Review feedback of "Colour Pot"

The Colour Pot seems like an interesting and well thought out project. Your description of the concept and goals are well thought through, and your usability goals and user experience goals are clear, providing the main content to take it further.

Feedback on the setup and concept

Why did you add yellow to the red, green and blue colors? Red, green and blue (RGB) are probably more appropriate since it is the simplest additive primary color system (light/screen based) [1]. However the use of RGB may raise confusion since most people are used to the classical and often learnt (kindergarten syllabus?) red yellow and blue subtractive color system (paint/ink based) [2].

As you self mention instead of using a projector you could try to use more natural light emitters as light bulbs, led lamps etc. There also exist strong disco lights that you can control with the DMX protocol. Strong lights of these would also decrease the need for a more dark room. And the discrete lights with only one color each could maybe help children understand the color mixing process.

We think that your simple operator based prototype will not give the immediate response when tapping the colored pads that may be needed to fully interact with the system. Your lo-fi prototype may work as a conceptual prototype but to test out the interaction with users/children it may fail. For instance if a user hold her/his foot over and want to wait before activating it, or want to express a rhythm with the pads, the operators would have huge problem following the steps as you experienced. A simple modification of the sensor interface of a dance mat could make a more interactive prototype.

We like your idea of having a setup where “The children just stumble upon the pads”. This will increase the (technology) transparency of the system and inspire the users to explore it without having to introduce the system to them. In this sense it would also be cultural independent. We will highly encourage you to explore this further.

To augment the system with music and auditory feedback also sounds like a good idea. Have you thought of any ideas how to use sounds that could increase the understanding of the system? One family of color pads could for instance trigger one type of sounds. If several of the same pads are tapped this sound could be increased in the same way as the colors do.

You mention that there probably are limitations to the number of simultaneous users. Did you experience if three was the right number for 20 pads?

Conclusion

We believe that the Colour Pot is a good project. In our opinion, the greatest challenges are in whether or not user will start using the system as intended and if they would understand it or just make multi media chaos with it. An improved prototype may be needed to fully study this.