

GRIS



Genre:	Platformer, Adventure
Publication date:	December 2018
Studio:	Nomada Studio
Analysis by:	Denise Meier, Léa Coquoz, Martin Hodler

1. Game Description

GRIS is an atmospheric platform video game. You hop into the role of Gris, a young girl dealing with a very painful experience in her life: grief. You accompany Gris on her journey through that experience and witness how her view on the world changes gradually. One of the key elements of Gris is its colors. We start in a greyscale world and slowly get the colors back, as well as the character capabilities.

Full walkthrough video (no commentary):

[GRIS walkthrough](#)

2. Sound Description

The character goes through a variety of emotions and environments, which are both translated into sound. Sadness, anger, fear, joy, love. Each setting has its own soundtrack and soundscape. In addition to that, key melodies and sound effects indicate important steps in the character's journey or guide it in the game world.

2.1 Atmospheric Soundtrack

Music has a great value in Gris and was developed hand-in-hand with the game, with the two thriving on each other. It emphasizes the emotions and different locations' atmosphere. The overall mood is dreamy, but stays dynamic as it adapts to the player's actions. As the player enters a puzzle area, the music switches from intense or emotional to more discreet to let the player concentrate. If it passes through a zone and passes again but with new elements, the music also changes. When we look at the waveform of the music, most of it is alternating melodies and silences, which makes it easy to loop a certain part until the player reaches a point where the music continues until the next loop seamlessly and so on. Everything can be adapted in order to have the perfect timing.



	Soundtracks	Soundscape
Mainhub	meridian.mp3	
Grey	debris.mp3	soundscape_grey.mp3 soundscape_grey2.mp3
Desert	perseverance.mp3 windmill.mp3	soundscape_desert.mp3 soundscape_desertwind.mp3 soundscape_abyss.mp3
Forest	komorebi.mp3 environments.mp3	soundscapeforest.mp3
Water	ascension.mp3 descent.mp3	soundscape_water.mp3 soundscape_water.wav soundscape_water2.mp3
Sky	firmament.mp3	soundscape_sky.mp3

Silence has frequently, yet in a clever way, been used in Gris. After intense moments to allow the player to cool down or before important moments to create anticipation and make the player more attentive. Because music and sound has so much importance during the game, silence also is powerful, contrasting with the bewitching music and immersive soundscapes.

2.2 Perception-based

A lot of the character's movements will produce a sound. They adapt to the material the character is on and to the architecture of the scene, whether it's a cave, an empty building, a forest or underwater.

walk cycles

In a more discreet manner, many ambient sounds will be triggered with the character's movements (and not its actions), adding to the immersion and density of the environment.

Ambient Sounds

Birds	birdflyaway.mp3
Mushrooms	mushroomssqueak.mp3
Bells	bellring.mp3
Water	splash.wav

Fan	fanopening.mp3
-----	--------------------------------

2.3 Related to (inter)action - sound?

Every action the player performs triggers a sound which adds fluidity and gives a sensation of good responsiveness from the controls.

Controls

Jump	grisjump.mp3
Land	fallland.mp3
Box	grisbox.wav
Stone Rustling	stonerustling.mp3
Slide	slidebranch.mp3
Fly	grisfly.wav
Swim	grisswim.wav
Sing	grissing.wav

2.4 Related to communication with player

Using no text in the game, Gris relies a lot on visuals and sound to deliver messages to the player, give it feedback or warnings. On her journey, the character collects glowing orbs which we will call stars. They have their own distinct range of sounds which give the player feedback on some status.

Stars

Close to Star	starclose.mp3
Picked Up	starcollected.mp3
Stars Missing	starmissing.wav
Stars Filling In	startoskymainhub.mp3

Another element Gris can encounter is mementos, representing memories. They are collectable which activate as you pass in front of it.

Memento

Memento Activated	memento.mp3
-------------------	-----------------------------

As said previously, Gris is getting colors and abilities back on her way. As the small cutscene is played, a distinct melody is played.

Progress Milestones

New Colour	opaque.mp3 lift.mp3 sparks.mp3 symmetry.mp3
------------	--

New Ability	newability.mp3
-------------	--------------------------------

There is no real enemy in Gris but we can identify a threatening figure, under the form of a shapeshifting black substance. It follows the character and appears from time to time, with a characteristic theme and orchestration.

Black Substance

Soundtrack	comparison.mp3
Soundtrack	karasu.mp3
Soundtrack	tobu.mp3
Soundtrack	unagi.mp3

It also has a strong identity in the sound fx used for it. Very low, deep growling and rumbling when it's moving and a chilling scream, broken voice coming from deep down. This figure has its own language and is then simple to apprehend for the player.

Black Substance

Scream	blackscreech.wav
Destruction	blackdestroy.mp3
Substance	blacksubstance.mp3

At two steps of the game, a mechanic consists of a repetitive, regular event the player has to deal with. Both are pre-announced to warn the player so it can have the correct timing. The change of gravity also is symbolised by a sound.

Timing Mechanic

Sandstorm	orgueprevent.mp3
Freezing	icecrackling.mp3
Change of Gravity	upsidedown.mp3

2.5 Related to space

For every section of the game Gris uses music which fits every surrounding of the game. Beside the beautiful soundtrack it uses sometimes a bit more sometimes a bit less environmental sounds like leaves, thunder, wind or little animals which you can hear in the woods. Even if the player doesn't travel the same location twice it has its own landmarks. Somebody who played the game can tell in which part of the game which ambient was played if they can listen to it.

2.6 Related to narration & dramaturgy

Like mentioned in section 2.1 *Atmospheric Soundtrack* Gris uses silence and music to create tension or to relax the player. A player can tell just from the audio if something is going to happen or if he/she has time to overcome a puzzle.

epilogue, prologue

3. Personal Conclusion

4. Comparison to LIMBO

From:

<https://wiki.zhdk.ch/gamesoundopedia/> - **game sound dokumentation**

Permanent link:

<https://wiki.zhdk.ch/gamesoundopedia/doku.php?id=gris&rev=1591283859>

Last update: **2020/06/04 17:17**

