

Patrick Ellis

Spinning Around, Slowing Down
for Electric Guitar and Fixed Media

2025

Spinning Around, Slowing Down

Full Score

Duration:

Approximately 9 minutes

Instrumentation and Equipment:

Electric Guitar (with a Fidget Spinner)
Fixed Media
A DAW capable of live electronics (such as Ableton Live)
In ear monitor/earphones
Amplifier / interface / DI Box

Programme Note:

Spinning Around, Slowing Down is the fourth time that I have worked with the composer/guitarist, Chris Cresswell. Similar to the other three pieces and a lot of my other abstract works in general, the core of the piece is based around a singular idea or trait, which in this case, is the use of a fidget spinner over the guitar pickups.

Prior to composing the piece, I attended a Victor Hugo illustration exhibit at the Royal Academy of the Arts in the Spring of 2025. Captivated by several of the paintings, I was drawn to their general aesthetic and how it was reminiscent of something that was 'swampy' and in the undergrowth. Rather atypically for me, I was inspired to make another piece for Chris, loosely based on the idea of creating a sound world that felt like it was in the undergrowth. Months earlier, I had come across an Instagram reel that showed someone using a fidget spinner over a guitar pickup, creating a bassy, swell timbre. When thinking about my own sound associations with the word 'undergrowth', this immediately came to mind.

Performances Notes:

To produce a sound on the electric guitar using a fidget spinner, slowly move the spinner over the pickup.

In some cases, the score asks the performer to capture the sound, this achieved through a DAW that is capable of using live electronics (such as Ableton Live), when the captured sound needs to be played, it will be indicated in the lower of the two guitar staves.

The score is time based, in some cases, a written bar will cover a time range and at other times, it will be two seconds long in duration.

In the score, there are three types of notehead in the staff, these are related to the approximate pitch that should be produced. Please see below for each symbol and their meanings:

 Higher register drone

 Middle register drone

 Lower register drone

With thanks to:

Chris Cresswell, this is our fourth collaboration together and I'm grateful for the working relationship that we have built up together over the past ten or so years.

Spinning Around, Slowing Down

for Chris Cresswell

Patrick Ellis
2025

0:00 - 0:02 0:02 - 0:10 0:10 0:12 - 0:34

Electric Guitar

Fixed Media Cues

Low Synth Bass Drone at F#0 begins

Rhythmic Sample of Fidget Spinner

mp *mf*

0:34 -0:54 0:54 -1:02

5 **A**

E. Gtr.

Cues

Slowly move the fidget spinner over the pickup, once the sound has been established, capture it and then trigger at 1:00.

7 **B**

1:02 - 1:10 1:10 - 1:18 1:18 1:20 1:22 - 1:30

E. Gtr.

Cues

Trigger captured track here

Capture drone and then trigger it at 1:30

Pre-Recorded Fidget Spinner Drone

mf

12 **C**

1:30 1:32 1:34 1:36 1:38 1:40 1:42 - 1:48

E. Gtr.

Cues

Trigger the second capture here

Pre-Recorded Fidget Spinner Drone

mf

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D

19 1:48 1:50 1:52 1:54 1:56 1:58 - 2:08 2:08

E. Gtr.

Cues

Rhythmic Sample of Fidget Spinner

E 2:10-2:14 2:14-2:30 2:30 **F** 2:32

E. Gtr.

Cues

Trigger captured 1 (original pitch)

30 2:34 - 2:42 2:42 2:44

E. Gtr.

Cues

A series of Electronic Bass Drum Swells start here

33 2:46 2:48 2:50

E. Gtr.

Cues

36 **G** 2:52 - 3:22 **H** 3:22 - 3:28

E. Gtr.

Cues

Various Electronic Drum Swells with changing dynamics
Dynamics are representative over the time frame

