

# Screching Sound Irritation Is Perception Based

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Submitted by **Elina Needham** on Sat, 11/05/2011 - 10:30 **Health** **TNM** **Research**



There is lot of [difference](#) 1 retweet between [listening music and](#) screching sound of fingernails on chalkboard. Difference could be seen on [the face of](#) listener, level of irritation gets raised when one hears screching of fingernails, but feeling of [relaxation](#) comes when hears music.

**Researcher** Michael Oehler from [University of Cologne](#) [in Germany](#) has tried to [present](#) an explanation for this situation. He said in case of certain sounds, like sound of fingernails or

chalk scraping on a chalkboard gets amplified inn such a way that irritation level of that sound gets elevated.

Increased level of irritation could lead [to stress](#) and the level would rise with increase in the rate of sound. Michael, who is also professor of media and music management, was of the view that screching sound strikes the ear at maximum frequency, between 2000 and 4000 hertz.

This level is quite high for human ear, and to avoid the sound, the ear canal works in a particular manner which rather than reducing the frequency, enhances the sound even more. One solution, which was devised by Oehler, was that pitch of the sound should be reduced and then the sound disturbance could sound bearable.

He knows pitch should be reduced but to what level, he has no idea and would require further research in that regard. The study would be presented at the annual meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, which would take place [in San Diego](#), this week.

One of the important things that have been mentioned in this research is `perception'. Attitudes do matter, and to prove that he conducted an experiment, in which he recorded the sound of chalk scratching on the board and asked people to listen it.

Difference was that one group was told that it is contemporary music and other group was told that it screching of chalk on the board. Pleasantness was more in the case of group, who listened to it as music.

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