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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
WASHINGTON
NOVEMBER 15, 1939.

Letter
Circular
LC-573

SOUND ABSORPTION COEFFICIENTS OF THE MORE COMMON ACOUSTIC MATERIALS.

The following figures have been obtained at the National Bureau of Standards for the sound absorption coefficients of a number of acoustic materials. It is our intention to publish results only for materials which are on the market. The measurements on some of these materials were made several years ago, but we believe these materials are essentially the same as when the measurements were made. The inclusion of a material in this letter circular is not to be construed as a general approval. Each material should be judged on its merits in any particular case as there are other requirements such as fire resisting qualities; light reflection, appearance, etc. Figures are also given for the absorption of an audience seated in chairs of different kinds. All the results have been obtained by the reverberation method on samples having an area of approximately 72 square feet.

The sound absorption coefficient of a material is defined as the fractional part of the energy of a sound wave which is absorbed at each reflection. Experimental figures such as are given here must be regarded as approximate only. This branch of applied science is new and in a state of development. The methods and formulas used in obtaining these figures are those which, while not entirely satisfactory, are open to the least objection. The uncertainty involved is such that all the coefficients are probably somewhat too large.

The "noise coefficient" given in the table is the average to the nearest multiple of 0.05 of the coefficients for 256, 512, 1024, and 2048 cycles. It has been recommended by many consultants that such a coefficient be used when the problem is one of reducing the noise level, as in offices, restaurants, etc.

Fibrous materials and acoustic tiles may exhibit large variations in coefficient arising from different methods of mounting. The figures here given apply only to cases where the materials are mounted in the same manner as when tested.

Acoustic plasters require special skill in their application, as improper manipulation may reduce the coefficient. Particular attention is called to the fact that a dry base coat is used for most applications. Also the sound absorption coefficients are affected quite materially by the time between the application of the first and second coat of acoustic plaster.

A number of materials have been painted and retested to determine the effect of painting. In every case the paint was applied so as to decrease the sound absorption as little as possible and still obtain a reasonably good paint job. Details of the manner in which the paint was

applied on any particular material will be supplied upon application.

It is not necessarily the case that the materials of highest coefficient are the most advantageous. When there is room enough to apply the requisite quantity, a material of low coefficient will give better results than one of higher absorption, because of the more uniform distribution of material. Also, in comparing different materials it should be borne in mind that there is some variation in manufacture, hence the sample which was measured may have more or less absorption than the material delivered on the job. Minor differences in coefficients, therefore, should be disregarded in choosing between materials.

For the foregoing reasons it is advisable in drawing up specifications for auditoriums to lay emphasis upon the reverberation time desired rather than upon coefficients of material. See National Bureau of Standards Circular C418 entitled "Architectural Acoustics", which may be obtained of the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 5 cents per copy. Additional details regarding any of the materials mentioned in this letter circular will be furnished on application.

Additional information regarding the absorption coefficients of acoustical materials may be obtained from the Acoustical Materials Association, 919 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Trade Name of Acoustic Materials

