

Test Report

SPONSOR: **Catalyst Acoustics Group**
Agawam, MA

Sound Absorption
RAL™-A20-351

CONDUCTED: 2020-08-26

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ON: PET Diagonal Baffle (4 objects in rectangular array)

TEST METHODOLOGY

Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories™ is accredited by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) as an ISO 17025:2017 Laboratory (NVLAP Lab Code: 100227-0) and for this test procedure. The test reported in this document conformed explicitly with ASTM C423-17: "Standard Test Method for Sound Absorption and Sound Absorption Coefficients by the Reverberation Room Method." The specimen mounting was performed according to ASTM E795-16: "Standard Practices for Mounting Test Specimens During Sound Absorption Tests." A description of the measurement procedure and room specifications are available upon request. The results presented in this report apply to the sample as received from the test sponsor.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SPONSOR

The test specimen was designated by the sponsor as PET Diagonal Baffle (4 objects in rectangular array). The following nominal product information was provided by the sponsor prior to testing. The accuracy of such sponsor-provided information can affect the validity of the test results.

Product Under Test

Trade Name: Waffle Baf1 47" x 47
Material: Polyethylene terephthalate felt
Manufacturer: Catalyst Acoustics Group

SPECIMEN MEASUREMENTS & TEST CONDITIONS

Through a full external visual inspection performed on the test specimen, Riverbank personnel verified the following information:

Test Specimen

Material: Assembled semirigid felt paneling
Dimensions: 4 @ 1193.8 mm (47 in.) x 1193.8 mm (47 in.)
Overall Depth: 304.8 mm (12 in.)
Key Geometry: Individual felt panels @ 9 mm (0.354 in.) thick each
Five (5) diagonal members oriented 45° from perimeter members
Central diagonal member flush with major diagonal of square formed by perimeter members
Diagonal members spaced 279.4 mm (11 in.) on center
38.1 mm (1.5 in.) wide 90° elbow features on sides of all members
Overall Weight: 19.39 kg (42.75 lbs)

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Physical Measurements (per object)

Dimensions: 1.19 m (47.0 in) wide by 1.19 m (47.0 in) long
Thickness: 0.3 m (12.0 in)
Weight: 4.85 kg (10.7 lbs)

Test Environment

Room Volume: 291.98 m³
Temperature: 22.7 °C ± 0.0 °C (Requirement: ≥ 10 °C and ≤ 5 °C change)
Relative Humidity: 58.65 % ± 0.5 % (Requirement: ≥ 40 % and ≤ 5 % change)
Barometric Pressure: 98.8 kPa (Requirement not defined)

Each sound absorbing object had an absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of 7.32 m² (78.80 ft²). The total absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of all sound-absorbing objects was 29.28 m² (315.21 ft²). The array of objects covered 8.48 m² (91.28 ft²) of the horizontal test surface (total treated area).

MOUNTING METHOD

Type J Mounting: The specimen is an array of 4 spaced sound absorbing objects suspended atop an array of cables such that the closest face of the objects is located approximately 1.52 m (60.0 in.) from the horizontal test surface. This approximates the mounting method of a typical ceiling baffle installation. The objects were distributed into 2 rows of 2, with rows spaced 0.76 m (30 in.) apart, and with the objects in each row spaced 0.3 m (12 in.) apart.

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Figure 1 – Specimen mounted in test chamber



Figure 2 – Underside of specimen in test chamber

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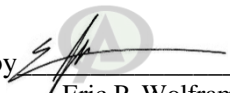
TEST RESULTS

Note: There is currently no standardized method for calculating Absorption Coefficients from spaced object absorbers. The sound absorption performance of spaced object absorbers should not be compared directly with specimens tested as a single rectangular area (e.g. mounting types A, E, etc.).

