



Music in Code

The Paper Roll: Organette

PAUL (VO):

This is a small organette (IV) it was designed for home use. It's a reed organ of sorts, in fact if I turn the handle you can hear the reeds sounding. Just like that.

RICHARD:

And where are the reeds?

PAUL (IV):

Well they're actually contained in this reading head. Each one of these small ports has a (OOV) tiny brass reed into it.

RICHARD (OOV):

And what makes them sound?

PAUL:

Well (IV) the handle is operating a set of bellows, which are generating suction. And in fact if I just draw this across my mouth and suck you'll get the, you'll get the idea of the mouth organ effect really.

RICHARD:

And how do we turn these notes on and off?

PAUL:

Well we use a sheet of perforated paper. In fact I have one here. The perforations in the paper quite literally act as valves or switches. Turning on and off the appropriate ports in the head and so the reeds are sounding in the correct order.

RICHARD:

And how does the paper move over the heads?

PAUL:

Well the handle is in fact operating a small pinch roller and as you turn it the roller is being driven and it is gripped, it's a bit like a mangle really, putting the washing through a mangle and the paper is slowly drawn through switching the vacuum source with the head, which contains the reeds.

CAPTION:

Organette
(modern reproduction)
Paul Watts
UK c.1980