body art + technology

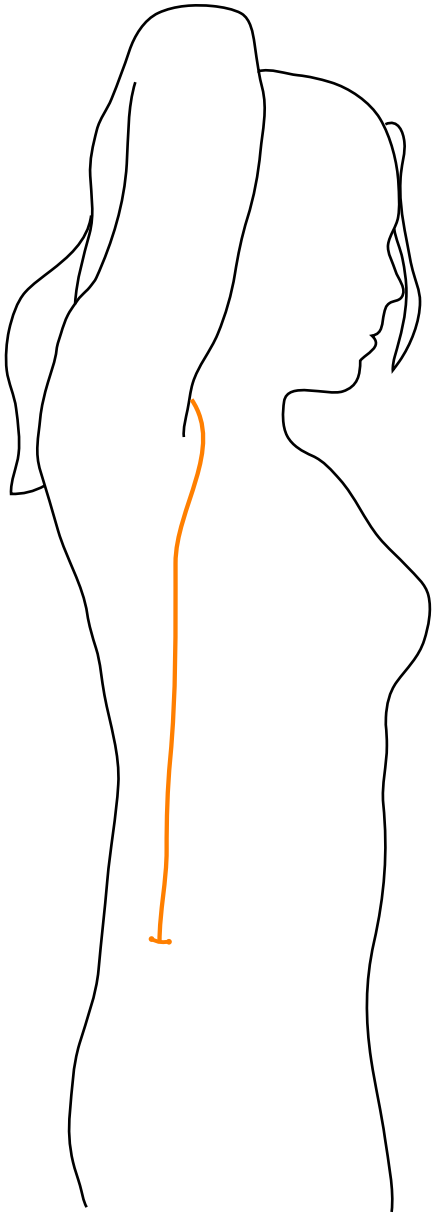
Conceived in fall 2003, body art + technology is a concept product for replacing headphone wires with a conductive ink tattoo. The entire product consists of three parts: (1) the conductive tattoo; (2) an earring with a built-in speaker that amplifies the sound; finally (3) an adhesive patch stuck to the wearer's skin transmits the sound into the tattoo.

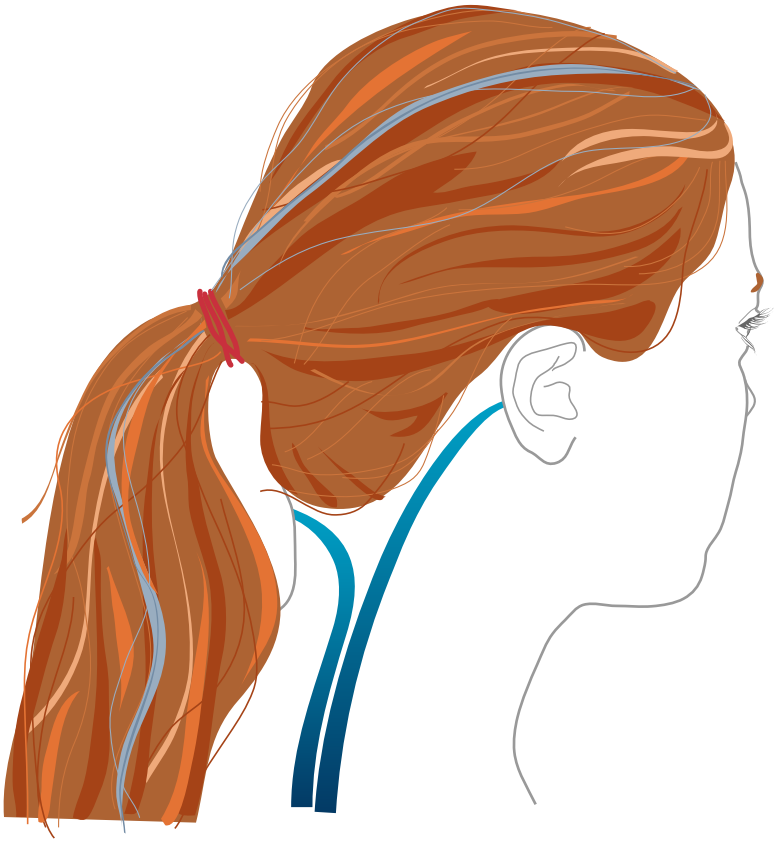
The product merges tattoos and body piercing, ancient forms of expression and decoration found throughout the world, with technology to create new meaning and function for both. The design of the tattoo and the piercing aestheticize the technology, imbuing its appearance with personal or cultural meaning.