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<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Address</u>	
Absorbex	The Celotex Corporation	919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.	7
Acoustex	National Gypsum Co.	Buffalo, N. Y.	15
Acousti-Celotex	The Celotex Corporation	919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.	8
Acousti-Metal	National Gypsum Co.	Buffalo, N. Y.	15
Acoustone	United States Gypsum Co.	300 West Adams St., Chicago, Ill.	16
Air-Acoustic Sheets	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	13
Akoustolith Tile	R. Guastavino Co.	40 Court St., Boston, Mass.	12
<u>Akoustolith Plaster</u>	R. Guastavino Co.	40 Court St., Boston, Mass.	20
		-	24
<u>Audience (Seated in different types of seats)</u>			
Balsam Wool	Wood Conversion Co.	Cloquet, Minn.	17
Basalt Rock	Basalt Rock Co.	Napa, Calif.	7
Berry-Cel	F. E. Berry, Jr., & Co., Inc.	Everett, Mass.	7
Cabots Quilt	Samuel Cabot, Inc.	141 Milk St., Boston, Mass.	7
Calacoustic Plaster	Pacific Portland Cement Co.	111 Sutter St., San Francisco, Calif.	23
Calicel	The Celotex Corporation	919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.	10
Calistone	The Celotex Corporation	919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.	10
Cellulofam	Cellulofam Corporation	66th St. & La Vergne Ave., Chicago, Ill.	7
Ceramacoustic	Armstrong Cork Co.	Lancaster, Pa.	6
Corinco Acousticator	Cork Insulation Co., Inc.	155 East 14th St., New York, N. Y.	11
Corinco Corkbestos	Cork Insulation Co., Inc.	155 East 14th St., New York, N. Y.	11
Cork Acoustical	Armor Insulating Co.	260 Peachtree St., Atlanta, Ga.	6
Cork Acoustical	United Cork Companies	Kearny, N. J.	15
Corkoustic	Armstrong Cork Company	Lancaster, Pa.	6
Corning Glass Mineral	Corning Glass Company	Corning, N. Y.	12
Wool Acoustic Blankets			
Felt	The Felter Company, Inc.	214 South St., Boston, Mass.	12
Fibretex	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	13
Gold Bond Fiber	National Gypsum Co.	Buffalo, N. Y.	16
Acoustic Tile			
Hawaiian Cane Tile	Hawaiian Cane Products, Ltd.	215 Market St., San Francisco, Calif.	13
Hushkote Acoustic Plaster	Cleveland Gypsum Supply Co.	1276 West Third St., Cleveland, Ohio.	19

Trade NameManufacturerAddressPage

Insulite	The Insulite Company	Builders Exchange Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	13
Kalite Cast	Certain-Teed Products Corp.	101 East 41st St., New York, N. Y.	11
Kalite Acoustic Plaster	Certain-Teed Products Corp.	101 East 41st St., New York, N. Y.	19
Kencoustic	David E. Kennedy, Inc.	58 Second Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.	15
Kencoustic	David E. Kennedy, Inc.	58 Second Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.	15
KenKoustone	David E. Kennedy, Inc.	58 Second Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.	15
Krockstone Tile	Wood Conversion Co.	Cloquet, Minn.	17
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	Keasbey & Mattison Co.	Ambler, Pa.	21
Fusco Hair Felt	Luse Stevenson Co.	Builders Bldg., Chicago, Ill.	15
Acoustic Plaster	National Gypsum Co.	Buffalo, N. Y.	21
Mutilete	Maizewood Products Corp.	Dubuque, Iowa	15
Washkote	The Celotex Corporation	919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.	10
Murffleton	Acoustical Corp. of America	Philadelphia, Pa.	6
Maizewood Acoustic Tile	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	14
Old Newark Acoustic Plaster	Wood Conversion Co.	Cloquet, Minn.	17
Peramacoustic	Newark Plaster Co.	50 Church St., New York, N. Y.	22
Quietone	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	14
Reverbolite Plaster	United States Gypsum Co.	300 West Adams St., Chicago, Ill.	17
Rockoustic Plaster	The Celotex Corporation	919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.	18
Rockwall Acoustic Plaster	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	14
Sabinite Plaster	National Gypsum Co.	Buffalo, N. Y.	22
Sonicoustic (See Audionce)	United States Gypsum Co.	300 West Adams St., Chicago, Ill.	23
Sound-Cor	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	14
Sound Isolation Blanket	California Stucco Products	24	14
Spongacoustic	of N. E., Inc.	Morton, Pa.	15
Stuccoacoustic	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	14
Studio Element	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	14
Super-Acoustic Plaster	Gypsum Insulation and	22 Lawrence St., Los Angeles, Calif.	20
Tonacoustic	Manufacturing Co.	Lancaster, Pa.	6
Temlok Deluxe	Armstrong Cork Co.	Lancaster, Pa.	7
Thermefil	Armstrong Cork Co.	300 West Adams St., Chicago, Ill.	17
Transite Acoustical Units	United States Gypsum Co.	22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y.	14
Trutone	Johns-Manville Sales Corp.	121 C.C. Chapman Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif.	6

TYPES OF MOUNTING:

