

Jonathan Fischer

American Fistfight Installation Notes

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

"American Fistfight" evokes the early era of cinema filtered through arcade culture. The interactive installation projects an infinite loop of rudimentary moving image sequences produced entirely on hand inked and screen-printed 35mm slides.

A boxing robot is used to control two vintage projectors that superimpose the image sequences on the venue wall. The original Kodak corded remote controls the robot as it literally punches its way into flashing arcade buttons (don't worry, it has gloves). Controlling the bot, visitors maneuver the images and wordplay-rooted phrases for themselves.

The installation was designed to be fun and thought-provoking for users of all ages. It features tactile, auditory, and visual interaction.

BIOGRAPHY

Jonathan Fischer is screen print based artist living and working in San Francisco. He received degrees in engineering and philosophy of science before learning to screen print with a garden hose and a 60 Watt light bulb at a Mission District arts collective. The ultimate goal of his art practice is to extend the aesthetic, collaborative, and social possibilities of screen printing. His works have ranged from a 30 ft-long mural depicting the Mission District, to a 450ft² screen printed floor fabricated for a local theater company.

Recent projects have included a series of screen printed "motion pictures" and "Character Profile," a group show he curated at Root Division in San Francisco featuring interactive works that explore language. In addition to his regular studio work, Fischer regularly pursues partnerships with community-minded organizations on public screenprint projects including signs, parklets, and murals. Fischer currently holds an appointment as Associate Professor of Engineering Technology at the California State University Maritime Academy.

PROJECT WEBSITE

http://www.feather2pixels.com/newSite/?post_type=portfolio&p=7637

EQUIPMENT LIST

* EQUIPMENT I WILL NEED THE
FESTIVAL TO SUPPLY

- Main Robot Module:
 - Robot (1x)
 - Electronics & Prototyping Board (1x)
 - Packaging
 - Plexi-panels (3x)
 - Wired Remote (1x)
 - Robot AC Adapter (1x)
 - Electronics AC Adapter (1x)
- 2 Vintage Kodak Projectors
 - Projector Bodies (2x)
 - Power Cords (2x)
 - Lenses (2x)
 - Extra Bulbs just in case (2x)
 - Custom-made, 3-wire remote cables (2x)
- Carousel of hand inked and screenprinted 35mm slides (2x)
- Main Power Strip
- Decal sticker with icon-based instructions-- place on pedestal (1x)
- Small clamp to immobilize Projector B focus knob (to avoid autofocus)
- Cable zips for organized and clean install
- *One Floor Pedestal (roughly 2x3x3ft)
- *Two Projector Shelves (roughly 1.5x1.5 ft) w/ mounting hardware.

American Fistfight was designed in three fairly self-contained components (fig1 Installation Diagram):

1. The Main Robot Module (housed in reinforced vintage Kodak packaging): Contains the captive robot, the electronics, the corded remote control, and a conduit for electrical connections. This module should be set on a rectangular or square pedestal (not provided by the artist). The plexiglass panels are removable, held in place by museum putty.

2. Projector A: Mounted on a shelf.

3. Projector B: Mounted on a shelf w/ focus knob clamped (to immobilize autofocus).

The physical configuration is very flexible (fig 2: Four example floorplans). The 2x3x3 foot floor pedestal supporting the Main Robot Module should be located in an accessible location, as it is the interface for visitors. The projectors should be wall-mounted on shelves nearby the Robot (within 10 ft), as they both make connections to the Robot. However this distance is flexible and could be extended with additional cabling. The physical projection can be made on to any wall, preferably one that is neutral in color or white. The greater the projector to wall distance the better, as this will increase the size of the image (something I am very interested in pursuing). Plan on a minimum distance of 8-10 ft.

Visitors should be facing the projection while using American Fistfight.

Lighting: American Fistfight is best viewed under dimmer conditions for the purposes of projection.

Sound: The robot provides friendly chirps when a successful forward or backwards punch is made. (If needed the volume can be adjusted with one line of code). The installation will work fine under either quiet or noisy conditions.

Installation: American Fistfight is prewired and only requires a few connections for power and control signals. The entire installation instantly activates when main power is connected.

Main Power: An external power strip (artist-provided) delivers four separate power connections in to the robot, the electronics, projector A, and projector B. (Normal 120VAC). The power strip on-off switch serves as the on-off control for the entire piece.

Wired Remote: Is already hard-wired to the Robot Module. The remote should be set on the pedestal for visitors to investigate during regular service.

Projector Control: Each Projector is controlled by its own 3-wire cable. These custom designed cables originate in the Robot Module and should be connected to each projector's "Remote In" port during install.

Setup Procedure: After the installation is wired, a few steps are required.

