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An ALION Technical Center

Test Report

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WALLACE CLEMENT SABINE

SPONSOR: **Sound Seal**
Agawam, MA

Sound Absorption
RAL™-A20-355

CONDUCTED: 2020-08-26

ON: Vertex Slim Baffle

TEST METHODOLOGY

Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories™ is accredited by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) as an ISO 17025:2017 Laboratory (NVLAP Lab Code: 100227-0) and for this test procedure. The test reported in this document conformed explicitly with ASTM C423-17: "Standard Test Method for Sound Absorption and Sound Absorption Coefficients by the Reverberation Room Method." The specimen mounting was performed according to ASTM E795-16: "Standard Practices for Mounting Test Specimens During Sound Absorption Tests," with the single exception that the exposed surface area of the specimen (9.79 m^2) is less than the minimum specimen area of 10 m^2 specified in ASTM E795-16 Section 15.4. A description of the measurement procedure and room specifications are available upon request. The results presented in this report apply to the sample as received from the test sponsor.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SPONSOR

The test specimen was designated by the sponsor as Vertex Slim Baffle. The following nominal product information was provided by the sponsor prior to testing. The accuracy of such sponsor-provided information can affect the validity of the test results.

Product Under Test

Trade Name:	Vertex Slim Baffle
Material:	Polyethylene terephthalate felt
Manufacturer:	Sound Seal

SPECIMEN MEASUREMENTS & TEST CONDITIONS

Through a full external visual inspection performed on the test specimen, Riverbank personnel verified the following information:

Test Specimen

Materials:	Assembled semirigid felt paneling
Dimensions:	12 @ 1219.2 mm (48 in.) x 304.8 mm (12 in.)
	Reinforced section on upper edge, width @ 46 mm (1.811 in.)
Thickness:	Individual panels @ 9 mm (0.354 in.)
	Reinforced section on upper edge @ 27 mm (1.063 in.)
Overall Weight:	8.05 kg (17.75 lbs)

Physical Measurements (per object)

Dimensions:	0.3 m (12.0 in) wide by 1.22 m (48.0 in) long
Thickness:	0.01 m (0.347 in)
Weight:	0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)

Test Environment

Room Volume:	291.98 m³
Temperature:	22.8 °C ± 0.0 °C (Requirement: ≥ 10 °C and ≤ 5 °C change)
Relative Humidity:	58.25 % ± 0.3 % (Requirement: ≥ 40 % and ≤ 5 % change)
Barometric Pressure:	98.5 kPa (Requirement not defined)

Each sound absorbing object had an absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of 0.82 m^2 (8.78 ft^2). The total absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of all sound-absorbing objects was 9.79 m^2 (105.33 ft^2). The array of objects covered 10.94 m^2 (117.75 ft^2) of the horizontal test surface (total treated area).

MOUNTING METHOD

Nonstandard Mounting: The specimen is an array of 12 spaced sound absorbing baffles suspended from cables such that the closest face of the baffles is located approximately 1.21 m (47.5 in). from the horizontal test surface. This approximates the mounting method of a typical ceiling baffle installation. The baffles were distributed into 6 rows of 2, with rows spaced 0.76 m (30 in.) apart, and objects in each row spaced 0.3 m (12 in.) apart.

Note: This mounting method is similar to the Type J mounting described in ASTM E795-16 Section 15, though the absorptive area of the specimen (9.79 m^2) is less than the minimum required surface area of 10 m^2 specified in Section 15.4. The tested specimen was installed with the intent of preserving the object spacing of interest while maximizing absorptive area and maintaining adequate distance from test chamber surfaces.

Figure 1 – Specimen mounted in test chamber

Figure 2 – Detail of specimen material, cross section

TEST RESULTS

Note: There is currently no standardized method for calculating Absorption Coefficients from spaced object absorbers. The sound absorption performance of spaced object absorbers should not be compared directly with specimens tested as a single rectangular area (e.g. mounting types A, E, etc.).

