

## Test Report

SPONSOR: **a light**  
Oceanside, CA

**Sound Absorption**  
**RAL™-A21-439**

CONDUCTED: 2021-08-06

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ON: Absorb I+ (w/ acoustical insert) Row Spacing 55"o.c

### 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." 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 Absorb I+ (w/ acoustical insert) Row Spacing 55"o.c. 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: Absorb I+  
Material: PET felt with steel hardware and cotton insert  
Manufacturer: a-light Architectural Lighting

### SPECIMEN MEASUREMENTS & TEST CONDITIONS

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

#### Test Specimen

Product Type: Vertical ceiling baffles with complex 3-dimensional shape.  
Materials: Felt  
Dimensions: 1257 mm (49.5 in.) long by 349 mm (13.75 in.) tall x 137 mm (5.38 in.) deep  
Thickness: 6.3 mm (0.248 inch) Felt wall thickness  
Quantity: Eight (8) Objects  
Acoustical Insert: 8 @ 1070 mm (42.13 in.) long x 171 mm (6.75 in.) tall by 26 mm (1.006 in.) thick and 0.20 kg (0.44 lbs) (2.7 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> insert)  
Weight: 3.16 kg (6.97 lbs) each and 25.3 kg (55.75 lbs.) overall

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### Test Environment

Room Volume: 291.98 m<sup>3</sup>  
Temperature: 22.1 °C ± 0.0 °C (Requirement: ≥ 10 °C and ≤ 5 °C change)  
Relative Humidity: 64.25 % ± 0.7 % (Requirement: ≥ 40 % and ≤ 5 % change)  
Barometric Pressure: 98.9 kPa (Requirement not defined)

Assuming a simplified rectangular cuboid shape, each sound absorbing object had an absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of 1.32 m<sup>2</sup> (14.18 ft<sup>2</sup>). The total absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of all sound-absorbing objects was 10.54 m<sup>2</sup> (113.4 ft<sup>2</sup>). The array of objects covered 10.86 m<sup>2</sup> (116.88 ft<sup>2</sup>) of the horizontal test surface (total treated area).

### MOUNTING METHOD

Type J Mounting: The specimen is an array of eight spaced sound absorbing objects suspended from cables such that the closest face is located approximately 1.52 m (60.0 in.) from the horizontal test surface. This approximates the mounting method of a typical ceiling baffle installation. The objects were evenly distributed four rows of two objects, with rows spaced 1397 mm (55.0 in.) on center and no space between objects in a row.

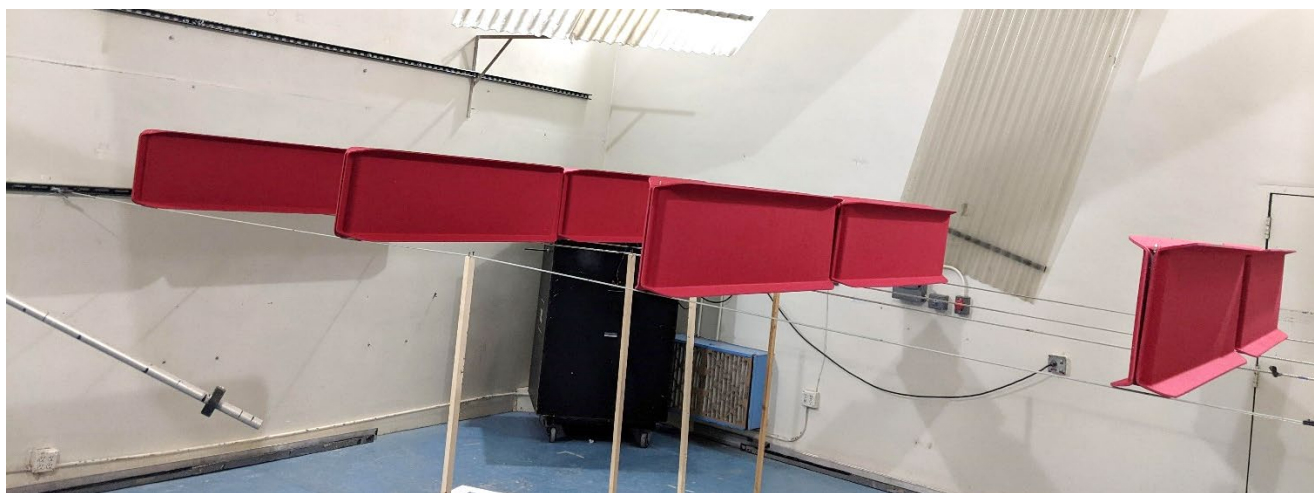


Figure 1 – Specimen mounted in test chamber

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Figure 2 – Detail of specimen material