1. Cemented to wall board. This is considered equivalent to cementing to plaster or masonry.
2. Nailed on 13/16" x 2" furring 12" o.c. unless otherwise indicated.
3. Metal supports attached to 13/16" x 2" wood furring.
4. Laid directly on laboratory floor. As a rule the results obtained in this way are the same as when the tile is cemented to gypsum wall board.
5. Nailed on 2 x 4's 12" o.c. unless otherwise indicated.
6. Cemented to the floor of the reverberation chamber.
7. Back of sample covered with concrete.
8. Attached to metal suspension system. 4" air space back of tile, unless otherwise indicated.
9. Acoustic tile nailed to 13/16" x 2" furring 18" c.c. Space between furring filled with Rockwool.
10. Laid on 2 x 8's 12" o.c.
11. Laid on 24 gauge sheet iron, nailed to 13/16" x 2" furring 24" c.c.
12. Clipped at corners to 5/8" x 1 3/8" metal furring 12" o.c. Furring was clipped to 1 1/2" channels which were 3 1/2" c.c.

Sound Absorption Coefficients and Description of Test Samples

Table I

Prefabricated Acoustic Units.

ACOUSTICAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA

Material	Thickness (See Page 5)	Mounting (See Page 5)	ACOUSTICAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA						Date
			Noise Coefficients	Coef. 128 256 512 1024 2048 4096	Unit Tested	Wt. (1b) sq. ft.	Size of Surface		
Mutetile (2" Rockwool)	2 1/2"	4	.53 .71 .80 .78 .76 .45	.74	.75	12"x 12"	-	Cast plaster of paris perforated 2556 holes per sq. ft., size, 1/16".	1932

ACOUSTONE COMPANY, Ltd.

Trutone Tile, cast on 1/4" gypsum wall board	7/8"	4	.16 .17 .48 .82 .65 .47	.74	.55	12"x 2 1/4"	-	Spray painted by manufacturer.	1932
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ARMOR INSULATING CO.

Cork	1"	1	.02 .09 .32 .63 .38 .40	.40	.35	12"x 36"	0.67	Painted by mfr.	1939
Cork	1 1/2"	1	.05 .16 .57 .43 .32 .40	.40	.35	12"x 36"	0.96	Unpainted	1939

ARMSTRONG CORK CO.

Ceramacoustic Tile 1 1/8"	1	.34 .48 .63 .66 .65 .60	.58	.60	4 1/2"x 9"	3.4	Unpainted	1932		
Ceramacoustic Tile 1 1/8"	1	.28 .49 .62 .62 .66 .54	.54	.60	4 1/2"x 9"	3.4	Spray painted 4 coats at NBS	1952		
Corkoustic Type B4	1 1/4"	1	.10 .17 .57 .76 .54 .67	.67	.50	12"x 12"	.63	Painted by mfr.	1939	
Corkoustic Type B5	1 1/2"	1	.08 .21 .67 .70 .55 .60	.60	.55	12"x 12"	.75	Painted by mfr.	1939	
Corkoustic Type B5	1 1/2"	2	.08 .35 .75 .55 .54 .58	.58	.55	12"x 12"	.75	Painted by mfr.	1939	
Corkoustic Type B5	1 1/2"	1	.07 .25 .70 .63 .53 .63	.63	.55	12"x 12"	.82	Painted by mfr.	1939	
Corkoustic Type B5	1 1/2"	1	.11 .33 .66 .45 .31 .39	.39	.45	12"x 12"	-	Same as above, brush painted 4 coats at NBS	1939	
Corkoustic Type B6	1 3/4"	1	.07 .30 .79 .65 .55 .62	.62	.55	12"x 12"	.85	Painted by mfr.	1939	
Tencoustic F-2	7/8"	1	.15 .43 .66 .65 .55 .70	.70	.60	12"x 12"	1.02	Painted by mfr.	1939	
									Painted by mfr.	1939

ARMSTRONG CORK CO. (Cont'd.)

Material	Thickness	Mounting (See Page 5)	Coefficients	Noise Coef.	Size of Unit	Wt. (lb.)	Surface	Date
				Tested	sq. ft.			
Tenlok Deluxe	1/2"	4	.12 .24 .39 .31 .32 .30	.30	48" x 54"	1.18	Painted by mfr.	1937
Tenlok Deluxe	7/8"	4	.22 .46 .35 .32 .39 .40	.40	48" x 54"	1.19	Painted by mfr.	1937
Tenlok Deluxe	1 3/8"	4	.32 .45 .37 .39 .46 .40	.40	48" x 54"	1.65	Painted by mfr.	1937

BASALT ROCK COMPANY

Basalt Rock Type A	5"	4	.32 .81 .75 .73 .74	.73	.75	18" x 24"	25.2	Unpainted	1938

F. E. BERRY, JR. & CO., INC.

Berry-Cel	1"	8	.26 .66 .90 .77 .88	.91	.80	12" x 12"	2.57	Unpainted	1939
Berry-Cel,	1"	8	.43 .96 .99 .86 .89	.93	.95	12" x 12"	2.99	Unpainted	1939

plus rockwool at back of tile.

