

Techno-Politics, Punk Rock, and Portable Music Players

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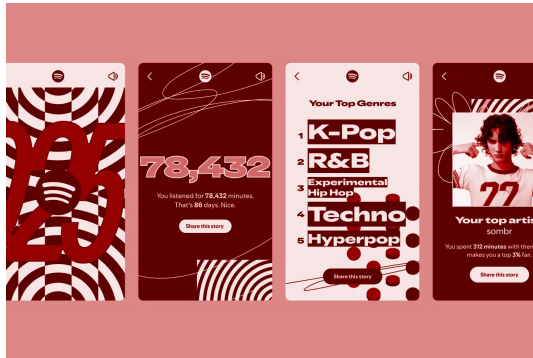
Dec 5th



This presentation focuses on the **socio-political** impacts of **consumer agency** in **music technology**.



Obsolescence of Music Listening Tech



Commodification of Community



Punk Engineering

Image 1: Wally Skaliy/LA Times/Getty
Image 2 :theverge.com
Image 3: Instructables.com

Streaming **didn't just replace** music tech — it **erased a whole culture** around it.



(500) Days of Summer (2009), Empire Records (1995), Hackers (1995). Hairspray (1988)

Planned obsolescence in consumer electronics systematically removes user autonomy to increase corporate control.



The City of Fort Collins

The shift from physical music devices to streaming **engineered** user **dependence** by reducing service **diversity** and removing **personal modifiability** and **ownership**.



@1THEMILKMAN1, Pinterest

What was marketed as **unlimited musical freedom** has become a mechanism for **cultural homogenization** and corporate **influence**.



Spotify is the clearest example of music listening being **rebuilt as a data-extraction** business, not a cultural ecosystem.



The **erosion** of shared musical spaces has **intensified demand** for **live, local, and communal** music experiences.



When users **reclaim non-algorithmic listening practices**, they **directly challenge** the consolidation of **cultural** and **technical power**.



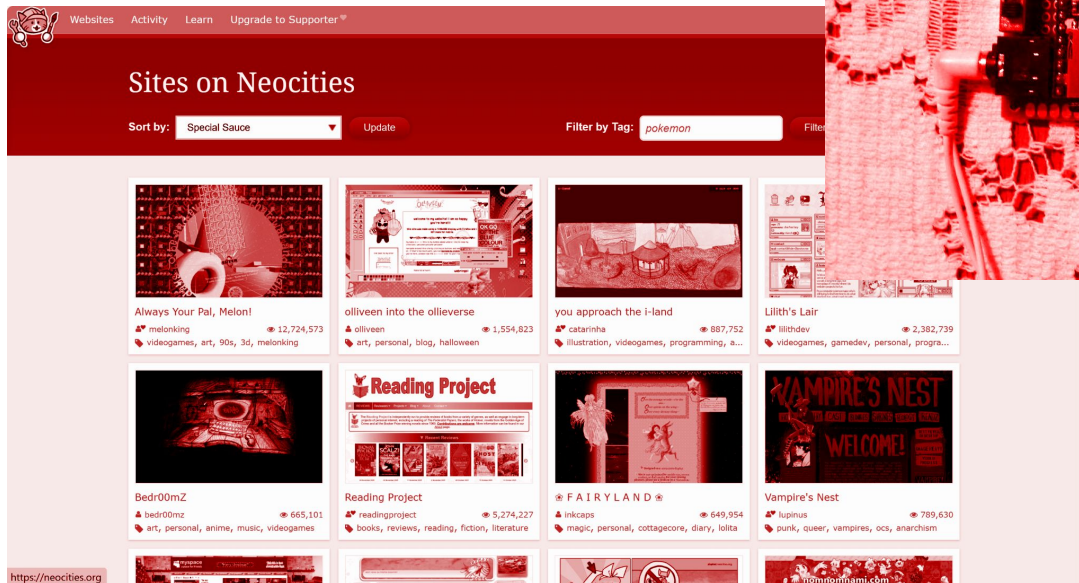
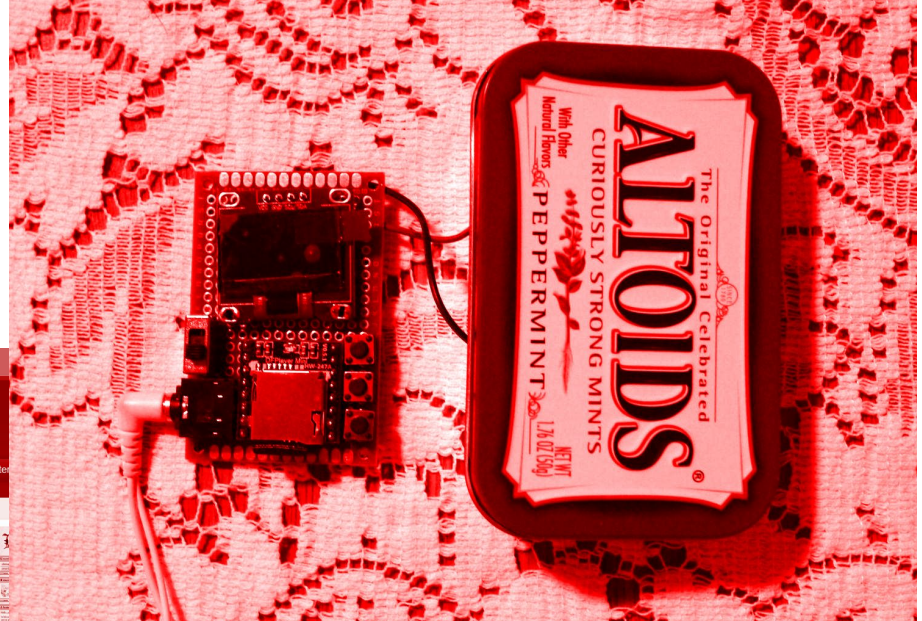
The **resurgence of analog** and outdated media reveals **functional** and **experiential gaps** that **centralized corporate systems** have **failed to meet**.



