

## Test Report

SPONSOR: **Catalyst Acoustics Group**  
Agawam, MA

**Sound Absorption**  
**RAL™-A20-350**

CONDUCTED: 2020-08-26

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ON: PET Cloud (2x2 square array, spaced 24 in. apart)

### 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 PET Cloud (2x2 square array, spaced 24 in. apart). 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: PET Cloud  
Material: Polyethylene terephthalate felt  
Manufacturer: Catalyst Acoustics Group

### 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 sections of semirigid felt paneling  
Dimensions: 4 @ 1190.62 mm (46.875 in.) x 1190.62 mm (46.875 in.)  
Thickness: Felt paneling layers @ 9 mm (0.354 in.) each  
Overall @ 69.85 mm (2.75 in.)  
Overall Weight: 49.9 kg (110 lbs)

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### Physical Measurements (per object)

Dimensions: 1.19 m (46.875 in) wide by 1.19 m (46.875 in) long  
Thickness: 0.07 m (2.75 in)  
Weight: 12.47 kg (27.5 lbs)

### Test Environment

Room Volume: 291.98 m<sup>3</sup>  
Temperature: 22.7 °C ± 0.0 °C (Requirement: ≥ 10 °C and ≤ 5 °C change)  
Relative Humidity: 57.95 % ± 0.3 % (Requirement: ≥ 40 % and ≤ 5 % change)  
Barometric Pressure: 98.8 kPa (Requirement not defined)

Each sound absorbing object had an absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of 3.17 m<sup>2</sup> (34.10 ft<sup>2</sup>). The total absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of all sound-absorbing objects was 12.67 m<sup>2</sup> (136.39 ft<sup>2</sup>). The array of objects covered 8.95 m<sup>2</sup> (96.29 ft<sup>2</sup>) of the horizontal test surface (total treated area).

### MOUNTING METHOD

Type J Mounting: The specimen is an array of 4 spaced sound absorbing objects suspended atop an array of cables such that the closest face of the objects 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 in a 2 by 2 square array, spaced 0.61 m (24 in.) apart.

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Figure 1 – Specimen mounted in test chamber



Figure 2 – Underside of specimen material in test chamber

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Figure 3 – Detail of specimen material



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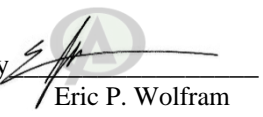
TEST RESULTS

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	3.04	32.72	0.76	8.18
** 125	2.98	32.12	0.75	8.03
160	3.16	34.06	0.79	8.52
200	4.20	45.20	1.05	11.30
** 250	4.18	44.98	1.04	11.24
315	5.01	53.95	1.25	13.49
400	5.50	59.21	1.38	14.80
** 500	6.02	64.84	1.51	16.21
630	6.87	73.91	1.72	18.48
800	7.81	84.11	1.95	21.03
** 1000	8.71	93.71	2.18	23.43
1250	9.20	99.05	2.30	24.76
1600	9.88	106.30	2.47	26.57
** 2000	10.06	108.31	2.52	27.08
2500	10.24	110.18	2.56	27.54
3150	10.51	113.18	2.63	28.29
** 4000	11.01	118.50	2.75	29.63
5000	11.26	121.23	2.82	30.31

