



# REDUCE NOISE & CREATE COMFORT

Open plan offices and new ways of working come with benefits, but noise, distraction and loss of privacy can be costly by-products, especially when an organisation's largest overhead is its staff.

Effective noise solutions can give as much as a 15% boost to productivity and improve staff retention and well-being.

Acoustix understands the office environment and how sound affects it. By providing practical cost effective advice and solutions most noise issues can be solved or designed out by applying the ABC of acoustics.

Meeting rooms, offices and boardrooms are often constructed from the top of a raised floor to the underside of a suspended ceiling. Whether this is for cost reasons, flexibility or building regulations, the subsequent sound transmission leads to a loss of speech privacy and confidentiality. Add to this the use of reflective materials such as glass, wood and plasterboard and that sound is further amplified before escaping in to the adjacent spaces.

Telepresence rooms create another challenge, with the quality of sound important for both the room occupants and the remote participants.

Acoustix has solutions to solve these issues improving the acoustics and keeping the aesthetic.

## Simple Solutions - Professionally Applied

Acoustix has a reputation for solving noise issues in offices, schools and health care organisations proving that sound is as simple as ABC. Acoustix provides professional implementation, delivered quickly and cost effectively.

**A**bsorb the noise. Noise reflected off hard surfaces may be amplified and create uncomfortable reverberation.

**B**lock the direct path of sound with custom designed acoustic screens, partitions, walls and door seals.

**C**over or mask the distracting sounds using state-of-the-art Lencore sound masking technology.



# ABSORB

The correct balance of sound reflecting or absorbing materials should be chosen carefully for different spaces to control reverberation and noise. In restaurants and bars a more lively feel is required to create atmosphere whereas in canteens the high frequency noise from cutlery and crockery can make the space uncomfortable or even unusable.

Absorbent materials should be chosen for both how much sound energy they absorb and also at what frequency. Human voices are predominantly in the range 500 Hz to 4000hz whereas plant noise is lower, 50hz to 250hz. The space should ideally be tested but our consultants have the experience to predict the likely outcome; often introducing material in a phased way will achieve a subjectively acceptable solution that is more cost effective.

In open plan environments the floor, walls and ceiling can reduce sound travel if treated appropriately. Carpet rather than wood or ceramic tiles should be used on the floor. Large walls can be treated with wall panels or wall art. Suspended ceilings, baffles or ceiling islands can all be used to reduce sound propagation.



*Custom Fabric Wall Absorber*



*Ceiling Islands*

## ABSORPTION PRODUCTS

Baffles  
Carpets  
Wall Art  
Furniture  
Wall Panels  
Ceiling Tiles  
Ceiling Islands

## BLOCKING PRODUCTS

Doors & Door Seals  
Storage Units  
Partitions  
Furniture  
Screens  
Walls  
Pods



*Free-standing Acoustic Pod*

# BLOCK

Just as important as the sound transmission class of partitioning is the seal between the walls and ceilings or mullions and the effectiveness of doors. Light fittings and air grills may also allow sound to pass through the ceiling plenum to adjacent spaces.

Acoustix will conduct testing in specific rooms and report on all weaknesses. Often the issue can be fixed relatively inexpensively with the use of sealants and other blocking materials.

In open plan environments screens and furniture may be used to block the direct path of sound, for these to be effective they should be a minimum of 1300mm high. Flexible meeting rooms may be created using acoustic pods to further reduce distraction in the office.

Acoustix has a wide range of products to suit the aesthetic and acoustic needs of an organisation.



