

Test Report

SPONSOR: **Axis Lighting Inc.**
Lasalle, Québec, Canada

Sound Absorption
RAL™-A19-187

CONDUCTED: 2019-05-16

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ON: Soft Zone Stencil

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 17025:2005 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 Soft Zone Stencil. 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: Soft Zone Stencil
Manufacturer: Axis Lighting Inc.
Materials: Polyethylene terephthalate felt, 9 mm (0.354 in.) thick
Painted aluminum frame, acrylic bottom lens

SPECIMEN MEASUREMENTS & TEST CONDITIONS

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

Test Specimen

Materials: Semirigid felt panels with aluminum angle, aluminum frames
Dimensions: Felt panels, 4 @ 1186 mm (46.69 in.) x 1186 mm (46.69 in.)
Frames, 4 @ 1249 mm (49.19 in.) x 1249 mm (49.19 in.)
Thickness: Felt panels, 4 @ 9 mm (0.354 in.)
Frames, 4 @ 50.8 mm (2 in.)
Assembly: Panels fastened to inner perimeter of frames
Overall Weight: 39.12 kg (86.25 lbs)

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Physical Measurements (per unit)

Dimensions: 1.25 m (49.187 in) wide by 1.25 m (49.187 in) long
Thickness: 0.05 m (2.0 in)
Weight: 9.78 kg (21.56 lbs)

Test Environment

Room Volume: 291.98 m³
Temperature: 21.2 °C ± 0.1 °C (Requirement: ≥ 10 °C and ≤ 5 °C change)
Relative Humidity: 61.5 % ± 0.6 % (Requirement: ≥ 40 % and ≤ 5 % change)
Barometric Pressure: 98.4 kPa (Requirement not defined)

Each sound absorbing unit had an absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of 3.38 m² (36.34 ft²). The total absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of all sound-absorbing units was 13.50 m² (145.34 ft²). The array of units covered 9.50 m² (102.24 ft²) of the horizontal test surface (total treated area).

MOUNTING METHOD

Type J Mounting: The specimen is an array of 4 spaced sound absorbing fixtures suspended from cables such that the closest face of the fixtures is located approximately 1321 mm (52 in.) from the horizontal test surface. This approximates the mounting method of a typical ceiling baffle installation. The fixtures were arranged in a rectangular array, spaced 50.8 mm (2 in.) apart and 1244.6 mm (49 in.) apart in the respective dimensions.

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Figure 1 – Specimen mounted in test chamber



Figure 2 – Individual felt panel prior to mounting in fixture frame

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Figure 3 – Detail of frame edges, prior to installation of felt panel



Figure 4 – Underside of installed test specimen

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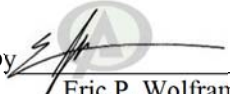
TEST RESULTS

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 Unit	
	(m ²)	(Sabins)	(m ² / Unit)	(Sabins / Unit)
100	3.30	35.51	0.82	8.88
** 125	3.92	42.19	0.98	10.55
160	2.27	24.41	0.57	6.10
200	3.83	41.25	0.96	10.31
** 250	4.08	43.92	1.02	10.98
315	4.63	49.88	1.16	12.47
400	4.88	52.51	1.22	13.13
** 500	5.32	57.22	1.33	14.31
630	5.41	58.28	1.35	14.57
800	5.94	63.91	1.48	15.98
** 1000	6.23	67.11	1.56	16.78
1250	6.54	70.44	1.64	17.61
1600	6.96	74.96	1.74	18.74
** 2000	7.41	79.75	1.85	19.94
2500	7.89	84.95	1.97	21.24
3150	8.07	86.86	2.02	21.72
** 4000	7.96	85.68	1.99	21.42
5000	8.13	87.53	2.03	21.88

