

Still and Moving Paper 2014

For solo performer

By Vanessa Tomlinson

Requirements:

1 piece of A3 paper – 2 lead pencils, one softer than the other (eg 2B, HB), 1 paperback book surplus to needs, 1 small table/desk (approx. 1m square), 1 chair or stool, 2 footbooks.

Note for part 3.



Hold the book by the spine with the pages hanging downward, and shake it from side to side so the pages rustle.



Hold the book by the spine in the right hand with the pages facing up. Use the thumb of the left hand to flick through the pages – backwards.



Hold the book in the left hand with the spine to the right. After licking your right thumb, turn the pages backwards one by one with the thumb.

“rip” in the first instance refers to ripping a page out of the book at random. A staggered rip is the preferred sound. Subsequently the word “rip” refers to ripping that particular page in half vertically, and then in half again as the paper becomes thinner and thinner and the words become less intelligible/complete.

“read” means to read from left to right as in a book. In the first instance read approximately one line, then 2 lines, then 3 lines etc. In this manner the duration of each reading should stay approximately the same, but the words will become more and more incomplete.

B – book

FB – footbook

V – voice

P – paper (ripped out of book)

The performer walks on stage and sits at the chair, behind a desk/table. Put on foot-books (a heavy hardback book, with spine near the heel, and a piece of thin rope tied through the pages of the book and around the ankle, so the foot alone can effectively open and shut the book quite loudly, sounding as a large heavy book being shut loudly in a quiet library; deep, hollow and satisfying), pick up pencils, and begin playing.

Part 1.

Approx. 2'30"

2 pencils (HB and 3B), one in LH one in RH, placed on the paper, on a table.

Begin drawing circles toward the middle (in mirror version), 10-15cm in diameter,

1 rotation at metronome marking 40.

	20-25"	10"	8"	10"	5"	$\frac{3}{4}$ = bb x6	$\frac{4}{4}$ = bb x4	20"
R.H.		accel → 50	sub. to 40	tempo -40		$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{4}$	accel → 80
L.H.		tempo -40		accel → 50	sub. to 40	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{4}$	accel → 80

1 rotation = 40

	8"	x4	5"	x6	x3	10"	x6	
R.H.								
L.H.				x3		x3		x6

	x6	x10	10"	20"	20"
R.H.			Rit		
L.H.	x6	x10	Rit		

Change pressure of pencil and angle of pencil.

Accel, rit ad lib. L.H./R.H. independent

Part 2. Attacca

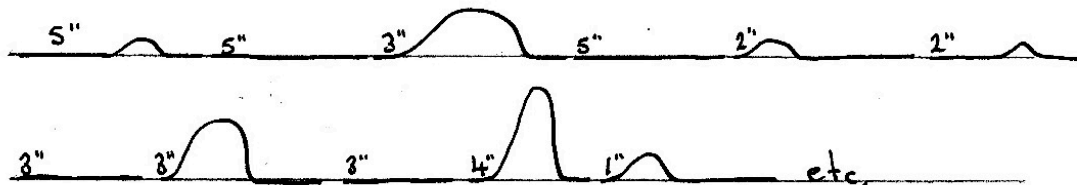
0'00" – 30" (approx.)

Place pencils down on edge of table one at a time. Never stop producing sound. Move piece of paper around in a circle, slowly, anti-clockwise, both hands firmly on the paper. Keep a constant, slow, soft, circular motion going.

Listen

30" – 1'30" (approx.)

Keep circular motion going. Push hands together slightly to make small air tunnel between paper and table – back to flat. Push hands together more to make larger air tunnel (louder) – back to flat. Example below;



2'15" – 2'45" (approx.)

Add the sound of crinkling paper to the action – like fire. Maintain constant pace of circular motion, but intensify activity and size of airpockets and density of crinkling. (ie crescendo)

2'45" – 2'50"

When activity is at its loudest, pick up paper and continue scrunching noisily, until paper is in a tight ball.

