**025:251 COMPOSITION: ELECTRONIC MEDIA II**
**Spring 2011**
Apple Automator

1. When working with a large number of soundfiles in Pro Tools and Max/MSP, it is important to control the naming scheme of them.
   a. Last semester, we encountered a problem naming files using the Peak batch processor. When adding a suffix, such as "-3" to each batch-processed file, the extension .aif was added. This changed the suffix to "-3.aif".
   b. In Max/MSP, a large number of soundfiles can be opened and triggered by algorithmically spelling the name of any given soundfile. For example, the open message box can be algorithmically changed from "open AD12" to "open AD8", or "open Bca3". While any name can be algorithmically written, short, systematic names can be easier to work with.
   c. In either case, to change the name of a large number of soundfiles can take some time doing it by hand.
   d. The Apple OSX system includes an application called Automator, which can automate the process of file naming.

2. Consider a set of soundfiles named "VlnA", "VlnB",…, "VlnT". These names can be changed as follows.
   a. Place the set of soundfiles in a single folder containing no other soundfiles.
   b. Make a copy of that folder as a backup.

3. Launch Automator as follows:
   a. Find Automator using the system's find function, in case it is not available in the computer's dock.
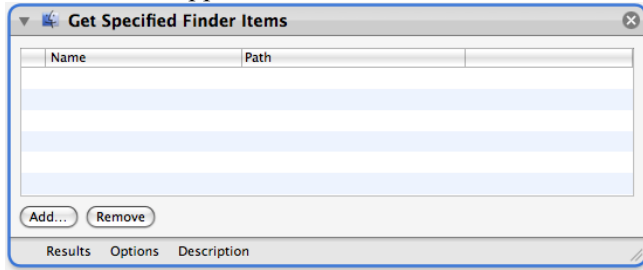   b. A window like the one below will appear:
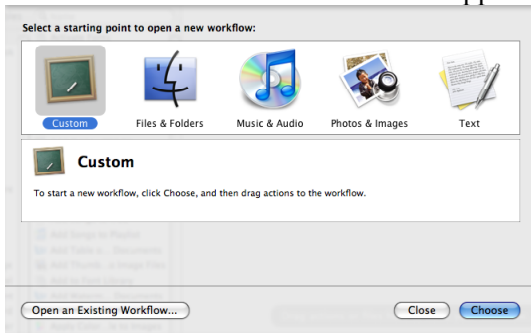
   c. Select "Files & Folders", followed by "Get content from my Mac" and "Ask for files & folders now", as shown below:
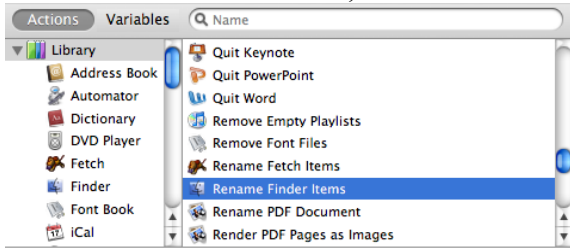

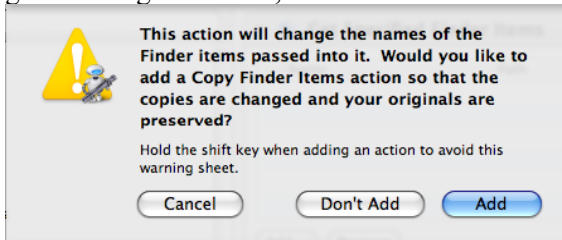   d. A file open dialog window like the one below will appear:
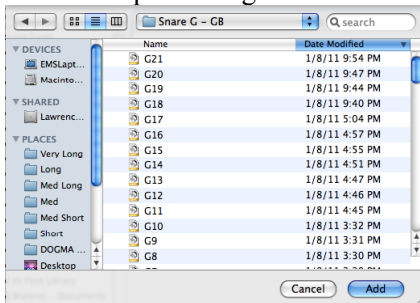
e. Instead of selecting each file, one by one, hit "Cancel". In the Automator window, a sub-window like the one below will appear:


f. In the Automator window, notice that there are two scrolling lists on the left, like the ones shown below:
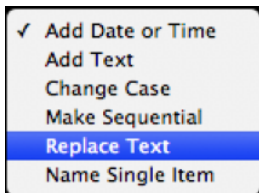

g. In the rightmost list, select "Rename Finder Items", as shown above. A window like the one below will appear:

This action will change the names of the Finder items passed into it. Would you like to add a Copy Finder Items action so that the copies are changed and your originals are preserved?

Hold the shift key when adding an action to avoid this warning sheet.

