
Subject: Ceiling?

Posted by [audioaudio90](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2012 23:33:06 GMT

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Do you acoustically treat your studio ceiling? If so, what do you do? If not, why not?

I never have. I'm satisfied with the sound quality without treating the ceiling.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2012 01:05:24 GMT

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The ceiling is probably the most important room boundary to treat. We're used to hearing sounds from all around us, so lateral reflections aren't unnatural. Same thing with the floor, every sound in nature is reflected from the ground. But reflections from the ceiling are always unwanted anomalies.

Then again, if you use a directional speaker, ceiling slap isn't nearly so much a problem as it is with a speaker having less pattern control.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [audioaudio90](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2012 00:48:04 GMT

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I understand what you are saying but I don't notice any issue. I forget what pattern my speakers have; it could be they are directional and that's why it sounds ok.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2012 01:35:06 GMT

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Hi, In both my former and present room, I used acoustic absorbent treatments. I agree with Wayne on this. Even though I like the sound stage full of reflections I get from my ESLs, I find reflections off the ceiling distracting. I also do the floors and the distant end of the room.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2012 01:43:44 GMT

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audioaudio90 wrote on Sat, 07 January 2012 18:48 I understand what you are saying but I don't notice any issue. I forget what pattern my speakers have; it could be they are directional and that's why it sounds ok.

You're probably used to it. Most of us get used to whatever surroundings we're in very quickly, and that's what sounds natural to us.

I've had some untreated rooms that weren't too bad, and others that were just terrible. In the USA, we have framed drywall construction which absorbs a little bit of energy in the upper bass, so that helps some in the modal region. Carpeting and furniture often helps damp the midrange and treble. So those things help. But none of them does anything to help mitigate ceiling slap.

Clap your hands in the room, one sharp clap. This is a great seat-of-the-pants check. If you just hear yourself with no ringing echo, then you're lucky. Sometimes, this is the case. But often times, you'll hear a ringing sound that is sort of like tinitis. I find it most troublesome in rooms with vaulted ceilings. Rooms with ceilings that are angled slightly but symmetrically tend to focus high frequency reflections down, right at you, almost like a parabolic reflector. That's probably the worst case.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [audioaudio90](#) on Tue, 17 Jan 2012 18:18:02 GMT

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I thought the ringing sound was a symptom of parallel walls (flutter echo), so I treated the walls and it went away.

Your post reminded me of the one time I was in a room with all hard surfaces and a domed ceiling. Ick, that was bad.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [FloydV](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 00:32:27 GMT

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gofar99 wrote on Sat, 07 January 2012 19:35 Hi, In both my former and present room, I used acoustic absorbent treatments. I agree with Wayne on this. Even though I like the sound stage full of reflections I get from my ESLs, I find reflections off the ceiling distracting. I also do the floors and the distant end of the room.

Are you talking about ceiling tiles that are sound absorbent. Like the white tiles with holes that you see in commercial buildings?

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 01:33:14 GMT

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Hi, Yes, also the space above the tiles had 2X8 rafters that were used to hold 8 inch bats of insulation. A double layer roof covered with heavy roll roofing. All the walls were double wall on the outside, stuffed with insulation and paneled on the inside. A Raised floor, also double layer on 2X8 beams on 12 inch centers with supports every 24 inches then covered with thick pad and carpet. It gave a reflective side walls and front wall with absorbing floor, ceiling (was sloped BTW to cut down on standing waves) and rear wall. It all was great until my spouse decided it was a great media room (yes there was a 55 inch flat screen with its own separate audio system). To keep the peace, I took over the living room. A mixed bag and it needed lots of TLC to get the sound right.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [FloydV](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 01:42:11 GMT

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gofar99 wrote on Mon, 20 February 2012 19:33Hi, Yes, also the space above the tiles had 2X8 rafters that were used to hold 8 inch bats of insulation. A double layer roof covered with heavy roll roofing. All the walls were double wall on the outside, stuffed with insulation and paneled on the inside. A Raised floor, also double layer on 2X8 beams on 12 inch centers with supports every 24 inches then covered with thick pad and carpet. It gave a reflective side walls and front wall with absorbing floor, ceiling (was sloped BTW to cut down on standing waves) and rear wall. It all was great until my spouse decided it was a great media room (yes there was a 55 inch flat screen with its own separate audio system). To keep the peace, I took over the living room. A mixed bag and it needed lots of TLC to get the sound right.

Wow, that seems like a lot of work! I see who rules the house--same as mine!

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 14:40:12 GMT

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Hi, True , but I admit to watching video in the room as well. It was a nice man-cave while it lasted, now just a very comfy video center.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [FloydV](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 22:02:05 GMT

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I'm guessing that the reason you don't have both in the same room would be a conflict over watching vs. listening?

I have one room for both, but since I'm retired, I can listen whenever. Of course, being retired means your so old that you're hearing impaired ;-D

After reading the post about ceilings being unnatural to humans' hearing, I'm wondering if bonus rooms that all have a ceiling that conforms to a roof makes them like an echo chamber.

Floyd

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 22:19:26 GMT

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Hi, I too am retired and there really are two reasons why both are not in the same room. I found that connecting the video to the stereo always either degraded the sound or caused interference. Second I like to listen at time the TV would be in use. Thus the need for two rooms. Nice thing about it is that no one bothers my stuff now and if I want to park a speaker in the middle of the room no one bothers it. I no longer get any of the "why did you do that" comments.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [FloydV](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 23:28:35 GMT

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I understand completely. My wife, who normally doesn't bother my equipment, decided to watch a DVD and the receiver was set for CD.

I came in and she was poking buttons and turning knobs on the receiver. I'm afraid I went ballistic, saying don't ever fool with that receiver, you can change something that might take me an hour to figure out.

I was polite, but there are so many settings that can be changed by the bump of a button, that I can't remember what each does.

I guess if I had kids, I'd have to put a lock on the door.

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 12 Apr 2012 00:26:33 GMT

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I would put some type of treatment at first reflection point. Also, if I recall correctly, slow turning ceiling fans were used in studios to break up standing waves.....

Subject: Re: Ceiling?

Posted by [FloydV](#) on Sat, 14 Apr 2012 01:13:27 GMT

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And I opted for no ceiling fan in the new house. I can probably change that without much trouble.