Tested by 
Marc Sciaky
Senior Experimentalist

Report by 
Malcolm Kelly
Test Engineer, Acoustician

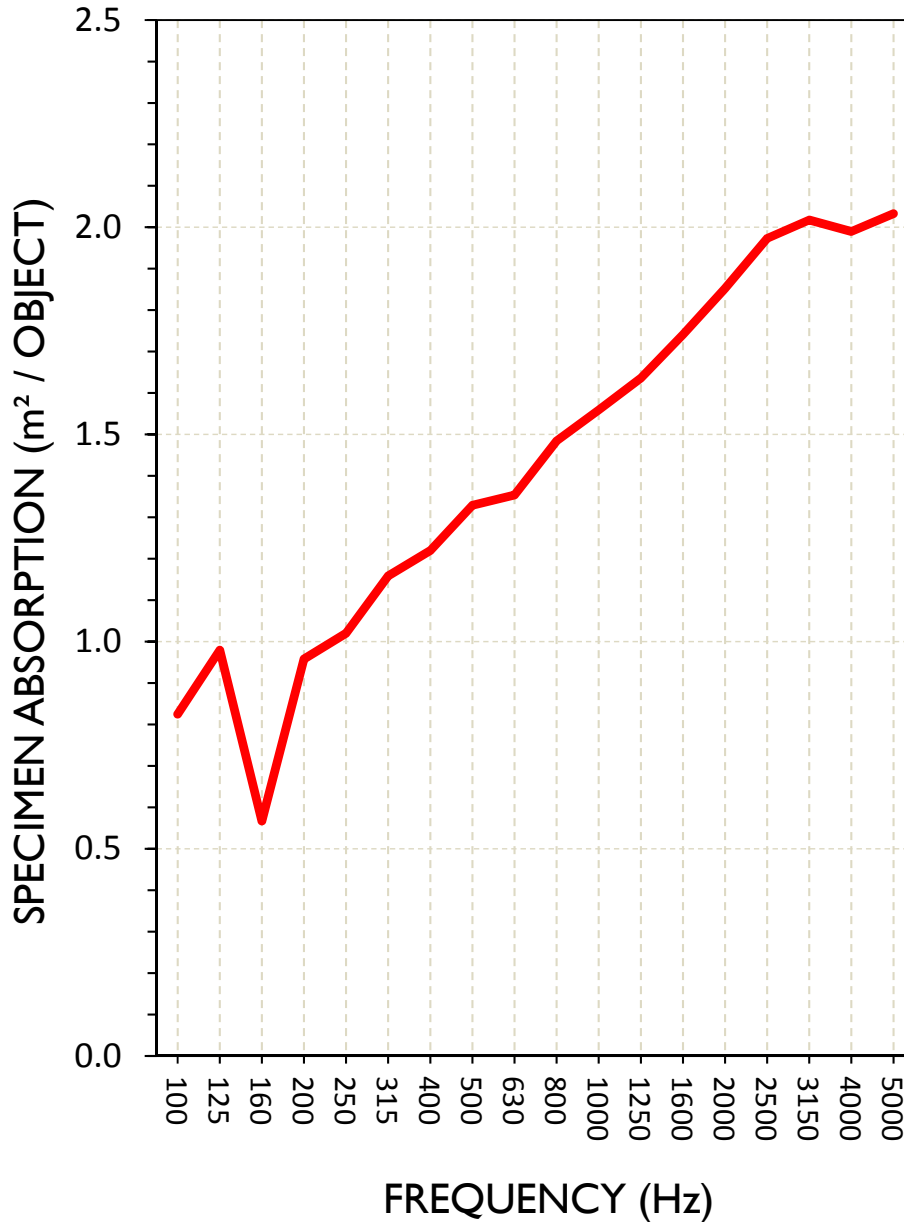
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APPENDIX A: Extended Frequency Range Data

