

# The Last of Us



Genre:	Action-Adventure / Survival-Horror
Release Year:	2013
Studio:	Naughty Dog
Analysis by:	Joachim Merchie & Jan Hobi

## 1. About the Game

Set in the post-apocalyptic United States, the game tells the story of survivors Joel and Ellie as they work together to survive their journey across the country to find a possible cure for the modern fungal plague that has nearly decimated the entire human race.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W01L70IGBgE>

The Last of Us received a [Part II](#) sequel in 2020.

## 2. Sound Analysis

### 2.1 Introduction

Like in many other games, in The Last of Us, the player is treated like an actor walking on a stage full of props. All the characters, enemies, environments change as the player interacts with them, therefore these changes should also be reflected in the soundscape. Naughty Dog uses Systems that go hand in hand and layer sound on top of each other to create a narrative tool that allows an extremely fluid experience.

The overall soundscape of the game is fairly minimalistic. Of course, the technical side of it is huge but the actual variety and theme of sounds have a strict and coherent purpose. In some moments the game is stripped of almost every sound and in others, the action is enhanced through a variety of dramatic tunes, without being overloaded. The concept of subtracting and negative space is used a lot throughout the sounds of the game, a simplistic and minimal approach to achieve the exact emotions the creators want the players to have.

To keep this analysis in a reasonable size, I focused on the main aspects of the gameplay sounds.

2.2 Environment

Footsteps	<a href="#">environment_sound_footsteps_dry_wood.mp3</a>
Footsteps change	<a href="#">environment_sound_footsteps_from_wet_to_dry.mp3</a>
Inside to outdoor	<a href="#">environment_sound_inside_to_outdoor.mp3</a>
Pick up single screw	<a href="#">environment_sound_pickup_metal_screws.mp3</a>
Pick up multiple screws	<a href="#">environment_sound_pickup_multiple_metal_screws.mp3</a>
Pick up wood plank	<a href="#">environment_sound_pickup_wood_plank.mp3</a>

2.3 Enemies

Runner	<a href="#">enemies_runner_sound_idle.mp3</a>
Stalker	<a href="#">enemies_stalker_sound_idle.mp3</a>
Clicker	<a href="#">enemies_clicker_sound_idle.mp3</a>
Bloater	<a href="#">enemies_bloater_sound_idle.mp3</a>

2.4 Communication

Danger	<a href="#">communication_sound_danger.mp3</a>
Tutorial pop-up	<a href="#">communication_sound_tutorial.mp3</a>
Button press prompt	<a href="#">communication_sound_danger.mp3</a>

Feedback

Open inventory	<a href="#">communication_sound_danger.mp3</a>
Inside inventory	<a href="#">communication_sound_danger.mp3</a>
Upgrade	<a href="#">communication_sound_danger.mp3</a>
Crafting	<a href="#">communication_sound_danger.mp3</a>
Swap weapon	<a href="#">communication_sound_danger.mp3</a>

2.5 Personal Conclusion

3. Comparison

3.1 Conclusion

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