



## Leverage

Eileen Simpson & Ben White

Artists Eileen Simpson and Ben White often work outside the gallery, preferring to work in other public spaces: online, in clubs, magazines, shops and cinemas. Most recently they established the [Open Music Archive](http://www.openmusicarchive.org) [www.openmusicarchive.org](http://www.openmusicarchive.org) a collaborative initiative to source, digitise and distribute out-of-copyright sound recordings.

Open Music Archive is situated within the current discourse surrounding notions of authorship, ownership and distribution, reanimated by a porting of Free/Libre and Open Source software models to wider creative production. It is open for all to use and contribute to. The archive collects creative works that are not owned by any one individual but held in commons by society. Much of the music that has fallen out of copyright, although legally in the public domain, is tied to physical media (for example gramophone records) and locked away in archives or private collections.

The aim of the archive is to digitise as much of this music as possible in order to free it from the constraints of a physical collection.

**Leverage** centres around the creation of a *copyleft* licensed 12 inch vinyl record containing a range of samples, beats and extracts from the archive in a format referencing scratch tools and battle records.

Battle records are explicitly designed as tools for DJs. Often the breaks, beats and samples collected on these records are created from tracks that are not officially licensed. In contrast, *Leverage* will feature rare recordings and new remix tracks, short vocal snippets, percussive noises, sounds, samples, breaks and beats – all in the public domain or *copyleft* licensed.

It is intended that the vinyl tool will enable future production that exists outside of the usual commercial and bootleg economies. **Leverage** is inserted into an existing network of production to prise open new possibilities.