@Djf47021, Reddit

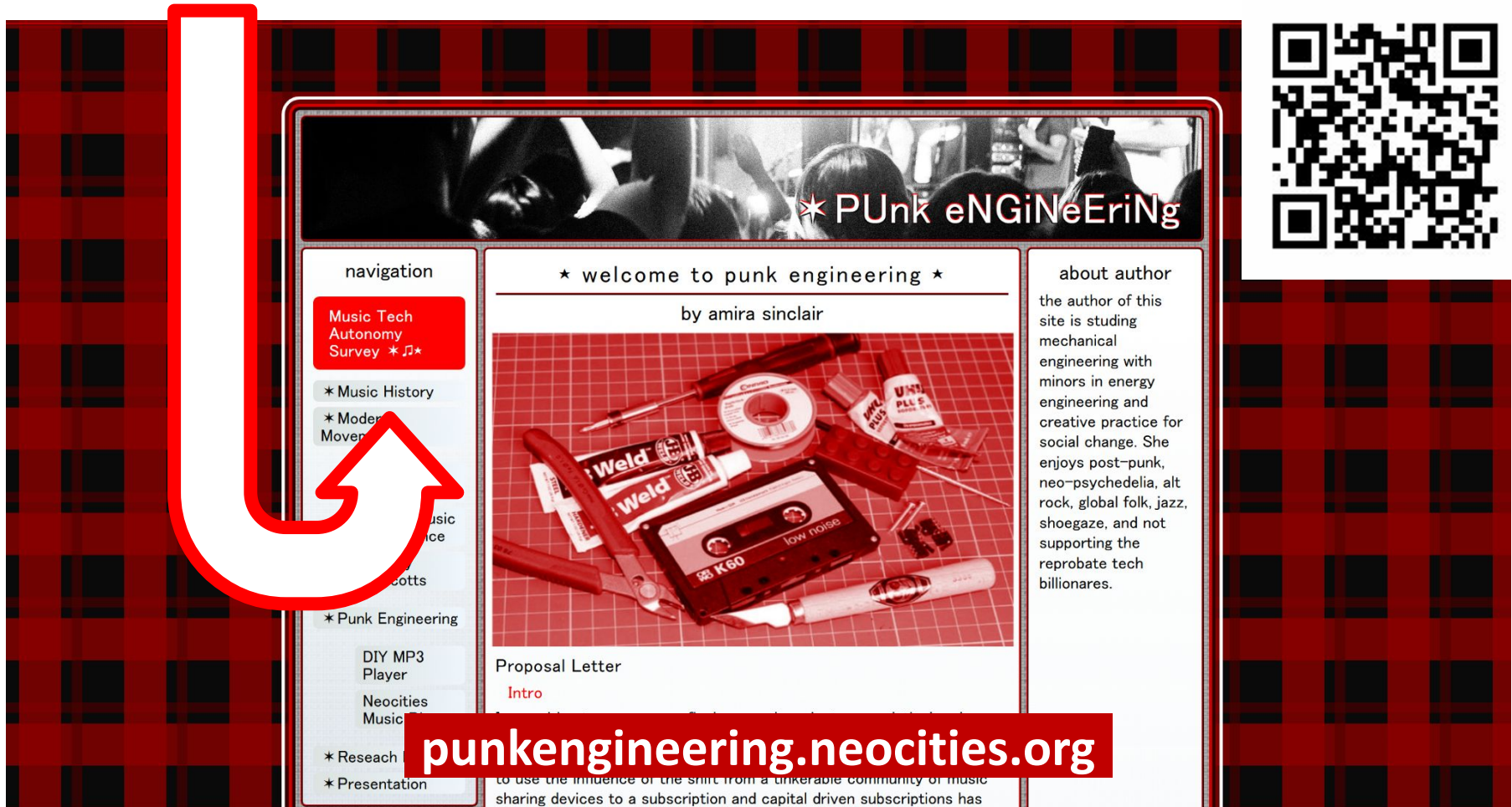
Punk engineering **rejects top-down** design by centering **repairability**, user **modification**, and **community-driven technological agency**.

