

Option Escape

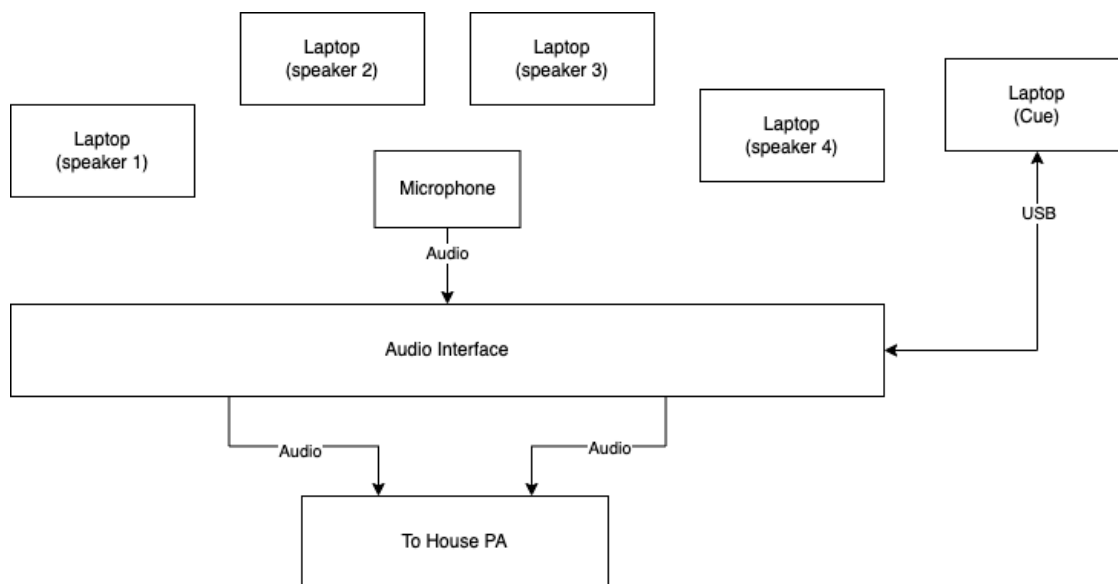
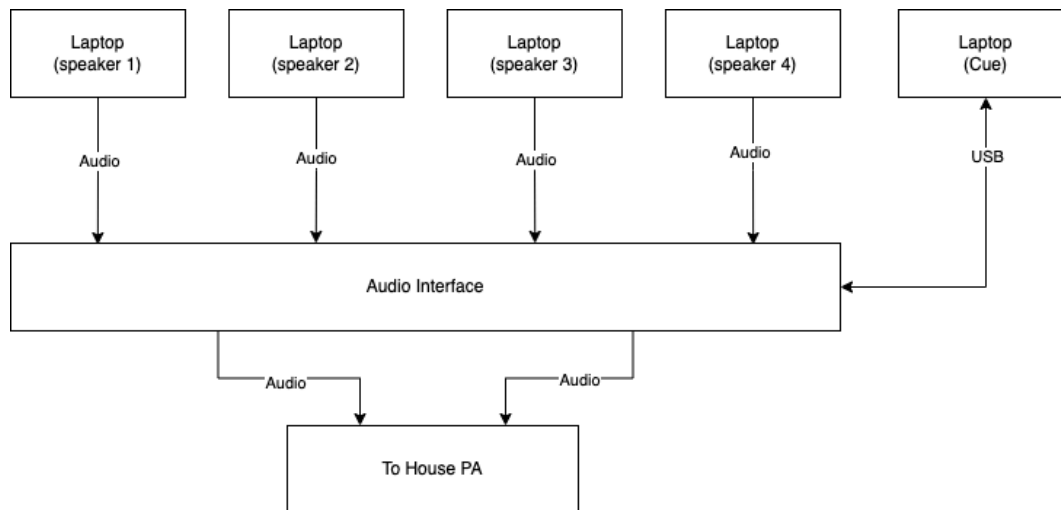
For laptop ensemble