1/3 Octave Center Frequency (Hz)	Total Absorption		Absorption per Object	
	(m ²)	(Sabins)	(m ² / Object)	(Sabins / Object)
100	1.47	15.82	0.37	3.96
** 125	2.44	26.27	0.61	6.57
160	2.68	28.85	0.67	7.21
200	3.83	41.25	0.96	10.31
** 250	4.20	45.24	1.05	11.31
315	4.80	51.65	1.20	12.91
400	5.41	58.22	1.35	14.56
** 500	5.80	62.39	1.45	15.60
630	6.28	67.62	1.57	16.90
800	6.99	75.21	1.75	18.80
** 1000	7.88	84.81	1.97	21.20
1250	8.82	94.95	2.21	23.74
1600	9.77	105.20	2.44	26.30
** 2000	10.67	114.83	2.67	28.71
2500	11.49	123.69	2.87	30.92
3150	11.69	125.84	2.92	31.46
** 4000	12.41	133.57	3.10	33.39
5000	12.65	136.13	3.16	34.03

Tested by 
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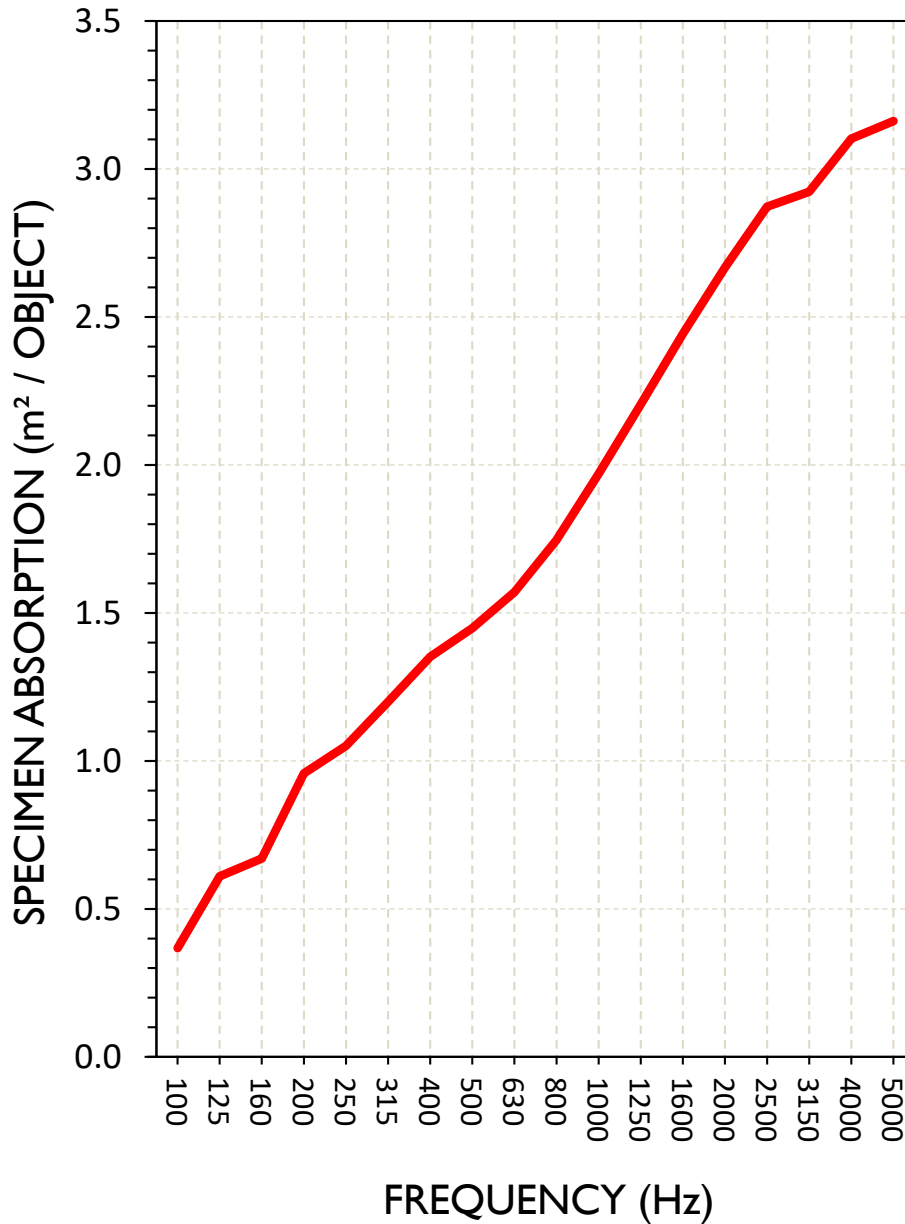
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SOUND ABSORPTION REPORT
PET Diagonal Baffle (4 objects in rectangular array)