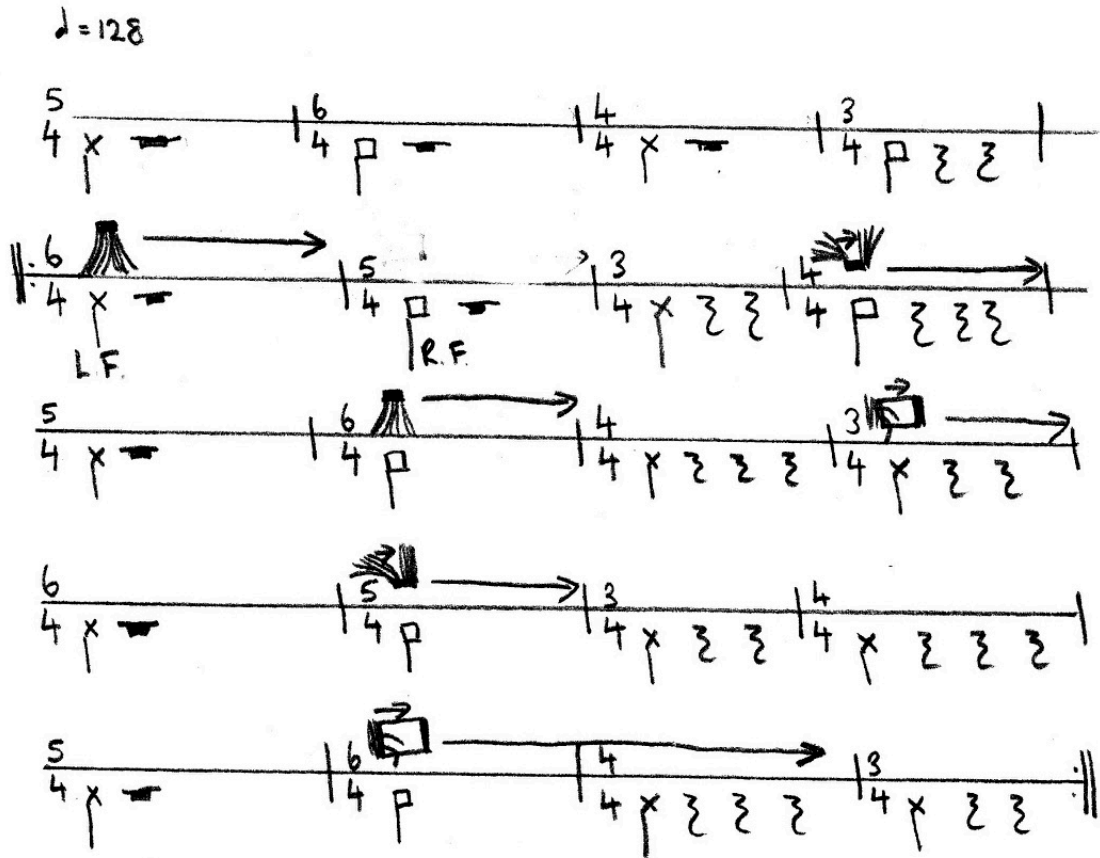
Pause 2"

Place ball on table.

Listen as it starts to move itself

Part 3

Pick up book – hold it in front
Begin foot books as written.



B: Rip		P: Rip		Rip	
FB:	X	X		X	
V:	Read...		Read.....		Read.....

P: Rip		Rip		Rip	
FB:	X	X		X	
V:	Read...		Read.....		Read.....

P: Shake pieces 5"				
FB:	LX	RX	LX	RX	LX RX LX RX LX RX
V:	f decresc.....				

P: scrunch into tight ball 5”

Place ball on table

Look at it

Examine it for words that are still intact.

Keep looking.

When you find one, say it.

When you find another – say it.

Any order, instant poetry.

10 words then stop.

Tomlinson, Sept. 2014