SAMUEL CABOT, INC.

Cabots Quilt	-	4	.12 .30 .69 .82 .41	.31	.55	-	.41	Covered with paper	1938

CELLULOAM CORPORATION

Acoustical Cellulofoam Type HD	1"	1	.11 .28 .60 .70 .73	.78	.60	3" x 4"	.14	No surface covering	1939
Acoustical Cellulofoam Type ID	2"	2	.14 .33 .58 .82 .83	.82	.65	3" x 4"	.14	No surface covering	1939

THE CELOTEX CORPORATION

Absorbex Type A on 1" Absorbex Type F (10 gauge)	2"	4	- .39 .80 .96 .92	-	.75	9" x 9"	-	Spray painted by mfr.	1932
Absorbex Type A	1"	1	.09 .24 .62 .89 .73	.73	.60	12" x 12"	2.4	Unpainted	1939
Absorbex Type A	1"	1	.14 .49 .83 .61 .30	.22	.55	12" x 12"	-	Same as above brush painted 5 coats at MES	1939
Absorbex Type A	1"	9	.19 .63 .95 .86 .78	.77	.80	18" x 18"	2.6	Unpainted	1936
Absorbex Type A (18" o.c.)	2"	19	.19 .33 .80 .86 .80	.83	.70	18" x 18"	2.7	Kerfed, spray painted 4 coats at MES	1936

THE CELCOTEX CORPORATION (Cont'd)

Material	Thickness	Mounting (See Page 5)	Coefficients	Noise Coef.	Wt. (lb.)	Surface	Date
		128 256 512 1024 2048 4096			Tested sq. ft.		
Absorbex Type C	1"	4 .14 .19 .34 .73 .62	.62	.45	20" x 64"	-	1932
Absorbex Type C (14 gauge)	1"	2 .14 .21 .67 .69 .59	.62	.55	20" x 64"	-	1932
Absorbex Type F (10 gauge)	1"	2 .06 .17 .47 .66 .53	-	.45	20" x 64"	-	1934
Absorbex Type F (8 gauge)	2"	7 .13 .47 .98 .70 .78	.70	.75	20" x 64"	4.7 Spray painted by mfr. at NBS	1934
Acousti-Celotex Type C1	1/2"	1 .12 .26 .48 .50 .46	.56	.45	12" x 12"	.78 R.I. finish, perforated 441 holes per sq. ft., 3/16" dia., 3/8" deep.	1936
Acousti-Celotex Type C1	1/2"	1 .17 .24 .40 .45 .43	.51	.40	12" x 12"	.88 Unpainted, perforated as above.	1936
Acousti-Celotex Slow burning							
Acousti-Celotex Type C2	5/8"	1 .11 .31 .71 .80 .67	.57	.60	12" x 12"	.88 R.I. finish, perforated as above, holes 1/2" deep.	1936
Acousti-Celotex Type C2	5/8"	2 .14 .65 .53 .73 .67	.55	.65	12" x 12"	.88 Same as above	1936
Acousti-Celotex Slow burning							
Acousti-Celotex Type C2	5/8"	1 .09 .25 .68 .79 .69	.66	.60	12" x 12"	.89 Unpainted, perforated as above.	1937
Acousti-Celotex Slow burning							
Acousti-Celotex Type C2	5/8"	2 .12 .48 .64 .70 .62	.49	.60	12" x 12"	1.07 Painted by mfr. Perforated as above	1939
Acousti-Celotex Type C3	13/16"	1 .18 .32 .76 .93 .63	.50	.65	12" x 12"	1.11 R.I. finish, perforated as above, holes 5/8" deep.	1936
Acousti-Celotex Type C3	13/16"	1 .10 .30 .78 .85 .59	.42	.65	12" x 12"	0.94 Same as above	1939
Acousti-Celotex Type C3	13/16"	1 .08 .33 .83 .86 .53	.37	.65	12" x 12"	- Same as above except brush painted 4 coats at NBS	1939
Acousti-Celotex Type C3	13/16"	8 .55 .66 .66 .80 .69	.52	.70	12" x 24"	1.09 R.I. finish, perforated as above.	1936