1/3 Octave Center Frequency	Total Absorption		Absorption per Object	
(Hz)	(m^2)	(Sabins)	(m^2 / Object)	(Sabins / Object)
100	0.55	5.96	0.05	0.50
** 125	1.31	14.05	0.11	1.17
160	1.09	11.76	0.09	0.98
200	1.57	16.86	0.13	1.40
** 250	1.56	16.75	0.13	1.40
315	1.92	20.65	0.16	1.72
400	2.21	23.81	0.18	1.98
** 500	2.42	26.07	0.20	2.17
630	2.85	30.71	0.24	2.56
800	3.35	36.09	0.28	3.01
** 1000	3.78	40.70	0.32	3.39
1250	4.37	47.03	0.36	3.92
1600	4.95	53.32	0.41	4.44
** 2000	5.45	58.64	0.45	4.89
2500	5.83	62.71	0.49	5.23
3150	6.21	66.89	0.52	5.57
** 4000	6.40	68.92	0.53	5.74
5000	6.72	72.37	0.56	6.03

Tested by: Marc Sciaky
Senior Experimentalist

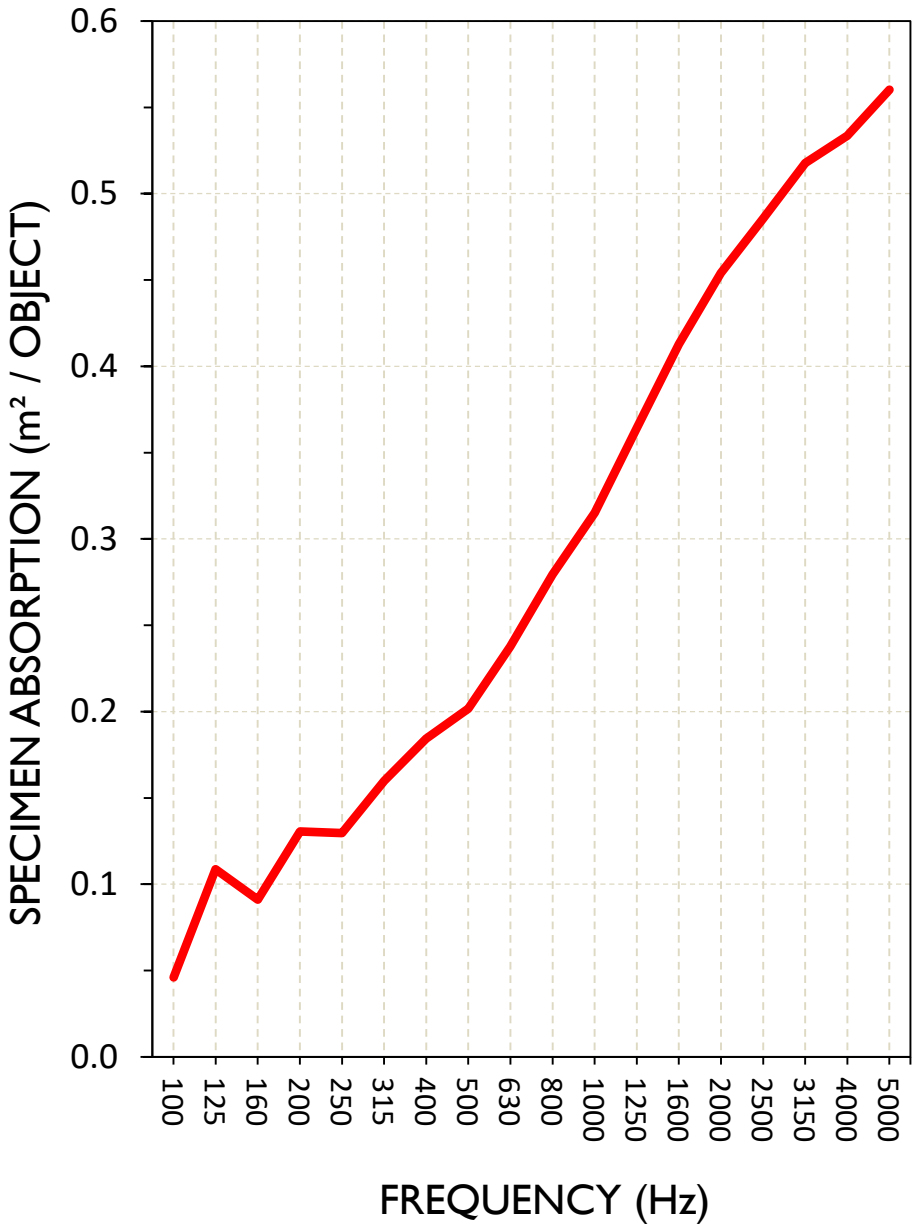
Report by: Malcolm Kelly
Test Engineer, Acoustician

