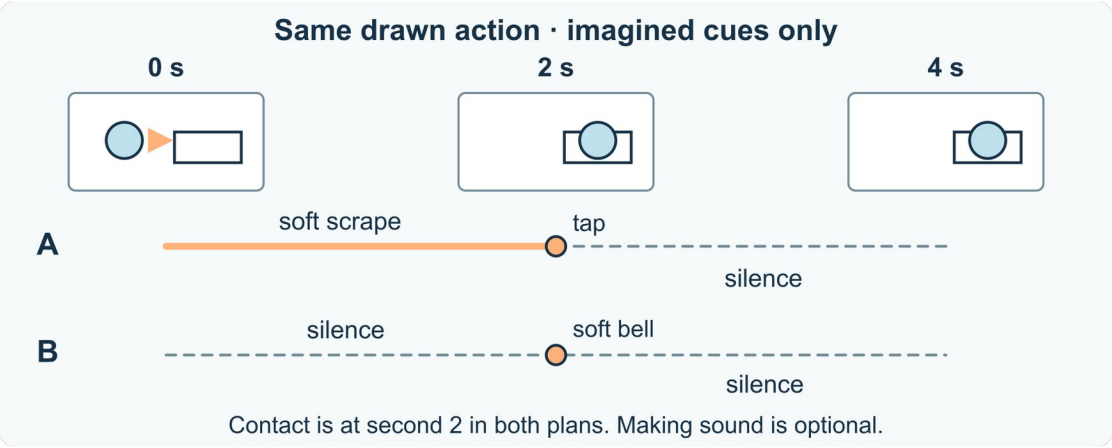
Plan a soundscape without recording

What would a sound cue add that a picture leaves open?

Write two sound plans for the same quiet fictional scene, with no recording.

Make | 10–20 minutes, or one small comparison | Scrap paper and a pencil or pen, The supplied original model; no account, purchase or online search needed

Start here Sketch a paper disc beside an empty tray and write the time marks 0, 2 and 4 seconds.



One picture, two cue plans

1 Fix the picture

Imagine the disc sliding into the tray at second 2, then resting until second 4. The picture is the same for both sound plans.

2 Plan cue A

Write: soft scrape from 0 to 2; a quiet tap at 2; silence from 2 to 4. Label when each cue begins and ends.

3 Plan cue B

Try silence from 0 to 2, a soft bell at 2, then silence to 4. These are imagined cues; you need not make the sounds.

4 Explain your choice

Describe what a cue could suggest and what the image already shows. Keep possible effects open rather than claiming every viewer hears the same story.

Original model a disc meets a tray

The timings and cues are invented. No sound, recording or audience response has been collected.

• Picture: the disc enters the tray at second 2 in both versions.

• A uses a scrape during the movement and a tap at contact; B uses only an imagined bell at contact.

• The changed cue may make the event read differently, while the visible movement remains fixed.

What this example can show A written sound plan cannot establish the loudness or effect of a finished soundtrack. Silence is a valid choice.

A different way

Use written cue words, point to time marks, or describe the plan quietly. Sound-making, speech and recording are unnecessary.

If you want to go further

Move the imagined tap to second 1, before visible contact. Describe the mismatch without deciding that it must be wrong.

Something to notice

Which meaning came from the picture, and which came from my sound choice?

Read or explore more

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