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Subject: Re: How close can you sit to a frontloaded bass horn without compromise?  
Posted by [Bill Fitzmaurice](#) on Mon, 31 May 2004 11:52:17 GMT

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That sensation is not a myth, it's room reinforcement. The response of the speaker doesn't change, but larger room dimensions do allow reinforcing nodes to develop. Those nodes are response peaks over narrow frequency bands, peaks that the ear is very sensitive to. They don't improve bass response, in fact they degrade it from the standpoint of flat response, but they do have the psychoacoustic effect of making the bass seem stronger. Another factor with larger rooms is sheer SPL; with a larger room there is a tendency to turn things up louder, and that can have a huge effect on the perception of the bass content. To understand why just look at the Fletcher-Munson response curves and see what happens to the response of the human ear/brain to bass at different SPLs. Music program played at 100dB will sound completely different than the same material at 80dB, sounding far stronger in both the bass and the treble even though the relative frequency response is no different; what is different how your auditory system responds to sound at differing levels.

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