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Subject: Room treatments

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 09 Aug 2007 18:24:16 GMT

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Raised hardwood floors are almost always problematic. Their acoustic contribution is usually even worse than room modes, because they tend to form a resonant chamber, like a large bass drum. You really have two sets of room modes to deal with when setting up a sound system in a room having a suspended wood floor. You have the modes of the crawlspace, which are generally severe, and you also have the modes of the listening room. The room itself may be reasonably well damped, but the crawlspace usually isn't. The ground and supporting side walls are rigid, but the floor vibrates. This makes a perfect resonator with very little damping - an acoustics nightmare. Rooms without raised hardwood floors are usually better. However, if the walls are rigid, then modes aren't well damped. Rooms with rock, concrete or brick walls usually have more modal problems than those with framed drywall construction. Rooms like these can benefit from bass trap panels. Sometimes, things in the room act as resonators, and that causes problems too. Built-in cabinets sometimes resonate or buzz. Large free-standing furniture sometimes resonates. So there are lots of things to look out for.

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