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APPENDIX A: Extended Frequency Range Data

Specimen: PET Diagonal Baffle (4 objects in rectangular array) (See Full Report)

The following non-accredited data were obtained in accordance with ASTM C423-17, but extend beyond the defined frequency range of 100Hz to 5,000Hz. These unofficial results are representative of the RAL test environment only and intended for research & comparison purposes.

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequency (Hz)	Total Absorption		Absorption per Object	
	(m ²)	(Sabins)	(m ² / Object)	(Sabins / Object)
31.5	1.74	18.76	0.44	4.69
40	-0.03	-0.31	-0.01	-0.08
50	-0.67	-7.21	-0.17	-1.80
63	0.93	9.98	0.23	2.50
80	1.55	16.68	0.39	4.17
100	1.47	15.82	0.37	3.96
125	2.44	26.27	0.61	6.57
160	2.68	28.85	0.67	7.21
200	3.83	41.25	0.96	10.31
250	4.20	45.24	1.05	11.31
315	4.80	51.65	1.20	12.91
400	5.41	58.22	1.35	14.56
500	5.80	62.39	1.45	15.60
630	6.28	67.62	1.57	16.90
800	6.99	75.21	1.75	18.80
1000	7.88	84.81	1.97	21.20
1250	8.82	94.95	2.21	23.74
1600	9.77	105.20	2.44	26.30
2000	10.67	114.83	2.67	28.71
2500	11.49	123.69	2.87	30.92
3150	11.69	125.84	2.92	31.46
4000	12.41	133.57	3.10	33.39
5000	12.65	136.13	3.16	34.03
6300	12.97	139.65	3.24	34.91
8000	13.59	146.29	3.40	36.57
10000	13.84	148.94	3.46	37.23
12500	14.49	155.97	3.62	38.99

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APPENDIX B: Instruments of Traceability

Specimen: PET Diagonal Baffle (4 objects in rectangular array) (See Full Report)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Date of Certification</u>	<u>Calibration Due</u>
System 1	Type 3160-A-042	3160-106968	2020-06-26	2021-06-26
Bruel & Kjaer Mic And Preamp A	Type 4943-B-001	2311428	2019-09-27	2020-09-27
Bruel & Kjaer Sound Level Calibrator	Type 4230	861609	2019-11-19	2020-11-19
Omega Digital Temp., Humid. And Pressure Recorder	OM-CP-PRHTemp2000	P97844	2020-02-18	2021-02-18

APPENDIX C: Revisions to Original Test Report

Specimen: PET Diagonal Baffle (4 objects in rectangular array) (See Full Report)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Revision</u>
2020-09-03	Original report issued

END

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ON: PET Diagonal Baffle (4 objects in rectangular array) (See Full Test Report for Details)

Appendix D to ASTM C423 Sound Absorption Test

Non-standard calculation of equivalent NRC Rating and Absorption Coefficients from spaced absorbers

At this time ASTM C423 does not provide a standard method for determining absorption coefficients of spaced object absorbers. Tests of a set of sound absorbing objects spaced apart from each other will yield higher absorption rates than a specimen joined together as a single patch (A-Mount or E-Mount). For this reason it is unfair to provide NRC or absorption coefficient ratings for specimens that consist of a spaced set of absorbers. Despite this, the architectural industry has expressed great demand for a simple "single number" rating for these treatments. Likewise, acoustical consultants desire equivalent absorption coefficient data for use in acoustical modeling software. The following is an attempt to appease these demands until ASTM develops a standard method for calculation. Several alternate non-standard calculation methods are provided. Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories prefers method 1.