Specimen: Soft Zone Stencil (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 Unit	
	(m ²)	(Sabins)	(m ² / Unit)	(Sabins / Unit)
31.5	0.00	-0.03	0.00	-0.01
40	-1.40	-15.04	-0.35	-3.76
50	0.59	6.34	0.15	1.59
63	2.13	22.95	0.53	5.74
80	3.76	40.49	0.94	10.12
100	3.30	35.51	0.82	8.88
125	3.92	42.19	0.98	10.55
160	2.27	24.41	0.57	6.10
200	3.83	41.25	0.96	10.31
250	4.08	43.92	1.02	10.98
315	4.63	49.88	1.16	12.47
400	4.88	52.51	1.22	13.13
500	5.32	57.22	1.33	14.31
630	5.41	58.28	1.35	14.57
800	5.94	63.91	1.48	15.98
1000	6.23	67.11	1.56	16.78
1250	6.54	70.44	1.64	17.61
1600	6.96	74.96	1.74	18.74
2000	7.41	79.75	1.85	19.94
2500	7.89	84.95	1.97	21.24
3150	8.07	86.86	2.02	21.72
4000	7.96	85.68	1.99	21.42
5000	8.13	87.53	2.03	21.88
6300	8.43	90.78	2.11	22.69
8000	8.50	91.54	2.13	22.89
10000	8.92	95.98	2.23	24.00
12500	8.95	96.29	2.24	24.07

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APPENDIX B: Instruments of Traceability

Specimen: Soft Zone Stencil (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	System 1	2018-08-09	2019-08-09
Bruel & Kjaer Mic And Preamp A	Type 4943-B-001	2311428	2018-09-28	2019-09-28
Bruel & Kjaer Pistonphone	Type 4228	2781248	2018-08-06	2019-08-06
EXTECH Hygro 662	SD700	A083662	2018-11-29	2019-11-29

APPENDIX C: Revisions to Original Test Report

Specimen: Soft Zone Stencil (See Full Report)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Revision</u>
2019-05-31	Original report issued

END

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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 fixtures, including intermediate spaces. The fixture rigging covered 9.50 m² (102.24 ft²) of horizontal test surface area. With an extra 50.8 mm (2 in.) of width and 1244.6 mm (49 in.) of length to account for the space between the tested array and what would be the next fixture in a larger array, the surface area comes to 12.93 m² (139.16 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 fixture 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 fixture array performance. Such approximations rely on the assumptions that fixture spacing is similar to that of the tested array and that the installation occurs over a perfectly reflective ceiling surface.

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 (3.38 m² (36.34 ft²) per fixture x 4 fixtures = 13.50 m² (145.34 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 fixture

The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the surface area of one side of one large face for each fixture in the specimen (1.56 m² (16.80 ft²) per fixture x 4 fixtures = 6.24 m² (67.21 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 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/Baffle	
Freq. (Hz)	Sabins	Sabins / Unit				
31.5	-0.03	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	
40	-15.04	-3.76	-0.11	-0.10	-0.22	
50	6.34	1.59	0.05	0.04	0.09	
63	22.95	5.74	0.16	0.16	0.34	
80	40.49	10.12	0.29	0.28	0.60	
100	35.51	8.88	0.26	0.24	0.53	
125	42.19	10.55	0.30	0.29	0.63	
160	24.41	6.10	0.18	0.17	0.36	
200	41.25	10.31	0.30	0.28	0.61	
250	43.92	10.98	0.32	0.30	0.65	
315	49.88	12.47	0.36	0.34	0.74	
400	52.51	13.13	0.38	0.36	0.78	
500	57.22	14.31	0.41	0.39	0.85	
630	58.28	14.57	0.42	0.40	0.87	
800	63.91	15.98	0.46	0.44	0.95	
1,000	67.11	16.78	0.48	0.46	1.00	
1,250	70.44	17.61	0.51	0.48	1.05	
1,600	74.96	18.74	0.54	0.52	1.12	
2,000	79.75	19.94	0.57	0.55	1.19	
2,500	84.95	21.24	0.61	0.58	1.26	
3,150	86.86	21.72	0.62	0.60	1.29	
4,000	85.68	21.42	0.62	0.59	1.27	
5,000	87.53	21.88	0.63	0.60	1.30	
6,300	90.78	22.69	0.65	0.62	1.35	
8,000	91.54	22.89	0.66	0.63	1.36	
10,000	95.98	24.00	0.69	0.66	1.43	
12,500	96.29	24.07	0.69	0.66	1.43	
			Apparent NRC:	0.45	0.45	0.90
			Apparent SAA:	0.45	0.43	0.92

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