Figure 3 – Detail of specimen material

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### 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 (Hz)	Total Absorption		Absorption per Object	
	(m <sup>2</sup> )	(Sabins)	(m <sup>2</sup> / Object)	(Sabins / Object)
100	0.36	3.91	0.05	0.49
** 125	1.05	11.27	0.13	1.41
160	1.03	11.09	0.13	1.39
200	1.57	16.89	0.20	2.11
** 250	2.26	24.30	0.28	3.04
315	3.51	37.75	0.44	4.72
400	4.51	48.51	0.56	6.06
** 500	5.48	59.00	0.69	7.37
630	6.29	67.75	0.79	8.47
800	7.15	76.95	0.89	9.62
** 1000	7.64	82.28	0.96	10.29
1250	7.95	85.60	0.99	10.70
1600	8.04	86.54	1.00	10.82
** 2000	8.15	87.73	1.02	10.97
2500	8.02	86.29	1.00	10.79
3150	8.01	86.20	1.00	10.77
** 4000	7.90	85.07	0.99	10.63
5000	8.31	89.45	1.04	11.18

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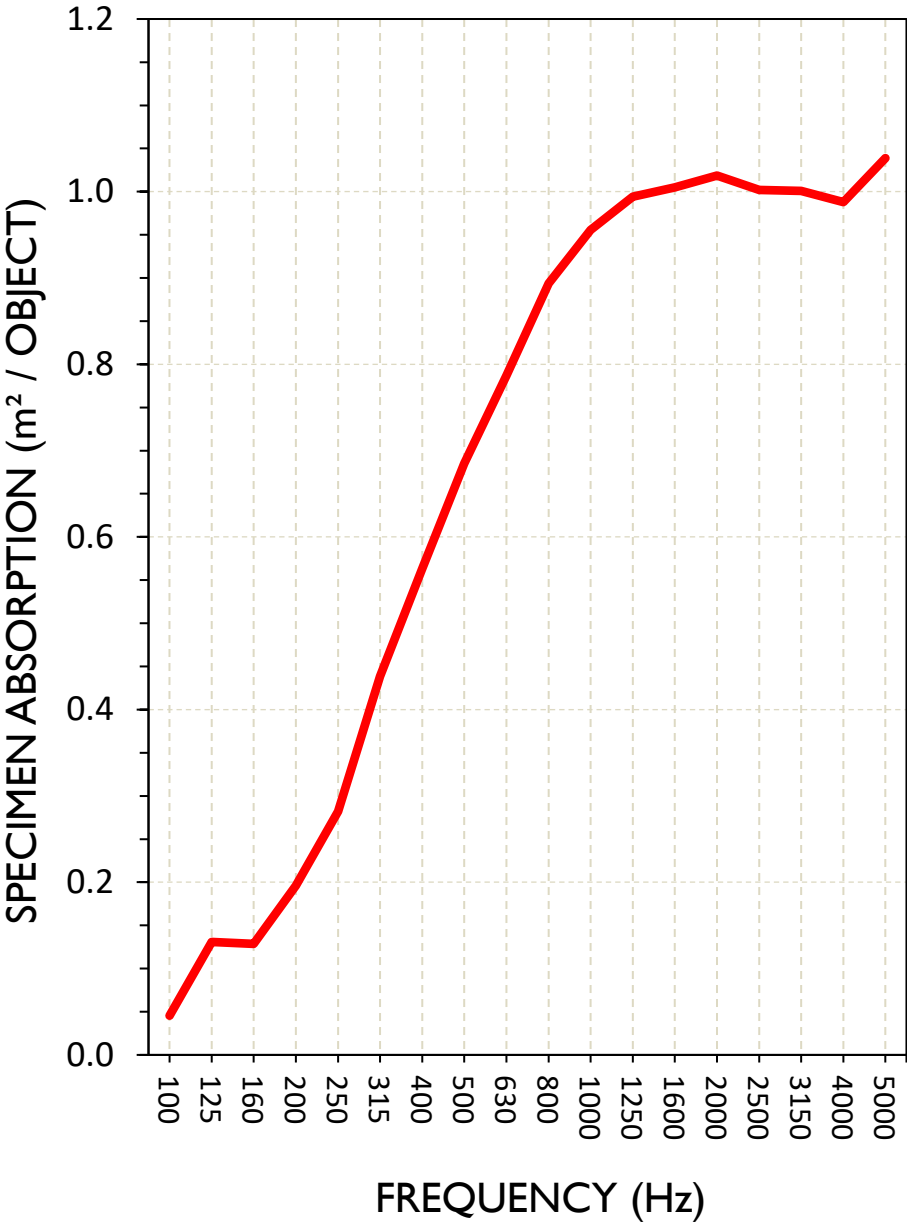
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SOUND ABSORPTION REPORT  
Absorb I+ (w/ acoustical insert) Row Spacing 55"o.c