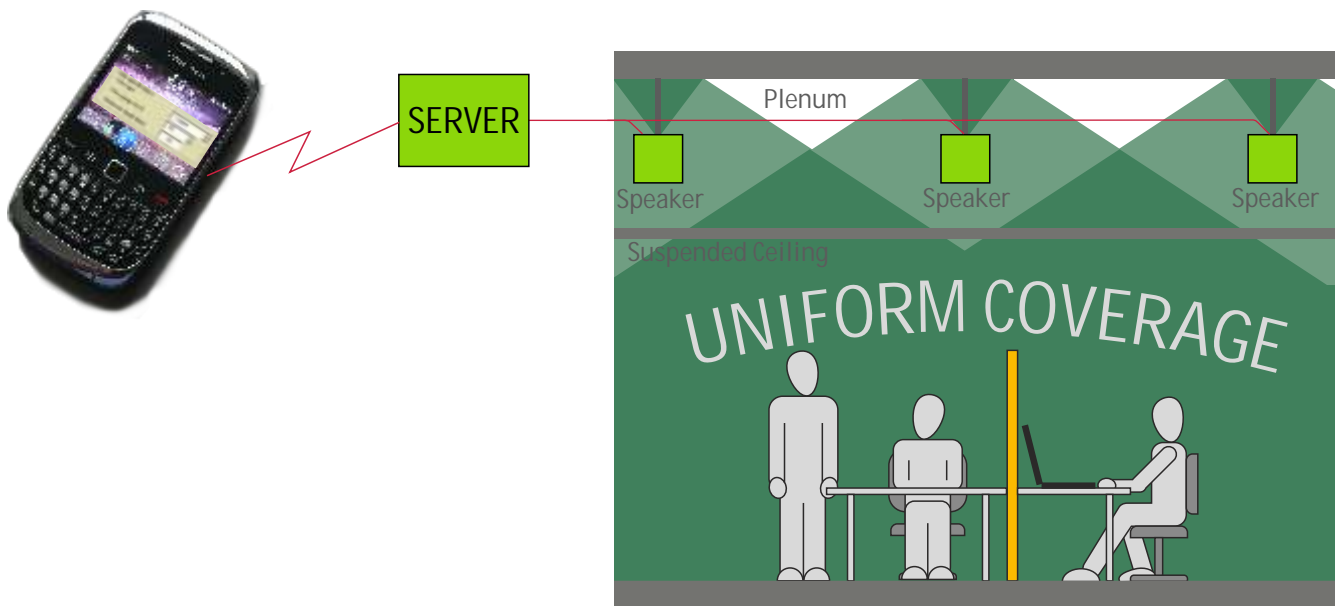
*Office Partitions & Furniture*

# COVER

The definition of noise is unwanted sound. In the open plan the noise is likely to be colleagues' conversations, printers, footsteps and telephones. All of these unwanted noises contain information that is processed by the the brain using metabolic energy and causing distraction, the product of which is stress, fatigue and lack of concentration. It may be possible to reduce some of this noise by absorbing it or blocking it but often in modern open plan offices there is a lack of natural background sound to mask the noise. By raising the background sound using the Lencore masking system the noise will disappear.

The system comprises a network of speakers, normally installed above the ceiling. The speakers emit a sound that is randomly generated; this is audible but not noticeable to the occupants. Each area can be fine-tuned for volume and frequency to account for local materials, activity and desired result using free software on any web enabled device, and these can be varied depending on time of day/day of week to compensate for, say, occupancy.

In a meeting room environment the system will mask sounds from the adjoining spaces giving speech privacy and even confidentiality. It may be possible to reduce fit out costs by using single glazed partitions and removing the need for vertical plenum barriers actually saving money.



## Sound Masking Benefits

- *Fully random sound*
- *Centralised and decentralised systems*
- *In-plenum and direct field control*
- *Non-proprietary control software & cabling*
- *Multi-drop for reliability*
- *Zoned paging and music*

# ACOUSTIX

## Consultative Approach

With over 30 years experience at improving office acoustics our team within Acoustix has successfully installed masking systems and complementary absorb and block products around Europe, Channel Islands, North Africa and the Middle East. This depth of knowledge and industry experience is second to none.



Pivotal to our success is our plain English approach backed up with professional science where required.

Acoustix will always provide a written summary of the issues and recommendations but if required a full acoustics report can be commissioned and form a guarantee of results.

## Delivery

70% of Acoustix work is delivering solutions to occupied premises, with careful planning and meticulous preparation the installation team have a reputation for delivering on time and minimising any disruption to

the customer. The team are frequently trained in health & safety and latest installation techniques.



## Maintenance

Acoustix can provide ongoing support for solutions, whether that is an annual check of the sound masking system or a change of printed fabric on wall art or wall panelling Acoustix are committed to supporting its clients.

## Crosscom Ltd

Acoustix is a division of Crosscom Ltd. Founded in 1995 Crosscom has a long history of success delivering IT Implementation and Project Management. With an ethos of maintaining Quality through Standards Crosscom has established a reputation for reliability and excellence.



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