By Joo Won Park (www.joowonpark.net)

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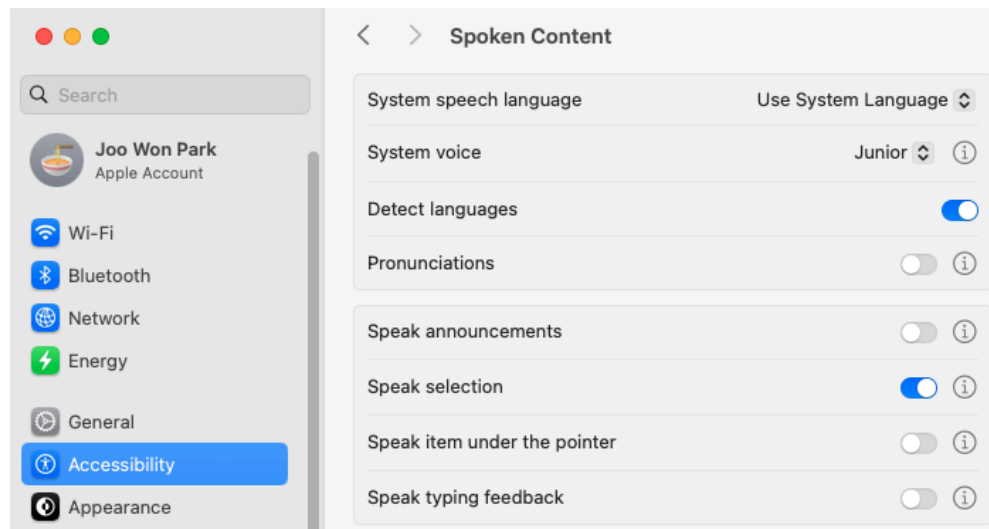
Hardware Setup

- Minimum 5 computers with text-to-speech feature (Mac OSX preferred)
- A multichannel audio interface OR an interface and a mic
- Stereo PA system
- Audio cables to connect the laptops' built-in outputs to the interface
- Diagrams for two possible setups are shown below



Software Setup

- Performers, except for the Cue part, should change the computer settings to read the text with a computer-generated voice. In the current OSX, go to *System Settings* -> *Accessibility*. Enable *Speak Selection*. Change *System Voice* at will. See the above figure.
- Download SuperCollider files and score from www.joowonpark.net/optionscape
- The performer playing the Cue part runs *optionsc.scd* on SuperCollider.



Score Interpretation

- *Speak 1/2/3/4* selects and text-to-speech the text in the prepared file according to the score. If the selected text ends before the next cue, repeat text-to-speech.
 - **Paragraph**: Use two or more paragraphs.
 - **Sentence**: Use one sentence.
 - **3 Words**: Use three words.
 - **Word**: Use a word.
 - **Vowel/ Number/ Symbol**: Use a vowel, a number, or a symbol (test the symbols beforehand)
 - **Code**: Use a computer code or a web address.
- *Speak 1/2/3/4* parts should prepare an original text file for a performance. Copy-paste the texts multiple times for a better performance. An example is included in the download (or [click here](#)).
- The notehead indicates the text-to-speech reading speed. If the measure does not have a notehead, retain the previous reading speed.
 - Natural (no sharps or flats): read at normal speed
 - Flat (*b*): read at a slow speed
 - Double flat (*bb*): read at the slower speed
 - Sharp (*#*): read at a fast speed
 - Double sharp (*x*): read at the faster speed
- In Cue 17, performers manually fade out the computer voice while speaking the paragraphs in their own voice. End at cue

- One performer should operate the SuperCollider file as a cue player.
 - Open *OptionEsc.scd*
 - Select Menu -> *Evaluate File*
 - When the GUI appears, press the button according to the score
 - Cue the performers for the next section, if preferred
- Performance Tips (for Mac OS 10.15)
 - Place the left hand on the option and escape keys at all times. To quickly change the text, highlight the text, hold the Command key, and press the Escape key twice.
 - To read text faster or slower, double-click the rabbit or turtle quickly after the computer starts speaking.

