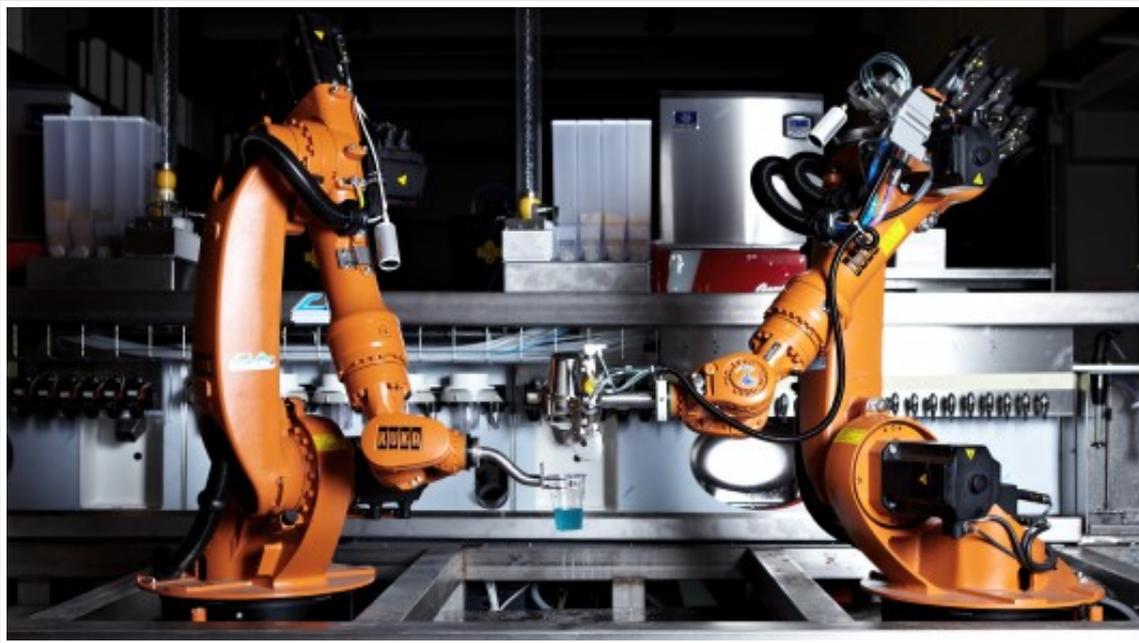


Makr Shakr: MIT's Robotic Bartender That Creates Crowd-Sourced Cocktails

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Debating at the Google I/O Annual Developer Conference in San Francisco on Wednesday, MIT's Makr Shakr robotic bartender – a world's first by all means – could possibly be the coolest robot drink-mixing system to hang out with in the near future.

Collaborating with Coca-Cola and Bacardi Rum, researchers at the MIT Senseable City Lab designed the Makr Shakr mixology system which allows users to create in real-time personalized cocktail recipes through a smart phone application and transform them into crowd-sourced drink combinations.

The Makr Shakr utilizes technology from Coca Cola's Freestyle beverage dispenser, which can dispense over a hundred different mixtures of sodas. Using the App, the users can order their own alcoholic and nonalcoholic bespoke drinks complete with suitable garnishes, which the robots will produce with a bit of standard shaker work using specially designed manipulators and then serve it up while a screen behind them keeps track of the action.

The Makr Shakr incorporates three robot arms, all working in total harmony with each other, with special attachments and a programmable mixing system that makes drinks and hand them out by means of a set of conveyor belts.

"Makr Shakr is a great example of how digital technologies are changing the interaction between people and products – a topic that our laboratory has been exploring in great depth," said Carlo Ratti, director of the MIT Senseable City Lab. "The system explores the new dynamics of social creation and consumption – 'design, make and enjoy' – allowing users to design their own cocktail creations, while digitally controlled machines transform these designs into reality."

Though the Makr Shakr won't listen to your problems or offer its thoughts on last night's game or be your best drinking partner, researchers say that the in-development robot drink-mixing system would be soon made to monitor alcohol consumption and blood alcohol levels, with an aim to promote responsible drinking.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=gdvfDTZcHQM