

## Test Report

FOR: **Focal Point**  
Chicago, IL

**Sound Absorption**  
**RAL-A18-423**

CONDUCTED: 2018-12-05

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ON: Seem 1 Acoustic, 8 in. tall, 18 in. apart

### TEST METHOD

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 17025:2005 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 specimen surface area of 9.13 m<sup>2</sup> is less than the minimum surface area of 10 m<sup>2</sup> specified in Section 15.4 of the standard. A description of the measurement procedure and room specifications is available upon request.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIMEN

The test specimen was designated by the manufacturer as Seem 1 Acoustic, 8 in. tall, 18 in. apart. A full internal inspection performed on the test specimen by Riverbank personnel verified the manufacturer's description.

#### Test Specimen

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Trade Name: Seem 1 Acoustic  
Materials: Polyethylene terephthalate felt, steel, acrylic  
Overall Dimensions: 7 @ 2460.62 mm (96.875 in.) x 203.2 mm (8 in.)  
Overall Thickness: 57.15 mm (2.25 in.)  
Construction: 9 mm (0.354 in.) thick felt panels on sides of steel frame  
Steel tray at top face, acrylic lens at bottom face  
Core material information withheld per customer request  
Overall Weight: 37.08 kg (81.75 lbs)

#### Physical Measures (per unit)

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Dimensions: 2.46 m (96.875 in) wide by 0.2 m (8.0 in) long  
Thickness: 0.06 m (2.25 in)  
Weight: 5.3 kg (11.68 lbs)

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### Test Environment

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Room Volume: 291.98 m<sup>3</sup>  
Temperature: 20.3 °C ± 0.0 °C  
Relative Humidity: 62.0 % ± 0.2 %  
Barometric Pressure: 99.2 kPa

Each sound absorbing unit had an absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of 1.30 m<sup>2</sup> (14.04 ft<sup>2</sup>). The total absorptive area (all exposed surfaces) of all sound-absorbing units was 9.13 m<sup>2</sup> (98.29 ft<sup>2</sup>). The array of units covered 7.73 m<sup>2</sup> (83.25 ft<sup>2</sup>) of chamber floor surface (total treated area).

### MOUNTING METHOD

Type J Mounting: The specimen is an array of spaced sound absorbing units suspended from an array of cables such that the bottom surface of the units is located approximately 1270 mm (50 in.) above the horizontal test surface. This approximates the mounting method of a typical ceiling baffle installation. The units were evenly distributed in a single row, spaced 457.2 mm (18 in.) apart.

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Figure 1 - Specimen mounted in test chamber



Figure 2 - Detail of individual unit

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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 Unit	
	(m <sup>2</sup> )	(Sabins)	(m <sup>2</sup> / Unit)	(Sabins / Unit)
100	0.16	1.69	0.02	0.24
** 125	0.22	2.41	0.03	0.34
160	0.70	7.53	0.10	1.08
200	1.10	11.80	0.16	1.69
** 250	1.67	18.01	0.24	2.57
315	2.70	29.08	0.39	4.15
400	2.87	30.91	0.41	4.42
** 500	3.42	36.84	0.49	5.26
630	4.28	46.03	0.61	6.58
800	4.97	53.45	0.71	7.64
** 1000	5.55	59.72	0.79	8.53
1250	6.17	66.46	0.88	9.49
1600	6.74	72.54	0.96	10.36
** 2000	7.09	76.33	1.01	10.90
2500	7.13	76.73	1.02	10.96
3150	7.02	75.58	1.00	10.80
** 4000	7.21	77.58	1.03	11.08
5000	7.43	79.99	1.06	11.43

