Subject: Room Treatments
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 14 Jan 2010 03:25:04 GMT
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Those panel traps are probably the best thing you can do to tame room modes. You can't hurt yourself putting them on every wall. If you're lucky, framed drywall will come close, but even then, the extra damping won't hurt. They really help rooms with rigid walls like brick, concrete or stucco. Walls made of material like that have virtually no damping, so room modes are severe. That's where panel bass traps are most needed.

As for high frequency absorbtion, it's generally a good idea too although directional speakers help a great deal in that regard. The pattern is approximately 90°x40°, so ceiling slap is greatly reduced, as are side wall reflections. You don't want the room to be too lively, as it will sound like a gymnasium. If you clap your hands in the room and hear a sharp ringing sound, then you may want to add some absorbent wedges or at least some extra curtains. On the other hand, rooms that are too dead often don't sound natural either. You'll know it if you go too far, as the room will sound sort of "sterile".