Tested by   
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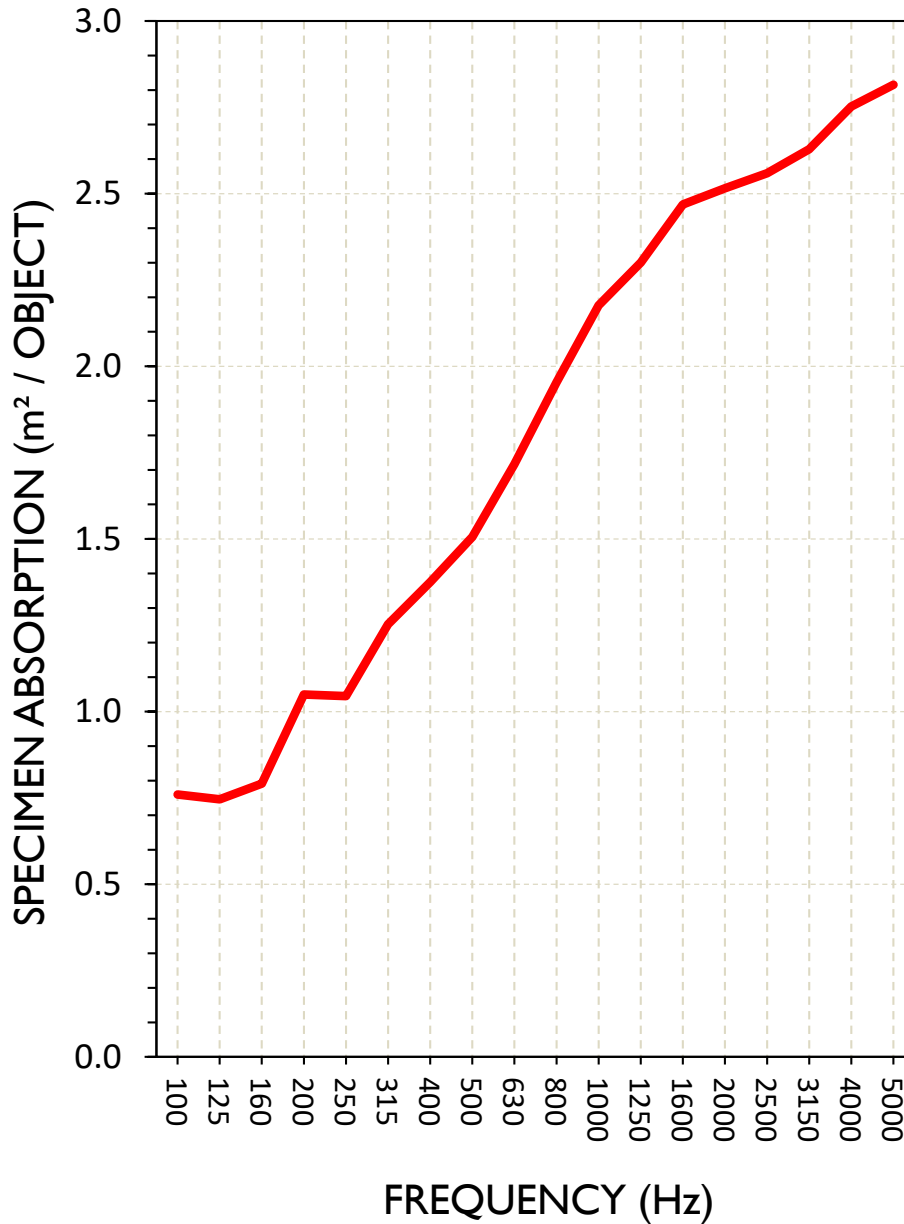
Approved by   
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**SOUND ABSORPTION REPORT**  
PET Cloud (2x2 square array, spaced 24 in. apart)



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### APPENDIX A: Extended Frequency Range Data

Specimen: PET Cloud (2x2 square array, spaced 24 in. apart) (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	1.05	11.35	0.26	2.84
40	0.10	1.07	0.02	0.27
50	-0.13	-1.41	-0.03	-0.35
63	0.65	7.03	0.16	1.76
80	2.27	24.45	0.57	6.11
100	3.04	32.72	0.76	8.18
125	2.98	32.12	0.75	8.03
160	3.16	34.06	0.79	8.52
200	4.20	45.20	1.05	11.30
250	4.18	44.98	1.04	11.24
315	5.01	53.95	1.25	13.49
400	5.50	59.21	1.38	14.80
500	6.02	64.84	1.51	16.21
630	6.87	73.91	1.72	18.48
800	7.81	84.11	1.95	21.03
1000	8.71	93.71	2.18	23.43
1250	9.20	99.05	2.30	24.76
1600	9.88	106.30	2.47	26.57
2000	10.06	108.31	2.52	27.08
2500	10.24	110.18	2.56	27.54
3150	10.51	113.18	2.63	28.29
4000	11.01	118.50	2.75	29.63
5000	11.26	121.23	2.82	30.31
6300	11.53	124.10	2.88	31.03
8000	11.67	125.66	2.92	31.42
10000	11.86	127.67	2.97	31.92
12500	12.89	138.79	3.22	34.70