Method 1) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from total test surface area covered

The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the total surface area of the test surface covered by the suspended objects, including intermediate spaces. The object rigging covered 8.48 m² (91.28 ft²) of horizontal test surface area. With an extra 304.8 mm (12 in.) of width and 762 mm (30 in.) of length to account for the space between the tested array and what would be the next object in a larger array, the surface area comes to 11.72 m² (126.19 ft²). Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating and Sound Absorption Average (SAA) figures are calculated from this data based on the methods described in ASTM C423-17. This may be the most accurate method for comparing object arrays to ceiling tile products. The apparent sound absorption coefficient data can be assigned to a single horizontal surface or plane in acoustical modeling software for approximation of object array performance. Such approximations rely on the assumptions that object spacing is similar to that of the tested array across the entire surface and that the installation occurs over a perfectly reflective surface material.

Method 2) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from total exposed surface area of specimen

The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the total surface area of all exposed specimen faces (7.32 m² (78.80 ft²) per object x 4 objects = 29.28 m² (315.21 ft²) total surface area). Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating and Sound Absorption Average (SAA) figures are calculated from this data based on the methods described in ASTM C423-17. This method shows the actual absorption occurring at the exposed surfaces, but does not provide a fair comparison with materials mounted as a uniform patch (in A-mount or E-mount).

Method 3) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from one face per object

The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the surface area of one side of one large face for each object in the specimen (1.43 m² (15.34 ft²) per object x 4 objects = 5.70 m² (61.36 ft²) total surface area). Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating and Sound Absorption Average (SAA) figures are calculated from this data based on the methods described in ASTM C423-17. This method is favored by some material manufacturers since it yields very high NRC figures, but does not provide a fair comparison with other ceiling tile or wall panel products. Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories recommends that results obtained from this method be used for research and comparison purposes only; such results should not be used for marketed claims of product performance.

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Appendix D: Data Note: See full test report for details of mounting position, spacing, and configuration, as these parameters greatly affect sound absorption performance.

Specimen Absorption			Method 1	Method 2	Method 3	
			Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Coverage Area	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Exposed Surface Area	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From One Face/Object	
Freq. (Hz)	Sabins	Sabins / Object				
31.5	18.76	4.69	0.15	0.06	0.31	
40	-0.31	-0.08	0.00	0.00	-0.01	
50	-7.21	-1.80	-0.06	-0.02	-0.12	
63	9.98	2.50	0.08	0.03	0.16	
80	16.68	4.17	0.13	0.05	0.27	
100	15.82	3.96	0.13	0.05	0.26	
125	26.27	6.57	0.21	0.08	0.43	
160	28.85	7.21	0.23	0.09	0.47	
200	41.25	10.31	0.33	0.13	0.67	
250	45.24	11.31	0.36	0.14	0.74	
315	51.65	12.91	0.41	0.16	0.84	
400	58.22	14.56	0.46	0.18	0.95	
500	62.39	15.60	0.49	0.20	1.02	
630	67.62	16.90	0.54	0.21	1.10	
800	75.21	18.80	0.60	0.24	1.23	
1,000	84.81	21.20	0.67	0.27	1.38	
1,250	94.95	23.74	0.75	0.30	1.55	
1,600	105.20	26.30	0.83	0.33	1.71	
2,000	114.83	28.71	0.91	0.36	1.87	
2,500	123.69	30.92	0.98	0.39	2.02	
3,150	125.84	31.46	1.00	0.40	2.05	
4,000	133.57	33.39	1.06	0.42	2.18	
5,000	136.13	34.03	1.08	0.43	2.22	
6,300	139.65	34.91	1.11	0.44	2.28	
8,000	146.29	36.57	1.16	0.46	2.38	
10,000	148.94	37.23	1.18	0.47	2.43	
12,500	155.97	38.99	1.24	0.49	2.54	
			Apparent NRC:	0.60	0.25	1.25
			Apparent SAA:	0.61	0.24	1.26

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