

WEISS / WEISSLICH 27, "complementary noise"

WEISS / WEISSLICH 27b "divisions": 2 loudspeakers, chairs, 12'

White noise is divided into two simultaneous complimentary parts, and is distributed between two loudspeakers. The pattern of that division changes every 40 seconds. The first 40 second period divides white noise into two halves: the lower portion to the left speaker, the higher portion to the right. The second period divides into three thirds: the lower portion to the left, the middle to the right, and the higher portion left again. The third period divides into four fourths, and so on. In the final segment a single noise band is as wide as a single semitone. The distribution of one semitone left, the next semitone right, and so on, results in two complimentary whole-tone scales. In any case, the left and right speakers heard together produce in each case white noise. If heard in mono, there would be no change at all for 12 minutes. But in stereo, it changes the space. Each change from pattern to pattern gives the sensation that the walls slightly widen, and at the same time that the ceiling slips down a bit. The room changes with each new pattern. These changes are experienced more as body-related phenomenon than acoustic ones, for after all, the sound-total remains the same.

(edited by Bill Dietz)