

David Cotterrell: Automotivation

Date: 8th August 2015

Materials:

Plywood, polycarbonate, brass and custom built 1/32 slot cars

An autonomous slot-car race track with 20-55 race cars micro-simulating patterns of behaviour within congested traffic systems

Automotivation takes its title from Sheffield-based Cabaret Voltaires 1984 Gasoline in Your Eye. Produced with the support of Sheffield Robotics, the work is based on traffic micro-simulation engines, which use parameters including Aggression, Gap Tolerance and Lane-Discipline to demonstrate how driving populations behave. Realised as database engines, these models are not neutral: they depend on programmers assumptions and judgments and pre-suppose that smoother flowing traffic is progressive. Automotivation demonstrates patterns of traffic flow like phantom roadblocks and mass tail-gating as a kinetic sculpture of 12m² of Scalextric-style track and 55 slot cars.

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