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**APPENDIX B: Instruments of Traceability**

Specimen: PET Cloud (2x2 square array, spaced 24 in. apart) (See Full Report)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Date of Certification</u>	<u>Calibration Due</u>
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: PET Cloud (2x2 square array, spaced 24 in. apart) (See Full Report)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Revision</u>
2020-09-02	Original report issued

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END



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ON: PET Cloud (2x2 square array, spaced 24 in. apart) (See Full Test Report for Details)

### **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 objects, including intermediate spaces. The object rigging covered 8.95 m<sup>2</sup> (96.29 ft<sup>2</sup>) of horizontal test surface area. With an extra 609.6 mm (24 in.) of width and length to account for the space between the tested array and what would be the next objects in a larger array, the surface area comes to 12.96 m<sup>2</sup> (139.54 ft<sup>2</sup>). 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 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 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 (3.17 m<sup>2</sup> (34.10 ft<sup>2</sup>) per object x 4 objects = 12.67 m<sup>2</sup> (136.39 ft<sup>2</sup>) 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 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 (1.42 m<sup>2</sup> (15.26 ft<sup>2</sup>) per object x 4 objects = 5.67 m<sup>2</sup> (61.04 ft<sup>2</sup>) 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	
			Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Coverage Area	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Exposed Surface Area	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From One Face/Object	
Freq. (Hz)	Sabins	Sabins / Object				
31.5	11.35	2.84	0.08	0.08	0.19	
40	1.07	0.27	0.01	0.01	0.02	
50	-1.41	-0.35	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	
<b>63</b>	7.03	1.76	0.05	0.05	0.12	
80	24.45	6.11	0.18	0.18	0.40	
100	32.72	8.18	0.23	0.24	0.54	
<b>125</b>	32.12	8.03	0.23	0.24	0.53	
160	34.06	8.52	0.24	0.25	0.56	
200	45.20	11.30	0.32	0.33	0.74	
<b>250</b>	44.98	11.24	0.32	0.33	0.74	
315	53.95	13.49	0.39	0.40	0.88	
400	59.21	14.80	0.42	0.43	0.97	
<b>500</b>	64.84	16.21	0.46	0.48	1.06	
630	73.91	18.48	0.53	0.54	1.21	
800	84.11	21.03	0.60	0.62	1.38	
<b>1,000</b>	93.71	23.43	0.67	0.69	1.54	
1,250	99.05	24.76	0.71	0.73	1.62	
1,600	106.30	26.57	0.76	0.78	1.74	
<b>2,000</b>	108.31	27.08	0.78	0.79	1.77	
2,500	110.18	27.54	0.79	0.81	1.81	
3,150	113.18	28.29	0.81	0.83	1.85	
<b>4,000</b>	118.50	29.63	0.85	0.87	1.94	
5,000	121.23	30.31	0.87	0.89	1.99	
6,300	124.10	31.03	0.89	0.91	2.03	
<b>8,000</b>	125.66	31.42	0.90	0.92	2.06	
10,000	127.67	31.92	0.91	0.94	2.09	
12,500	138.79	34.70	0.99	1.02	2.27	
			<b>Apparent NRC:</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>1.30</b>
			<b>Apparent SAA:</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>1.29</b>

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