Approved by: Eric P. Wolfram
Laboratory Manager

Digitally signed by Eric P Wolfram
Location: Geneva, IL
Date: 2020.09.28 09:22:59 -05'00'

SOUND ABSORPTION REPORT

Vertex Slim Baffle



APPENDIX A: Extended Frequency Range Data

Specimen: Vertex Slim Baffle (See Full Report)

The following non-accredited data were obtained in accordance with ASTM C423-17, but extend beyond the defined frequency range of 100Hz to 5,000Hz. These unofficial results are representative of the RAL test environment only and intended for research & comparison purposes.

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequency (Hz)	Total Absorption (m^2)	Total Absorption (Sabins)	Absorption per Object (m^2 / Object)	Absorption per Object (Sabins / Object)
31.5	0.94	10.10	0.08	0.84
40	-0.04	-0.40	0.00	-0.03
50	-1.22	-13.09	-0.10	-1.09
63	0.66	7.12	0.06	0.59
80	0.97	10.49	0.08	0.87
100	0.55	5.96	0.05	0.50
125	1.31	14.05	0.11	1.17
160	1.09	11.76	0.09	0.98
200	1.57	16.86	0.13	1.40
250	1.56	16.75	0.13	1.40
315	1.92	20.65	0.16	1.72
400	2.21	23.81	0.18	1.98
500	2.42	26.07	0.20	2.17
630	2.85	30.71	0.24	2.56
800	3.35	36.09	0.28	3.01
1000	3.78	40.70	0.32	3.39
1250	4.37	47.03	0.36	3.92
1600	4.95	53.32	0.41	4.44
2000	5.45	58.64	0.45	4.89
2500	5.83	62.71	0.49	5.23
3150	6.21	66.89	0.52	5.57
4000	6.40	68.92	0.53	5.74
5000	6.72	72.37	0.56	6.03
6300	7.04	75.76	0.59	6.31
8000	7.34	79.04	0.61	6.59
10000	7.28	78.41	0.61	6.53
12500	8.46	91.06	0.70	7.59

APPENDIX B: Instruments of Traceability

Specimen: Vertex Slim Baffle (See Full Report)

Description	Model	Serial Number	Date of Certification	Calibration Due
System 1	Type 3160-A-042	3160-106968	2020-06-26	2021-06-26
Bruel & Kjaer Mic And Preamp A	Type 4943-B-001	2311428	2019-09-27	2020-09-27
Bruel & Kjaer Sound Level Calibrator	Type 4230	861609	2019-11-19	2020-11-19
Omega Digital Temp., Humid. And Pressure Recorder	OM-CP-PRHTemp2000	P97844	2020-02-18	2021-02-18

APPENDIX C: Revisions to Original Test Report

Specimen: Vertex Slim Baffle (See Full Report)

Date	Revision
2020-09-03	Original report issued
2020-09-24	Page 1-9: The original manufacturer/requester identification and specimen designation were changed to facilitate a private label sales agreement. The original requester has provided a letter to RAL on their company letterhead certifying that the product identified has not changed in materials, composition, or manufacturing methods since the original test date and the product sold under the private label agreement is exactly identical to the original specimen described in the test report and sourced from the same manufacturing process. – MP, approved by EPW.

END

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Report Referenced: **RAL™-A20-355**

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Appendix D to ASTM C423 Sound Absorption Test
Non-standard calculation of equivalent NRC Rating and Absorption Coefficients from spaced absorbers

At this time ASTM C423 does not provide a standard method for determining absorption coefficients of spaced object absorbers. Tests of a set of sound absorbing objects spaced apart from each other will yield higher absorption rates than a specimen joined together as a single patch (A-Mount or E-Mount). For this reason it is unfair to provide NRC or absorption coefficient ratings for specimens that consist of a spaced set of absorbers. Despite this, the architectural industry has expressed great demand for a simple "single number" rating for these treatments. Likewise, acoustical consultants desire equivalent absorption coefficient data for use in acoustical modeling software. The following is an attempt to appease these demands until ASTM develops a standard method for calculation. Several alternate non-standard calculation methods are provided. Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories prefers method 1.