After creating the concept I later read about Sony and Microsoft patents for similar projects:

> Microsoft Patents Body Power (Cnet.com) - http://tinyurl.com/2vgx6

> Sony sends sound through your skin (arstechnica.com) - http://tinyurl.com/yq9gae





GREG FULCO GETGREG@GMAIL.COM 314-283-7540

body art + technology

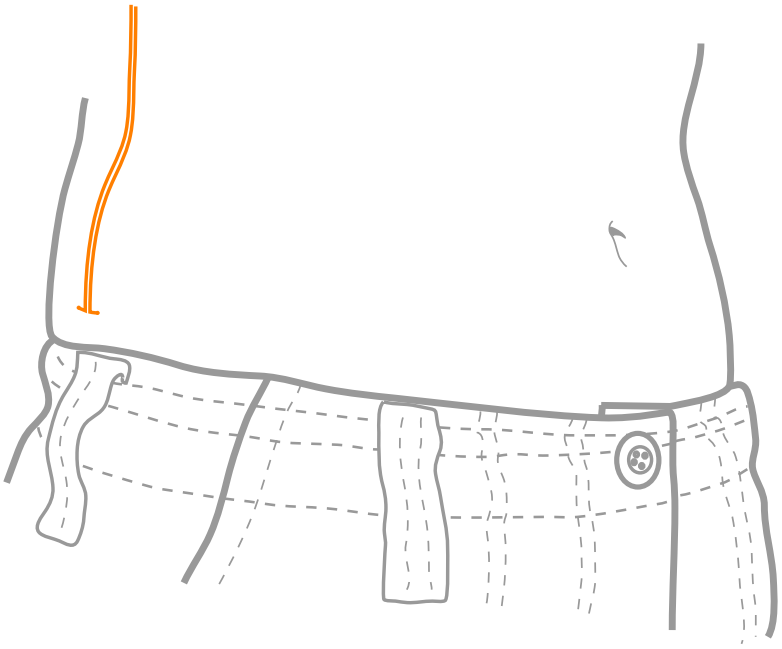


Fig. a

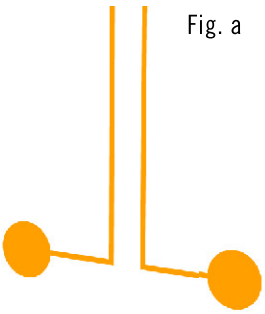


Fig. b

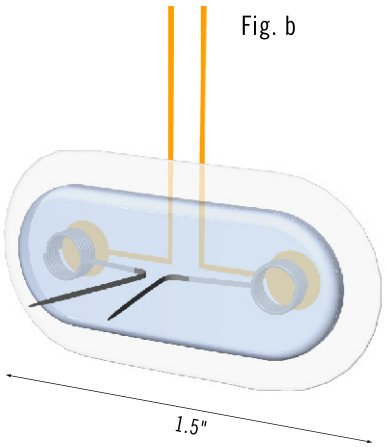
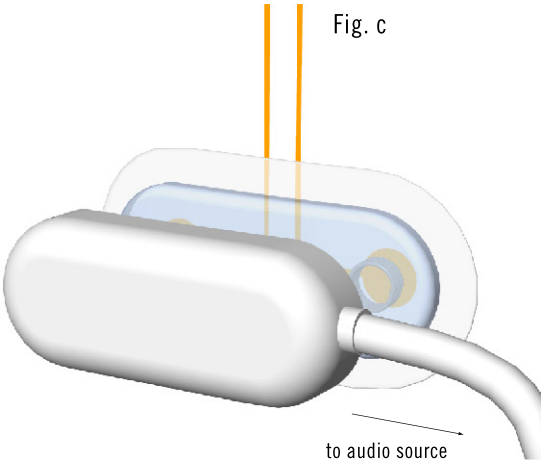