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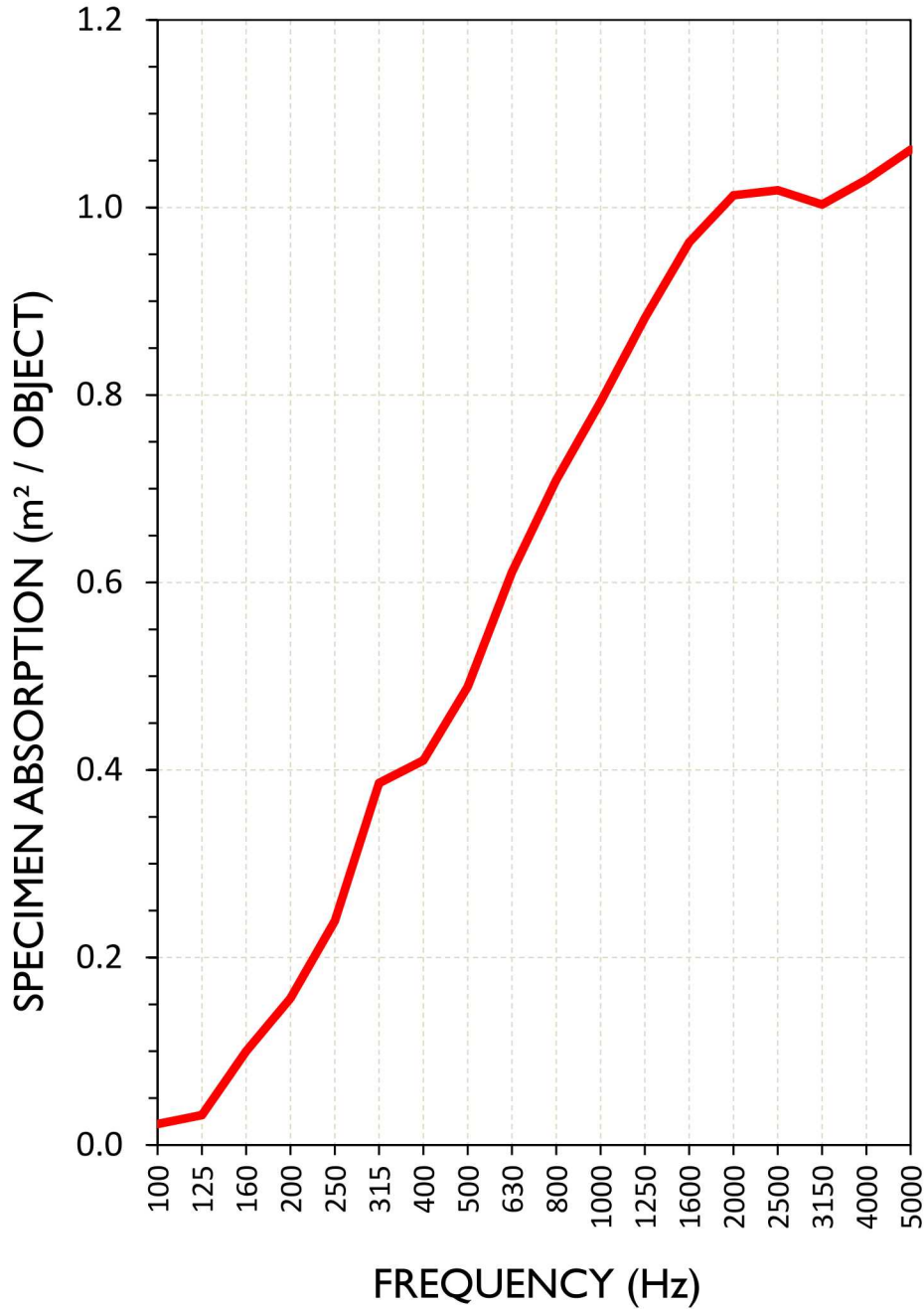
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SOUND ABSORPTION REPORT

Seem I Acoustic, 8 in. tall, 18 in. apart



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### **APPENDIX A: Extended Frequency Range Data**