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### APPENDIX A: Extended Frequency Range Data

Specimen: Absorb I+ (w/ acoustical insert) Row Spacing 55"o.c (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		Absorption per Object	
	(m <sup>2</sup> )	(Sabins)	(m <sup>2</sup> / Object)	(Sabins / Object)
31.5	0.92	9.93	0.12	1.24
40	0.30	3.26	0.04	0.41
50	-1.97	-21.20	-0.25	-2.65
63	0.04	0.48	0.01	0.06
80	0.60	6.46	0.07	0.81
100	0.36	3.91	0.05	0.49
125	1.05	11.27	0.13	1.41
160	1.03	11.09	0.13	1.39
200	1.57	16.89	0.20	2.11
250	2.26	24.30	0.28	3.04
315	3.51	37.75	0.44	4.72
400	4.51	48.51	0.56	6.06
500	5.48	59.00	0.69	7.37
630	6.29	67.75	0.79	8.47
800	7.15	76.95	0.89	9.62
1000	7.64	82.28	0.96	10.29
1250	7.95	85.60	0.99	10.70
1600	8.04	86.54	1.00	10.82
2000	8.15	87.73	1.02	10.97
2500	8.02	86.29	1.00	10.79
3150	8.01	86.20	1.00	10.77
4000	7.90	85.07	0.99	10.63
5000	8.31	89.45	1.04	11.18
6300	8.45	90.97	1.06	11.37
8000	8.70	93.68	1.09	11.71
10000	8.53	91.87	1.07	11.48
12500	9.00	96.84	1.12	12.10

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Specimen: Absorb I+ (w/ acoustical insert) Row Spacing 55"o.c (See Full Report)

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Model</u></b>	<b><u>Serial Number</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Certification</u></b>	<b><u>Calibration Due</u></b>
System 1	Type 3160-A-042	3160-106968	2021-07-01	2022-07-01
Bruel & Kjaer Mic And Preamp A	Type 4943-B-001	2311428	2020-09-30	2021-09-30
Bruel & Kjaer Pistonphone	Type 4228	2781248	2020-08-12	2021-08-12
EXTECH Hygro 639	SD700	A.103639	2020-12-18	2021-12-18

**APPENDIX C: Revisions to Original Test Report**

Specimen: Absorb I+ (w/ acoustical insert) Row Spacing 55"o.c (See Full Report)

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Revision</u></b>
2021-08-10	Original report issued

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END

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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. Rating titles for these methods are prepended with the word "Apparent". These rating names and their associated acronyms are provided by RAL and shall not be misconstrued as originating from any current standard.