Fig. c



The tattoo begins with enlarged terminals (fig. a) which serve as the entry point for the audio signal. An adhesive patch (fig. b) is placed over the terminals and transmits the audio signal into the tattoo using magnetic induction. The prongs on the patch pierce through the user's cloths and connect to a stud (fig. c) which is wired directly to the audio source via a standard 1/8" audio cable.

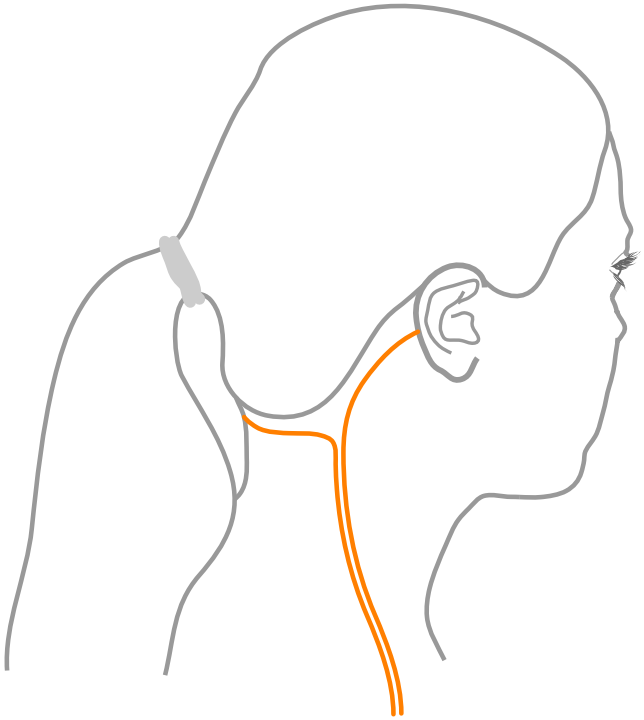
The tattoo terminals can be placed in one or multiple places, for instance: on the thigh directly behind a person's pocket, or the upper arm.

Fig. a
Start of tattoo with large terminals, additional terminals can be added as needed along the tattoo

Fig. b
Adhesive patch with coiled wires and prongs.

Fig. c
The stud which connects directly to the audio source.

body art + technology

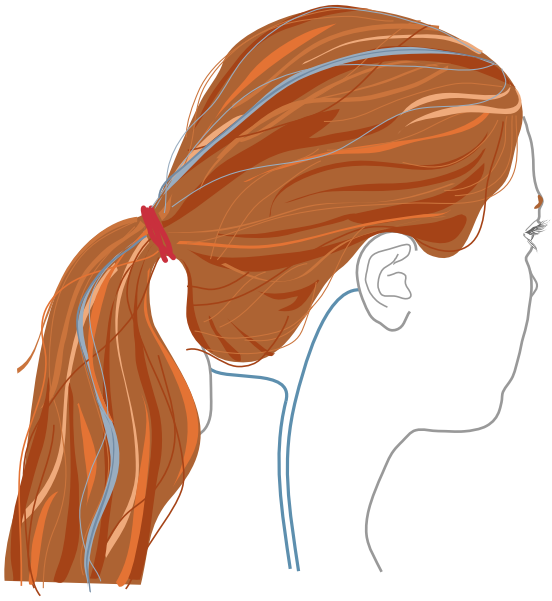


The tattoo ends behind the ear where the earring with built-in speaker pierces the tattoo and amplifies the sound.

GREG FULCO GETGREG@GMAIL.COM 314-283-7540

body art + technology

Tattoos can take any design and don't even need to be continuous as transparent conductive ink could be used to bridge any gaps.



GREG FULCO GETGREG@GMAIL.COM 314-283-7540