THE CELLOTEX CORPORATION (Cont'd)

Material	Thickness Mounting ness (See Page 5)	Page 5)	Coefficients	Noise Coef.	Size of Unit Tested	Wt. (lb.)	Surface	Date
Acousti-Celotex	13/16"	1	.18 .36 .67 .74	.67	.66	.60	12"x 12"	1.35 Unpainted, perforated as above.
Type C3	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	13/16"	8	.45 .58 .67 .91	.71	.66	.70	12"x 24"	1.06 Unpainted, perforated as above.
Type C3	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	1 1/4"	1	.17 .48 .97	.72	.50	.41	.65 12"x 12"	1.58 R.I. finish, perforated as above, holes 1 1/16" deep.
Type C4	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	1 1/4"	8	.53 .68 .96	.78	.60	.50	.75 12"x 24"	1.44 Same as above.
Type C4	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	1 1/4"	1	.13 .51 .94	.84	.58	.52	.70 12"x 12"	1.80 Unpainted, perforated as above.
Type C4	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	1 1/4"	8	.43 .62 .78	.81	.61	.40	.70 12"x 24"	1.93 Painted by mfr., per- forated as above.
Type C5	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	13/16"	1	.15 .24 .62	.73	.70	.71	.55 12"x 12"	- Unpainted, perforated 4 1/4" holes per sq ft, 1/4" dia., 5/8" deep.
Type C5	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	13/16"	1	.13 .26 .62	.78	.86	.77	.65 12"x 12"	- Same as above, brush painted 1 coat glue size, 4 coats lead & oil at NBS.
Type C5	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	13/16"	2	.09 .56 .77	.90	.78	.62	.75 12"x 12"	.86 Unpainted, perforated as 1933 above, holes 5/8" deep.
Type C5	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	1 1/4"	4	.12 .41 .90	.92	.66	.64	.70 12"x 12"	1.44 Unpainted, perforated as 1932 above, holes 1" deep.
Type C6	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	1/2"	1	.10 .17 .63	.68	.66	.72	.55 12"x 12"	1.39 Unpainted, net perforated. 1936
Type MU-1	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	9/16"	1	.11 .29 .68	.74	.82	.74	.65 12"x 12"	1.23 Painted by mfr., perfora- ted 676 holes per sq ft,
Type MU-1	Slow-burning							
Acousti-Celotex	1"	8	.38 .54 .66	.95	.73	.68	.70 12"x 24"	2.32 Painted by mfr. Perfor- ed as above, holes 7/8" deep.
Type M2	Slow-burning							

THE CELOTEX CORPORATION (Cont'd)