##### **Method 1) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from extended test specimen envelope**

The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the surface area of the test surface covered by the suspended objects, including intermediate spaces, with additional added area to allow theoretical extrapolation for larger arrays. The object rigging covered 10.86 m<sup>2</sup> (116.88 ft<sup>2</sup>) of horizontal test surface area. With an extra 49.62 inches of width and 0.00 inches of length to account for the space between the tested array and what would be the next objects in a larger array, the total covered surface area comes to 14.03 m<sup>2</sup> (151 ft<sup>2</sup>). Apparent sound absorption coefficients, and subsequently the Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (A\*NRC) and Apparent Sound Absorption Average (A\*SAA) ratings, are calculated using this surface area based on the methods described in ASTM C423-17. This may be the most accurate method for comparing object 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 object array performance. Such approximations rely on the assumptions that object spacing is similar to that of the tested array across the entire surface, that gaps are negligibly small between adjacent rows of objects if the test specimen consists of a single row, 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 (1.32 m<sup>2</sup> (14.18 ft<sup>2</sup>) per object x 8 objects = 10.54 m<sup>2</sup> (113.43 ft<sup>2</sup>) total surface area). Apparent sound absorption coefficients, and subsequently the Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (A\*NRC) and Apparent Sound Absorption Average (A\*SAA) ratings, are calculated using this surface area 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).



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## Appendix D (continued)

### Method 3) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from one face per object

The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the surface area of one side of one large face for each object in the specimen ( $0.44 \text{ m}^2$  ( $4.73 \text{ ft}^2$ ) per object x 8 objects =  $3.52 \text{ m}^2$  ( $37.81 \text{ ft}^2$ ) total surface area). Apparent sound absorption coefficients, and subsequently the Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (A\*NRC) and Apparent Sound Absorption Average (A\*SAA) ratings, are calculated using this surface area 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.

### Method 4) Apparent Sound Absorption Coefficient calculated from specimen envelope without extension

The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the rectangular test surface area covered by the suspended objects, including intermediate spaces. The object rigging covered  $10.86 \text{ m}^2$  ( $116.88 \text{ ft}^2$ ) of horizontal test surface area. Apparent sound absorption coefficients, and subsequently the Apparent Noise Reduction Coefficient (A\*NRC) and Apparent Sound Absorption Average (A\*SAA) ratings, are calculated using this surface area based on the methods described in ASTM C423-17. While similar in concept to Method 1, attempting to model any array larger than the tested specimen using these results would imply instances of adjacent objects with zero spacing scattered throughout the extrapolated array. 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 (ft²)			Method 1	Method 2	Method 3	Method 4
Freq. (Hz)	Sabins	Sabins / Object	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Coverage Area (151 ft²)	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Exposed Surface Area (113.43 ft²)	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From One Face per Object (37.81 ft²)	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Unextended Envelope Area (116.9 ft²)
31.5	9.93	1.24	0.07	0.09	0.26	0.08
40	3.26	0.41	0.02	0.03	0.09	0.03
50	-21.20	-2.65	-0.14	-0.19	-0.56	-0.18
63	0.48	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
80	6.46	0.81	0.04	0.06	0.17	0.06
100	3.91	0.49	0.03	0.03	0.10	0.03
125	11.27	1.41	0.07	0.10	0.30	0.10
160	11.09	1.39	0.07	0.10	0.29	0.09
200	16.89	2.11	0.11	0.15	0.45	0.14
250	24.30	3.04	0.16	0.21	0.64	0.21
315	37.75	4.72	0.25	0.33	1.00	0.32
400	48.51	6.06	0.32	0.43	1.28	0.42
500	59.00	7.37	0.39	0.52	1.56	0.50
630	67.75	8.47	0.45	0.60	1.79	0.58
800	76.95	9.62	0.51	0.68	2.03	0.66
1,000	82.28	10.29	0.54	0.73	2.18	0.70
1,250	85.60	10.70	0.57	0.75	2.26	0.73
1,600	86.54	10.82	0.57	0.76	2.29	0.74
2,000	87.73	10.97	0.58	0.77	2.32	0.75
2,500	86.29	10.79	0.57	0.76	2.28	0.74
3,150	86.20	10.77	0.57	0.76	2.28	0.74
4,000	85.07	10.63	0.56	0.75	2.25	0.73
5,000	89.45	11.18	0.59	0.79	2.37	0.77
6,300	90.97	11.37	0.60	0.80	2.41	0.78
8,000	93.68	11.71	0.62	0.83	2.48	0.80
10,000	91.87	11.48	0.61	0.81	2.43	0.79
12,500	96.84	12.10	0.64	0.85	2.56	0.83
Apparent NRC:			0.40	0.55	1.70	0.55
Apparent SAA:			0.42	0.56	1.67	0.54

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