBER, 2011
FROM 1:00-5:00PM**

ESS is pleased to present **GETTING BENT**, a series of five affordable workshops in **circuit bending** and the construction of simple electronic music equipment. "Circuit bending" is the creative recycling of discarded consumer electronics to create unique experimental electronic art by adding wires, knobs, and switches to control new connections within the device's pre-existing circuitry. Teaching these workshops will be **Patrick McCarthy**, of the acclaimed circuit-bent music duo **Roth Mobot** and arguably the foremost member of Chicago's experimental electronics community.



JUNE 5, 1PM-5PM: Introduction to Circuit Bending
JULY 3, 1PM-5PM: How to Construct a Simple Contact Microphone
AUGUST 7, 1PM-5PM: Intermediate Circuit Bending
SEPTEMBER 4, 1PM-5PM: Build Your Own Portable Amplifier
OCTOBER 2, 1PM-5PM: Advanced Circuit Bending

Enrollment is **\$40 per class, \$35 for students and ESS members**.
One should email info@experimentalsoundstudio.org,
or visit <http://bit.ly/m0XOJf> to enroll.

Please continue reading for more information.

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JUNE 5TH, 1PM–5PM

Introduction to Circuit Bending

By taking apart old toys and electronics and modifying their existing wiring, one can enjoy bizarre sounds, electronic loops, sampling, distortion, and other easy-to-create effects. At the end of this workshop you'll be able to identify and explore the basic components of a typical circuit board, install an output jack, switches, body contacts and more, to control a world of new sounds.

No previous electronics experience is required! Tools and components will be provided. Students are required to bring one or two battery-powered devices to the class.

JULY 3RD, 1PM–5PM

How to Build a Simple Contact Microphone

Contact mics are inexpensive, easy to build, and are versatile tools in live performance and recording. In just two hours we will show you how to make a simple, effective contact microphone from surplus and discarded materials. Students are encouraged to bring random objects to amplify—sheet metal, cardboard boxes, acoustic instruments, slinkies, coat hangers, textured plastic objects, etc.

No previous electronics experience is required!

AUGUST 7TH, 1PM-5PM

Intermediate Circuit Bending

This class will focus on the next level of electronics hacking, including topics such as how to read and write electronics schematics and how to assemble and use home made oscillators to get more out of your devices.

Students should have basic soldering and circuit bending skills and should have a basic understanding of electronics components OR have attended the introductory workshop.

SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1PM–5PM

Build Your Own Portable Amplifier

This workshop will guide you step by step through the process of building your own battery-powered, portable amplifier.

This course will demonstrate how simple electronics construction can be, while emphasizing the basics of soldering, following an electronics diagram, custom circuit design, circuit construction, and finishing techniques. Though students may bring their favorite tools, all that is required is a 9v battery and a "box" to house your completed amplifier circuit (good candidates include cigar boxes, coffee cans, Tupperware, broken radios, small pre-existing speaker cabinets, etc.—anything that can be easily manipulated with a hand drill).

Students are required to have basic soldering and circuit bending skills and a basic understanding of electronics components.

OCTOBER 2ND, 1PM–5PM

Advanced Circuit Bending

We will delve into advanced techniques of hardware hacking, including a primer on how to read and write electronics schematics, followed by a tutorial on the assembly and use of home made sequencers to control and trigger your devices.

Students are required to have basic soldering and circuit bending skills, a basic understanding of electronics components, and an advanced understanding of oscillators; OR to have attended the beginning and intermediate workshops.

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Patrick McCarthy has been conducting circuit bending workshops in various galleries, schools, salons, and corporate seminars since 1999. He teaches regular experimental electronics workshops at the Old Town School of Folk Music, and has recently expanded his workshop agenda into an eight-week course in Experimental Electronics at Coonley Elementary School in Chicago.

Patrick is the Director of the Rubber Monkey Puppet Company, a Chicago-based community arts organization. He curates the "Deus Ex Machina" Contraptionism festivals, hosts the annual MEECAS, and facilitates the weekly eSymposium. He is also an accomplished painter, exhibiting works in multiple galleries in the Chicago area.

For more information, please visit <http://www.rothrobot.com>.

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Experimental Sound Studio (ESS) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1986, dedicated to the promotion, production, presentation and preservation of innovative and diverse approaches to the sonic arts, and to the integration of these art forms into the public. ESS programs and services are supported by our members and benefactors, and by the generous support of the Alphawood Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the DEW Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.