Noise Size of

Material	Thickness	Mounting (See Page 5)	Coefficients				Noise Coef.	Size of Unit	Wt. (lb) sq. ft.	Date		
Type M3	1 1/4"	1	.15	.50	.93	.89	.74	.69	.75	12"x 12"	2.58	Painted by mfr. per- forated as above, holes 1 1/8" deep.
Acousti-Celotex	1 1/4"	1	.07	.21	.62	.90	.75	.75	.60	12"x 12"	-	Unpainted
Calicel Acoustic Tile	3/4"	1	.09	.26	.74	.97	.78	.84	.70	12"x 12"	2.66	Unpainted
Calicel Acoustic Tile	1"	1	.14	.43	.90	.90	.82	.80	.75	12"x 12"	2.66	Unpainted
Calicel Acoustic Tile	1 1/4"	1	.38	.95	.76	.78	.89	.87	.85	12"x 12"	2.66	Unpainted
Calicel Acoustic Tile	2"	4	.12	.45	.87	.82	.76	.67	.75	12"x 12"	3.42	Unpainted
Calistone Calistone	2"	5	.46	.91	.71	.75	.84	.72	.80	12"x 12"	9.3	Unpainted
Calistone Calistone	4"	4	.38	.59	.60	.63	.63	.62	.60	18"x 24"	17.8	Unpainted
Calistone Calistone	4"	4	.37	.78	.82	.75	.73	.67	.75	18"x 36"	17.6	Unpainted
Long edges splayed on opposite sides. 5 holes 3" in dia. through body of tile.												
Calistone	5"	4	.45	.87	.81	.80	.78	.81	.80	18"x 24"	22.4	Unpainted
Calistone, Type Y, Mufflestone,	5"	4	.48	.77	.83	.84	.85	.91	.80	18"x 24"	25.7	Unpainted
Standard Finish	1"	1	.19	.45	.84	.87	.83	.88	.75	12"x 12"	1.83	Painted by mfr.
Mufflestone, Standard Finish	3/4"	1	.13	.36	.65	.62	.70	.69	.60	12"x 12"	1.62	Unpainted
Mufflestone, Standard Finish	1"	1	.15	.45	.75	.80	.72	.68	.70	12"x 12"	1.84	Unpainted
Mufflestone, Standard Finish	1"	1	.13	.44	.78	.80	.75	.82	.70	12"x 12"	-	Some as above, spray painted 3 coats at mes.

THE CELOTEX CORPORATION (Cont'd)

Material	Thickness (See Page 5)	Mounting (See Page 5)	Noise Coefficients 128 256 512 1024 2048 4096	Size of Unit Tested	Wt. (lb) sq. ft.	Surface	Date	
Muffletone, Travertine Finish	1"	1	.16 .45 .71 .99 .71 .70	.65	12" x 12"	1.96	Unpainted	1938
Muffletonc, Travertine Finish	1"	1	.16 .44 .68 .69 .71 .71	.65	12" x 12"	-	Same as above, spray painted 3 coats at NBS.	1938
Kalite, cast on 1/4" backing of moulding plaster, Grade A(Coarse)	1"	4	.06 .19 .42 .69 .74 .64	.50	24" x 36"	-	Unpainted	1936
Kalite, cast as above, 1 1/2" Grade A(Coarse)	1"	4	.15 .34 .64 .74 .60 .59	.60	24" x 36"	-	Unpainted	1936
Kalite, cast as above, 2" Grade A(Coarse)	2"	4	.23 .55 .73 .67 .64 .62	.65	24" x 36"	-	Unpainted	1936
Kalite, cast as above, Grade A(Coarse)	2"	4	.26 .51 .72 .69 .67 .71	.65	24" x 36"	-	Spray painted 4 coats of Muraltone paint.	1937
Kalite, cast as above, Grade D(Fine)	1"	4	.09 .30 .49 .54 .47 .48	.45	24" x 36"	-	Unpainted	1936
Kalite, cast as above, Grade D(Fine)	2"	4	.20 .39 .59 .61 .60 .67	.55	24" x 36"	-	Unpainted	1936
Kalite, cast as above, Grade D(Fine)	2"	2	.22 .48 .55 .58 .54 .53	.55	24" x 36"	-	Unpainted	1936
CORK INSULATION COMPANY, Inc.								
Corinco Acousticator	1 1/2"	1	.07 .20 .53 .39 .37 .35	.35	12" x 24"	1.20	Unpainted	1938
Corinco Acousticator	1 1/2"	2	.10 .58 .35 .34 .31 .42	.40	12" x 24"	1.07	Spray painted by mfr.	1938
Corinco Corkbestos	1 1/2"	2	.22 .69 .57 .53 .65 .63	.60	12" x 24"	1.12	Unpainted	1938

CORNING GLASS COMPANY

Material	Thickness	Mounting (See Page 5)	Noise Coeff.	Wt. (lb.)	Surface	Date
	Mounting (See Page 5)	Coefficients	Unit Tested	sq. ft.		
Corning Glass Mineral	1"	.27	.63	.75	.75	.44 Covered with thin muslin.
Wool Acoustic Blankets	2"	.34	.72	.87	.75	.72 Same as above
Corning Glass Mineral	3"	.39	.91	.97	.91	1.07 Same as above
Wool Acoustic Blankets						1938

THE FEILERS COMPANY, Inc.