1. Aim and focus projectors: The two projectors should be set so the projection areas are roughly on top of each other. For a different effect, the two projections could be severely misaligned. Focusing need only be done once during the exhibition. Focus is done manually with the focus ring. Once set, the focus knob of Projector B should be clamped stationary, as it has an analog autofocus feature that will slowly blur the image. The two carousels may be begun at any point, and for a seamless presentation make sure there are slides in every slot including the protected slide 0 slot (insert this slide from below).

2. Set robot and test buttons: The robot wheels fit in the textured floor troughs. Manually punch the arcade buttons and confirm that BOTH projectors advance (the lit button) or reverse (the dim button) when the buttons are pressed.

3. Test the corded remote: One button moves the robot forward, the other backward. During operation, the robot should be confined to a linear left-right path. The robot should hit the button at each end every time.

4. You've got a fistfight on your hands! Congratulations.

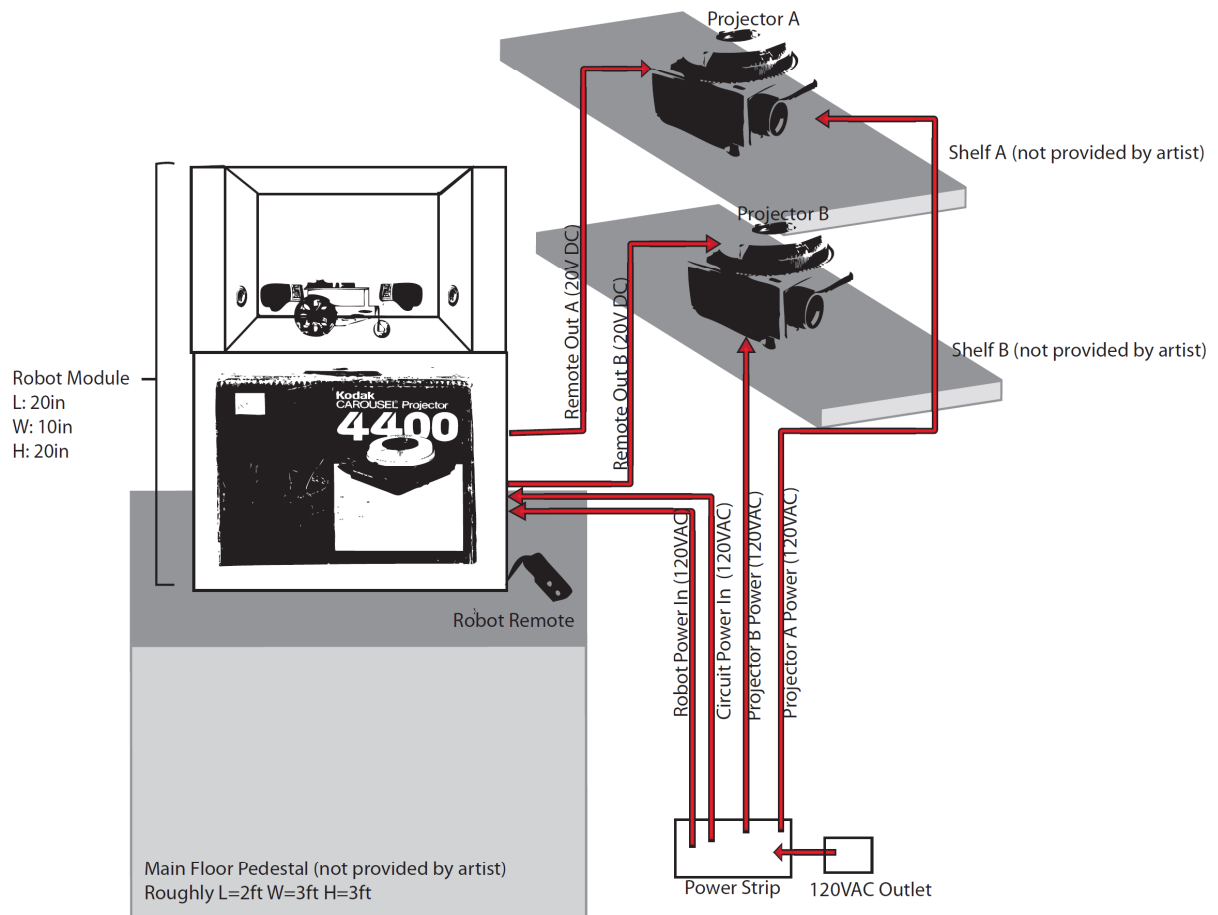


FIGURE 1: "AMERICAN FISTFIGHT" INSTALLATION DIAGRAM

FIGURE 2: FOUR EXAMPLE FLOOR PLANS