A new bass drum swell begins here

38 3:28 - 3:42 **I** 3:42 - 3:48 3:48 - 3:58

E. Gtr.

Cues

Only the synth bass
and the fidget spinner rhythm sample
play in this time frame

A new bass drum swell begins here

41 3:58 - 4:24 4:24 - 4:32

E. Gtr.

Cues

A new bass drum swell begins here

A new bass drum swell begins here

J 4:32 - 4:38

43 Capture a portion of the drone
and use as a 4 beat 'glitch' from 4:50 4:38 - 4:44 4:44 - 4:50

E. Gtr.

Cues

A new bass drum swell begins here

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46 **K** 4:50 - 4:54 4:54 - 5:14 **L** 5:14 - 5:30

E. Gtr. Trigger 'glitch' capture

Cues *mp* *f*

Only the synth bass and the fidget spinner rhythm sample play in this time frame

49 **M** 5:30 - 5:42 5:42

E. Gtr.

Cues A new electronic bass drum swell begins here *mp*

51 5:44 5:46 5:48

E. Gtr.

Cues *f*

54 5:50 5:52 5:54

E. Gtr.

Cues *mp* *f*

A new electronic bass drum swell begins here, the previous written one fades out at 5:58

57 5:56 5:58

E. Gtr.

Cues

59 6:00 6:02

E. Gtr.

Cues

61 6:04 6:06

E. Gtr.

Cues

63 6:08 6:10 6:12

E. Gtr.

Cues

Stop the trigger at the end of this bar

Rhythmic fidget spinner sample and Synth Bass drone end

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (not written)

f

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66 6:14 6:16 6:18

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (not written)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (see written)

f

69 6:20 6:22 6:24 6:26

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (not written)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (not written)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

p

f

mf

73 6:28 6:30 6:32

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

Plays in one of the bass drum decreasing

f

mf

f

mp

76 6:34 6:36 6:38

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

f

mf

f

mf

f

79 6:40 6:42 6:44

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decrescendo begins here (written here)

mp *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

82 6:46 6:48 6:50

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decrescendo begins here (written here)

f *p* *f* *mf*

P 85 6:52 6:54 6:56

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decrescendo begins here (written here)

f *mf* *f* *mf*

88 6:58 7:00 7:02

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decrescendo begins here (written here)

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

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91 7:04 **Q** 7:06 7:08

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)
/ More instruments come in

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

94 7:10 7:12 7:14

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

97 7:16 7:18 7:20

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

100 7:22 **R** 7:24 7:26

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

The musical score is divided into four systems, each with a guitar (E. Gtr.) and cues track. The guitar track features a series of chords marked with vertical lines and slurs, indicating a slow, sustained progression. The cues track contains a series of eighth notes, with dynamic markings (p, f, mf, mp) and slurs indicating a decrescendo. The time markers are 7:04, 7:06, 7:08, 7:10, 7:12, 7:14, 7:16, 7:18, 7:20, 7:22, 7:24, and 7:26. The score is marked with 'Q' at 7:06 and 'R' at 7:24. The cues track also includes the text 'New electronic bass drum decreasing begins here (written here)' and 'More instruments come in' at 7:06.

103 7:28 7:30 7:32

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

106 7:34 7:36 7:38

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

f *p* *f* *mf*

109 7:40 S 7:42 7:44

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

f *mf* *f* *mp*

112 7:46 7:48 7:50

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

f *mp* *f*

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115 7:52 7:54 7:56

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

p *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

118 7:58

E. Gtr.

Electric Guitar Tacet until the end

8:00 8:02

Cues

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

f *mp* *f* *mf*

121 8:04 8:06 8:08

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

f *mf* *f* *p*

124 8:10 8:12 8:14

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

127 8:16 8:18 8:20

E. Gtr.

Cues

Heard in one of the electronic drum decrescendos

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

New electronic bass drum decrescendo begins here (written here)

mp *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

V

143 8:48 8:50 8:52

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decrescendo begins here (written here)

f *mf* *f* *mf*

W

146

8:54

8:56

8:58

E. Gtr.

Cues

New electronic bass drum
decreasing begins here (written here)

Rhythmic Fidget Spinner
Ends here

149

9:00

9:02

9:04

9:06

9:08

E. Gtr.

Cues

f *p* *mf*