Method 1) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from total test surface area covered
The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the total surface area of the test surface covered by the suspended baffles, including intermediate spaces. The baffle rigging covered 10.94 m^2 (117.75 ft^2) of horizontal test surface area. With an extra 762 mm (30 in.) of length and 304.8 mm (12 in.) of width to account for the space between the tested array and what would be the next baffle in a larger array, the surface area comes to 14.48 m^2 (155.83 ft^2). Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating and Sound Absorption Average (SAA) figures are calculated from this data based on the methods described in ASTM C423-17. This may be the most accurate method for comparing baffle arrays to ceiling tile products. The apparent sound absorption coefficient data can be assigned to a single horizontal surface or plane in acoustical modeling software for approximation of baffle array performance. Such approximations rely on the assumptions that baffle spacing is similar to that of the tested array across the entire surface and that the installation occurs over a perfectly reflective surface material.

Method 2) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from total exposed surface area of specimen
The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the total surface area of all exposed specimen faces (0.82 m^2 (8.78 ft^2) per baffle x 12 baffles = 9.79 m^2 (105.33 ft^2) total surface area). Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating and Sound Absorption Average (SAA) figures are calculated from this data based on the methods described in ASTM C423-17. This method shows the actual absorption occurring at the exposed surfaces, but does not provide a fair comparison with materials mounted as a uniform patch (in A-mount or E-mount).

Method 3) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from one face per baffle
The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the surface area of one side of one large face for each baffle in the specimen (0.37 m^2 (4.0 ft^2) per baffle x 12 baffles = 4.46 m^2 (48.0 ft^2) total surface area). Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) rating and Sound Absorption Average (SAA) figures are calculated from this data based on the methods described in ASTM C423-17. This method is favored by some material manufacturers since it yields very high NRC figures, but does not provide a fair comparison with other ceiling tile or wall panel products. Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories recommends that results obtained from this method be used for research and comparison purposes only; such results should not be used for marketed claims of product performance.

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Appendix D: Data Note: See full test report for details of mounting position, spacing, and configuration, as these parameters greatly affect sound absorption performance.

Specimen Absorption			Method 1	Method 2	Method 3
Freq. (Hz)	Sabins	Sabins / Object	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Coverage Area	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Exposed Surface Area	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From One Face/Object
31.5	10.10	0.84	0.06	0.10	0.21
40	-0.40	-0.03	0.00	0.00	-0.01
50	-13.09	-1.09	-0.08	-0.12	-0.27
63	7.12	0.59	0.05	0.07	0.15
80	10.49	0.87	0.07	0.10	0.22
100	5.96	0.50	0.04	0.06	0.12
125	14.05	1.17	0.09	0.13	0.29
160	11.76	0.98	0.08	0.11	0.24
200	16.86	1.40	0.11	0.16	0.35
250	16.75	1.40	0.11	0.16	0.35
315	20.65	1.72	0.13	0.20	0.43
400	23.81	1.98	0.15	0.23	0.50
500	26.07	2.17	0.17	0.25	0.54
630	30.71	2.56	0.20	0.29	0.64
800	36.09	3.01	0.23	0.34	0.75
1,000	40.70	3.39	0.26	0.39	0.85
1,250	47.03	3.92	0.30	0.45	0.98
1,600	53.32	4.44	0.34	0.51	1.11
2,000	58.64	4.89	0.38	0.56	1.22
2,500	62.71	5.23	0.40	0.60	1.31
3,150	66.89	5.57	0.43	0.64	1.39
4,000	68.92	5.74	0.44	0.65	1.44
5,000	72.37	6.03	0.46	0.69	1.51
6,300	75.76	6.31	0.49	0.72	1.58
8,000	79.04	6.59	0.51	0.75	1.65
10,000	78.41	6.53	0.50	0.74	1.63
12,500	91.06	7.59	0.58	0.86	1.90
		Apparent NRC:	**0.25**	**0.35**	**0.75**
		Apparent SAA:	**0.23**	**0.35**	**0.75**

Prepared by
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