Felt	1"	.4	.11	.40	.80	.94	.78	.98	.70	.70	.96	No surface covering 1938
	R. GUASTAVINO COMPANY										1936	
Akoustolith Tile Grade B-1	1 1/4"	5	.41	.83	.78	.72	.78	.82	.80	.75	6" x 12"	5.8
	(12" o.c.)											Unpainted
	Not nailed											1936
Akoustolith Tile Grade B-1	2"	5	.42	.75	.67	.75	.80	.78	.75	6" x 12"	9.4	Unpainted
	(12" o.c.)											1936
	Not nailed											1936
Akoustolith Tile Grade B-2	1"	4	.09	.17	.46	.77	.77	.58	.55	6" x 12"	4.6	Unpainted
												1932
Akoustolith Tile Grade B-2	1 1/2"	4	.14	.30	.67	.87	.82	.57	.65	6" x 12"	6.1	Unpainted
												1932
Akoustolith Tile Grade B-2	2"	4	.21	.50	.85	.81	.70	.70	.70	6" x 12"	8.5	Unpainted
												1932
Akoustolith Tile Grade C	1 1/2"	4	.12	.19	.44	.61	.66	.56	.50	6" x 12"	7.5	Unpainted
												1930
Akoustolith Tile Grade C	2"	4	.19	.26	.53	.64	.70	.56	.55	6" x 12"	10.1	Unpainted
												1930
Akoustolith Tile Grade C	4"	10	.54	.70	.78	.85	.88	.81	.80	12" x 12"	19.5	Unpainted
												1937
Akoustolith Tile Grade C	4"	4	.32	.82	.90	.77	.79	.81	.80	12" x 12"	19.5	Unpainted
												1937
Akoustolith Tile Grade C	5"	4	.43	.92	.91	.88	.86	.74	.90	12" x 12"	24.4	Unpainted
												1937
Akoustolith Tile Grade C	5"	10	.60	.80	.95	.91	.90	.78	.90	12" x 12"	24.4	Unpainted

R. GUASTAVINO COMPANY (Cont'd.)

Material	Thickness (See Page 5)	Mounting (See Page 5)	Coefficients	Noise Coef.	Size of Unit (1b) sq. ft.	Surface	Date
Akoustolith Tile Grade C	5"	5	.67 .80 .96 .93 .80 .87	.85	12" x 12"	24.4	Unpainted
Akoustolith Tile Grade D	1"	4	.08 .13 .25 .54 .67 .42	.40	—	—	Unpainted
Akoustolith Tile Grade D	2"	4	.15 .26 .59 .74 .52 .50	.55	—	—	Unpainted
Akoustolith Tile Grade D	4"	10	.54 .80 .70 .88 .87 .74	.80	12" x 12"	18.8	Unpainted
Akoustolith Tile Grade D	4"	4	.27 .76 .93 .78 .74 .69	.80	12" x 12"	18.8	Unpainted
							1937

HAWAIIAN CANE PRODUCTS, Ltd.

Hawaiian Cane Tile	1"	1	.10 .40 .69 .78 .77 .79	.64	65	11 1/2" x 11 1/2"	0.75	Unpainted
Hawaiian Cane Tile	1"	2	.24 .70 .40 .48 .54 .60	.55	55	12" x 12"	.81	Unpainted
								1935

THE INSULITE COMPANY

Insulite	3/4"	1	.16 .34 .79 .72 .69 .64	.65	12" x 12"	.59	Painted by mfr.	1939
Insulite	1/2"	1	.07 .20 .53 .77 .74 .74	.55	12" x 12"	.41	Thin coat of paint applied by mfr.	1939
Insulite	1"	1	.19 .45 .71 .70 .65 .69	.65	12" x 12"	.79	Same as above	1939

JOHNS-MANVILLE SALES CORPORATION

Air-Acoustic Sheets	1/2"	11	.14 .45 .53 .70 .67	.70	18" x 24"	.80	Unpainted	1938
Air-Acoustic Sheets	1"	11	.31 .55 .70 .74	.76	18" x 24"	1.51	Unpainted	1938*
Fibretex Type 30R	5/8"	2	.11 .20 .59 .91	.85	12" x 12"	1.34	Unpainted	1938*
Fibretex Type 40R	3/4"	1	.06 .17 .37 .68	.82	12" x 12"	1.75	Unpainted	1938*
Fibretex Type 40R	3/4"	2	.15 .22 .61 .93	.79	65	1.54	Unpainted	1938*
Fibretex Type 50R	7/8"	2	.13 .28 .70 .98	.85	70	1.79	Unpainted	1938*
Fibretex Type 60R	1"	1	.07 .24 .55 .87	.86	.65	1.79	Unpainted	1937*
Fibretex Type 60R	1"	2	.11 .33 .77 .92	.70	.70	2.07	Unpainted	1936*