Program Notes

Option Escape for laptop ensemble uses the computer's text-to-speech functions. In 2026, the speech read by a computer still sounds artificial and quirky. The ensemble of those artificial voices can become a musical entity. To perform *Option Escape*, each performer should prepare a text file consisting of sentences, words, numbers, and codes. The performer should also choose a favorite voice and ready the hotkey (option+esc in Mac OSX) to start and stop the speech.

Option Escape

for laptop ensemble

Joo Won Park

1 2 3

Speak1 $\frac{4}{4}$ paragraph • | | || paragraph | | || paragraph | | | $\frac{2}{4}$ || $\frac{4}{4}$

Speak2 $\frac{4}{4}$ paragraph • | | || paragraph | | || paragraph | | | $\frac{2}{4}$ || $\frac{4}{4}$

Speak3 $\frac{4}{4}$ paragraph • | | || paragraph | | || - | - | - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$

Speak4 $\frac{4}{4}$ paragraph • | | || - | - | - || - | - | - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$

Cue $\frac{4}{4}$ • ♯ - | - | - || • ♯ - | - | - || • ♯ - | - | - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$

4 5 6

S1 solo tutti (if the part is doubled) (double-click the escape key for quick start)

S1 $\frac{4}{4}$ paragraph | | || paragraph • | | || sentence | | | ||

S2 $\frac{4}{4}$ - | - | - | - || paragraph # • | | || sentence | | | ||

S3 $\frac{4}{4}$ - | - | - | - || paragraph • | | || sentence | | | ||

S4 $\frac{4}{4}$ - | - | - | - || paragraph b • | | || sentence | | | ||

C $\frac{4}{4}$ • ♯ - | - | - || • ♯ - | - | - || • ♯ - | - | - ||

7 8 9

S1 3 words | | || word | | || vowel | | | ||

S2 3 words | | || word | | || vowel | | | ||

S3 3 words | | || word | | || vowel | | | ||

S4 3 words | | || word | | || vowel | | | ||

C • ♯ - | - | - || • ♯ - | - | - || • ♯ - | - | - ||

10 **11** **12**

S1 `number` | | - | - | - | - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ - | - | - ||

S2 `number` | | - | - | - | - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ `number` \sharp | - | - ||

S3 `number` | | *solo* `code` \bullet | | | | $\frac{2}{4}$ || $\frac{4}{4}$ *tutti (if the part is doubled)* `code` \bullet | - | - ||

S4 `number` | | - | - | - | - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ - | - | - ||

C \bullet \uparrow - | - || \bullet \uparrow - | - | - | - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ \bullet \uparrow - | - | - ||

13 **14**

S1 `symbol` \sharp | | | | - || *(prep next measure)* `paragraph` \flat | | | | *(start speaking and then quickly change the speed)* ||

S2 `number` \sharp | | | | - || *(prep next measure)* `paragraph` \flat | | | | ||

S3 `code` \bullet | | | | - || *(prep next measure)* `paragraph` \flat | | | | ||

S4 `vowel` \flat | | | | - || *(prep next measure)* `paragraph` \flat | | | | ||

C \bullet \uparrow - | - | - | - | - || \bullet \uparrow - | - | - | - | - ||

15 **16**

S1 - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ `paragraph` \times | | | | | | | | ||

S2 - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ `paragraph` \times | | | | | | | | ||

S3 - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ `paragraph` \times | | | | | | | | ||

S4 - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ `paragraph` \times | | | | | | | | ||

C \bullet \uparrow - | $\frac{2}{4}$ - || $\frac{4}{4}$ \bullet \uparrow - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - ||

17

