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Subject: Re: Are there any good books about audio measurement?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 29 Oct 2011 21:19:36 GMT

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Acoustic measurement is not a casual topic. It may appear to be on first glance, and since measurement gear has become increasingly affordable, lots of people are able to make rudimentary response measurements. I think that's a great thing, certainly helps the DIYer move a step closer to perfection. But it also lulls many people into a false sense of security - or more often into an overexaggerated sense of panic - since just about anyone these days can afford measurement gear, point the microphone and manage to get a chart of some sort. The real trick is knowing where and how to setup and what to do to get meaningful data that is useful.

Still, here are a couple of good books to get you started:

Acoustic Measurements, by Leo Beranek

Testing Loudspeakers, by Joseph D'Appolito

Both these books are somewhat dated, particularly the book by Beranek. There have been new techniques learned since those books were written, largely as a result of the digital age and the ability to easily use new signal types. I wouldn't really say there has been a lot of new discovery though, so the basic concepts they describe still apply.

The most important thing to realize when making measurements is you have to understand the thing you're looking for well enough to know how to test it. There are a lot of issues that can trip you up. You need to understand basic acoustics, or you cannot know what to watch out for. So study acoustics first.