DIY MP3 Player →



← Custom Music Blog

Designing music technology that **serves people**, not platforms, requires **understanding** what users actually **value**, **reject**, and **need**.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a red and black plaid background. A large red 'U' shaped arrow points from the top left towards the navigation menu. The website header features a black and white photo of a crowd with the text '★ PUnk eNGiNeEriNg'. The navigation menu on the left includes 'Music Tech Autonomy Survey ★ ♪★', '★ Music History', '★ Modern Movement', '★ Punk Engineering', 'DIY MP3 Player', 'Neocities Music', '★ Research', and '★ Presentation'. The main content area has a 'welcome to punk engineering ★' by amira sinclair, followed by a photo of various tools and a 'Proposal Letter' with an 'Intro'. The 'about author' section describes the author's background in engineering and music. A QR code is in the top right corner. A red banner at the bottom displays the URL 'punkengineering.neocities.org'.

★ PUnk eNGiNeEriNg

navigation

- Music Tech Autonomy Survey ★ ♪★
- ★ Music History
- ★ Modern Movement
- ★ Punk Engineering
- DIY MP3 Player
- Neocities Music
- ★ Research
- ★ Presentation

★ welcome to punk engineering ★

by amira sinclair

about author

the author of this site is studying mechanical engineering with minors in energy engineering and creative practice for social change. She enjoys post-punk, neo-psychedelia, alt rock, global folk, jazz, shoegaze, and not supporting the reprobate tech billionaires.

Proposal Letter

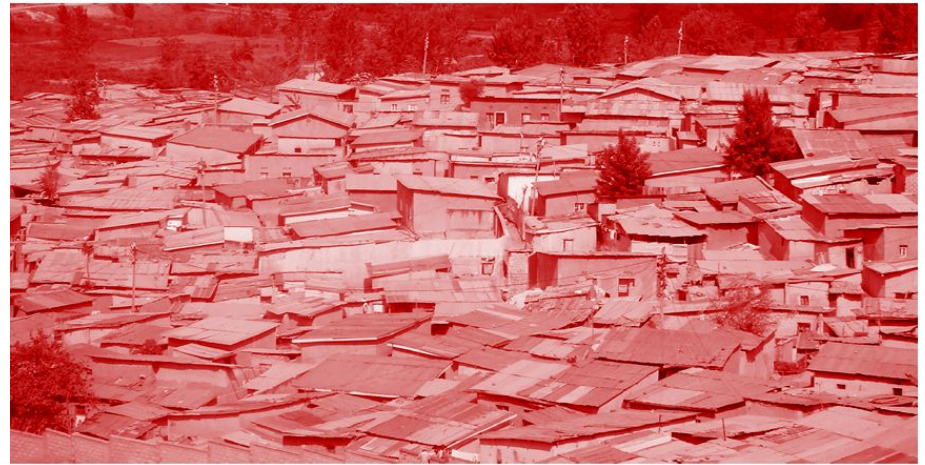
Intro

punkengineering.neocities.org

Reclaiming autonomy over music technology is part of a larger movement toward user-driven design and anti-obsolescence engineering.



Right to Repair



Punk Urbanism

Image 1: Library of Congress

Image 2: Samuel Shearer, 2015. Repair: Punk Urbanism, Kigali