Cancel   Don't Add   Add
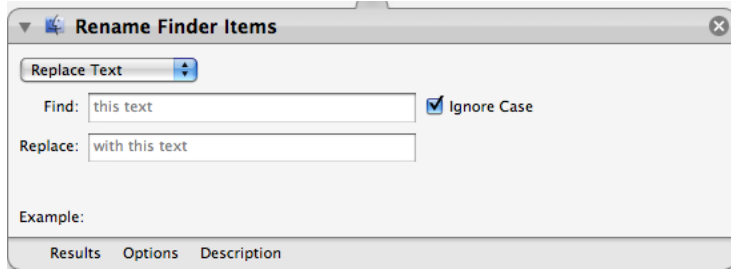
h. Select "Don't Add". A sub-window like the one below will appear directly beneath the "Get Specified Finder Items" sub-window:
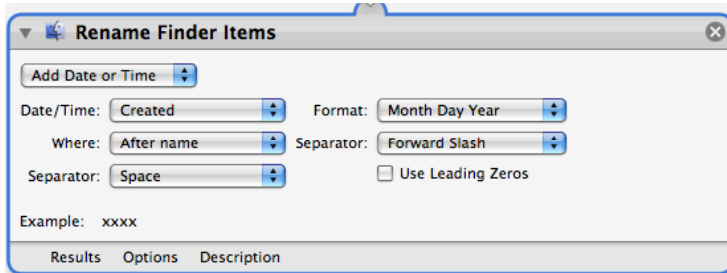
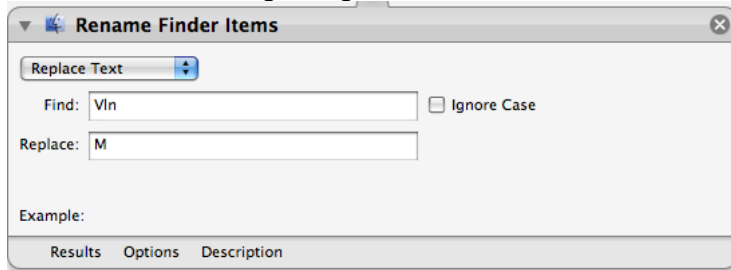4. To change the soundfiles "VlnA", "VlnB",…, "VlnT" to "MA", "MB",…, "MT", do the following.
    a. In the bottom sub-window, called "Replace Finder Items", click on the sub-menu bar named "Add Date or Time". A sub-menu like the one below will appear:

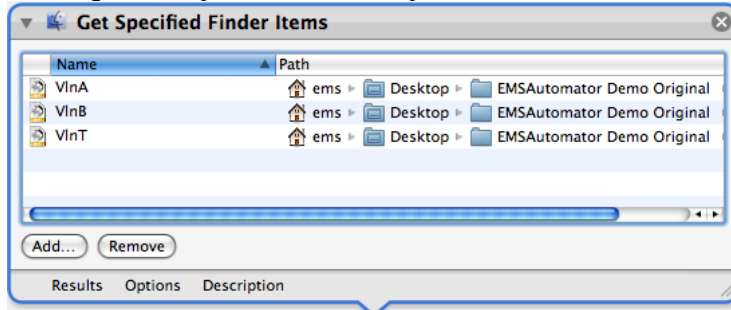b. Select "Replace Text". The window will be changed to the one shown below:

Rename Finder Items

Replace Text

Find: this text   ✔ Ignore Case

Replace: with this text

Example:

Results   Options   Description

c. Make the following changes to this sub-window:

Rename Finder Items

Replace Text

Find: Vln   ☐ Ignore Case

Replace: M

Example:

Results   Options   Description

5. Run the process as follows.
   a. In the OSX Finder, select the files "VlnA", "VlnB",…, "VlnT".
   b. Drag and drop these into the top sub-window, named "Get Specific Finder Items", as shown below:

Get Specified Finder Items

Name	Path
VlnA	ems ▸ Desktop ▸ EMSAutomator Demo Original
VlnB	ems ▸ Desktop ▸ EMSAutomator Demo Original
VlnT	ems ▸ Desktop ▸ EMSAutomator Demo Original

Add...   Remove

Results   Options   Description

c. In the upper right corner of the Automator window, press the "Run" button, shown below:

Record   Stop   Run

d. The files shown in the top window will not show the name changes. These are shown in the folder where the original files resided, as shown below:
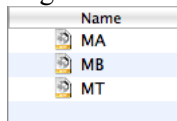
Name
MA
MB
MT

6. Files can also have numbers as suffixes by modifying the "Rename Folder Items" as shown below:

Rename Finder Items

Make Sequential

Add number to ⦿ existing item name   ◯ new name   item name

Place number   after name   Start numbers at   1

separated by   nothing   ☐ Make all numbers   2   digits long

Example: Item Name1.xxx

Results   Options   Description