

# The MATT Test



- ◆ Supplying high quality acoustic and soundproofing products since 1984
- ◆ Invented the concept of “Room Voicing” or custom room acoustic treatments
- ◆ Winner of awards from numerous magazines including Stereophile and The Absolute Sound Magazines
- ◆ Proudly made in America by skilled artisans

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## The Musical Articulation Test Tone For Evaluating Audio Systems

*An easy, informative and proven method of evaluating the musical clarity of your audio environment.*

### What's This All About?

The objective of performing the MATT test in your listening room is to determine where you might move your speakers, listening position, and/or where to add acoustic treatment to your room to obtain the highest quality sound possible from the components in your listening environment.

The data gathering process is fairly simple and easy to perform on your system. The Stereophile CD contains a series of tones that are actually gated, slow-swept sinewaves that approximate the transient characteristics of music. ASC designed the MATT test to evaluate the way in which the room and loudspeaker system handles the reproduction of carefully defined and complex waveforms in its current listening environment. This test will help you determine the acoustic quality, such as articulation and imaging, that your system is now delivering and will allow you to evaluate and pinpoint troublesome areas in the room by its analysis. ASC can create a visual graph of those findings from your recording and provide you with room treatment solutions or expert advice.

### The Acoustic Details

Each tone burst you hear is 2 Hz above or below the prior burst and there are 8 bursts per second. Each burst lasts 1/16th of a second followed by silence for the same amount of time. The baseline tone is slowly varied from 20 Hz to 800 Hz and then back to 20 Hz; the sweep is linear in time at 20 Hz per second.

### How To Begin This Test (Refer to track 19 on Stereophile Test CD2)

- First, audition the MATT test subjectively by playing the MATT CD and listening to the tone sequence over headphones. What you're hearing is an ideal acoustic listening room -- clear and articulate.
- Then repeat the tone without the headphones, listening only to your speakers from your listening position. The sound level should be adjusted to normal listening levels. It's always a surprise how unintelligible audio playback systems can be.
- Some sections of the test will sound articulate: “TAT, TAT, TAT”. This represents clean, fast attack transients, stable sustains and rapid decays. This is the way you want it to sound.
- Interspersed between these articulate passages will be garbled “BUDDULA, BUDDULA, BUDDULA” sounds. If you listen up close to the speakers, the garbled passages will disappear, but as you back away into the room the amount of garbled signals increase dramatically. This is a sign that the room could have some problems, and is distorting the clean playback of your speakers.