Specimen: Seem 1 Acoustic, 8 in. tall, 18 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 Unit	
	(m <sup>2</sup> )	(Sabins)	(m <sup>2</sup> / Unit)	(Sabins / Unit)
31.5	-0.54	-5.85	-0.11	-0.84
40	0.64	6.91	0.13	0.99
50	-0.15	-1.66	-0.03	-0.24
63	0.03	0.31	0.01	0.04
80	0.28	3.06	0.06	0.44
100	0.16	1.69	0.03	0.24
125	0.22	2.41	0.04	0.34
160	0.70	7.53	0.14	1.08
200	1.10	11.80	0.22	1.69
250	1.67	18.01	0.33	2.57
315	2.70	29.08	0.54	4.15
400	2.87	30.91	0.57	4.42
500	3.42	36.84	0.68	5.26
630	4.28	46.03	0.86	6.58
800	4.97	53.45	0.99	7.64
1000	5.55	59.72	1.11	8.53
1250	6.17	66.46	1.23	9.49
1600	6.74	72.54	1.35	10.36
2000	7.09	76.33	1.42	10.90
2500	7.13	76.73	1.43	10.96
3150	7.02	75.58	1.40	10.80
4000	7.21	77.58	1.44	11.08
5000	7.43	79.99	1.49	11.43
6300	7.86	84.59	1.57	12.08
8000	7.62	81.97	1.52	11.71
10000	7.85	84.46	1.57	12.07
12500	7.60	81.77	1.52	11.68

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**APPENDIX B: Instruments of Traceability**

Specimen: Seem 1 Acoustic, 8 in. tall, 18 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-4/2	System 1	2018-08-09	2019-08-09
Bruel & Kjaer Mic And Preamp A	Type 4943-B-001	2311428	2018-09-28	2019-09-28
Bruel & Kjaer Pistonphone	Type 4228	2781248	2018-08-06	2019-08-06
Omega Digital Temp., Humid. And Pressure Recorder	OM-CP-PRHTemp2000	P97844	2018-02-03	2019-02-03

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END



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### **Appendix C 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 programs. 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 7.73 m<sup>2</sup> (83.25 ft<sup>2</sup>) of horizontal test surface area. With an extra 457.2 mm (18 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 8.86 m<sup>2</sup> (95.36 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 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 and that the installation occurs over a perfectly reflective ceiling surface.

#### **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 (1.30 m<sup>2</sup> (14.04 ft<sup>2</sup>) per unit x 7 units = 9.13 m<sup>2</sup> (98.29 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 baffle.**

The total sound absorption yielded by the specimen is divided by the surface area of one side of one large face for each unit in the specimen (0.50 m<sup>2</sup> (5.38 ft<sup>2</sup>) per unit x 7 units = 3.50 m<sup>2</sup> (37.67 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
Freq. (Hz)	Sabins	Sabins / Unit	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Coverage Area	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From Total Exposed Surface Area	Apparent Abs. Coefficient From One Face/Baffle
31.5	-5.85	-0.84	-0.06	-0.06	-0.16
40	6.91	0.99	0.07	0.07	0.18
50	-1.66	-0.24	-0.02	-0.02	-0.04
<b>63</b>	0.31	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.01
80	3.06	0.44	0.03	0.03	0.08
100	1.69	0.24	0.02	0.02	0.04
<b>125</b>	2.41	0.34	0.03	0.02	0.06
160	7.53	1.08	0.08	0.08	0.20
200	11.80	1.69	0.12	0.12	0.31
<b>250</b>	18.01	2.57	0.19	0.18	0.48
315	29.08	4.15	0.30	0.30	0.77
400	30.91	4.42	0.32	0.31	0.82
<b>500</b>	36.84	5.26	0.39	0.37	0.98
630	46.03	6.58	0.48	0.47	1.22
800	53.45	7.64	0.56	0.54	1.42
<b>1,000</b>	59.72	8.53	0.63	0.61	1.59
1,250	66.46	9.49	0.70	0.68	1.76
1,600	72.54	10.36	0.76	0.74	1.93
<b>2,000</b>	76.33	10.90	0.80	0.78	2.03
2,500	76.73	10.96	0.80	0.78	2.04
3,150	75.58	10.80	0.79	0.77	2.01
<b>4,000</b>	77.58	11.08	0.81	0.79	2.06
5,000	79.99	11.43	0.84	0.81	2.12
6,300	84.59	12.08	0.89	0.86	2.25
<b>8,000</b>	81.97	11.71	0.86	0.83	2.18
10,000	84.46	12.07	0.89	0.86	2.24
12,500	81.77	11.68	0.86	0.83	2.17
<b>Apparent NRC:</b>			<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>1.25</b>
<b>Apparent SAA:</b>			<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>1.28</b>

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