(1" x 3" furring)

*These values are based on tests of Acoustek manufactured by the National Gypsum Company.
Fibretek is the trade name used for this material by Johns-Manville Sales Corporation.

JOHNS-MANVILLE SALES CORPORATION (Cont'd)

Material	Thickness	Mounting (See Page 5)	Coefficients	Wt. Unit sq. ft.	Size of Surface	Date
Nashkote A	1/2"	1	.05 .13 .25 .26 .20 .18	.20	36" x 48"	1929
Nashkote A	1/2"	1	.08 .15 .43 .62 .65 .58	.45	36" x 48"	—
Nashkote A	3/4"	1	.09 .16 .27 .30 .23 .23	.25	36" x 48"	—
Nashkote A	3/4"	1	.11 .21 .51 .68 .71 .68	.55	36" x 48"	—
Nashkote A	1"	1	.12 .20 .33 .33 .28 .28	.30	36" x 48"	—
Nashkote A	1"	1	.13 .26 .58 .73 .77 .71	.60	36" x 48"	—
Permacoustic	1"	5 (Not nailed)	.27 .74 .66 .82 .70 .70	.75	12" x 12"	2.33
Permacoustic	1"	1	.20 .62 .83 .74 .77 .80	.75	12" x 12"	2.33
Rockoustile	7/8"	1	.10 .21 .65 .93 .62 .53	.60	12" x 12"	—
Rockoustile	1"	1	.09 .27 .70 .79 .65 .77	.50	12" x 12"	1.3
Sanacoustic Pad	1 1/4"	3	.14 .55 .92 .89 .84 .75	.80	12" x 24"	Pad
plus metal facing, pad supports and furring	2 1/2"	—	.11 .58 .85 .83 .81 .83	.75	—	1.5
Sound Isolation Blanket (Rockwool)	—	4	.11 .26 .71 .80 .76 .71	.65	12" x 12"	1.58
Spongometric Studio Element	3 1/4"	1	.11 .54 .72 .74 .71 .81	.70	22" x 36"	1.47
Transite Acoustical Units	1 1/8"	4	.19 .39 .77 .74 .70 .55	.65	12" x 12"	5.0
					Metal lath	1932
					Painted by mfr.	1938
					No covering	1937
					Transite, perforated 576 holes per sq ft, diameter 5/32".	1931

DAVID E. KENNEDY, Inc.

MESSENGERS ON COLLEGE

MAIZEWOOD PRODUCTS CORPORATION												
	1 1/2"	4	.23	.41	.63	.79	.70	.62	.65	12"x 12"	2.1	12 saw cuts across tile 1932 1" deep.
Maizewood Tile	1 1/2"	4	.21	.41	.64	.73	.70	.58	.60	12"x 12"	2.1	Same sample as above painted 1 coat glue size, 2 coats lead & oil at MBS.
Maizewood Tile	1 1/2"	4	.23	.41	.63	.79	.70	.62	.65	12"x 12"	2.1	

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY														
Acoustex Type	30R	5/8"	2	.11	.20	.59	.91	.85	.72	.65	12" x 12"	1.34	Unpainted	1938
Acoustex Type	40R	3/4"	1	.06	.17	.37	.68	.82	.74	.50	12" x 12"	1.75	Unpainted	1938
Acoustex Type	40R	3/4"	2	.15	.22	.61	.93	.79	.69	.65	12" x 12"	1.54	Unpainted	1938
Acoustex Type	50R	7/8"	2	.13	.28	.70	.98	.85	.87	.70	12" x 12"	1.79	Unpainted	1938
Acoustex Type	60R	1"	1	.07	.24	.55	.87	.86	.88	.65	12" x 12"	—	Unpainted	1937
Acoustex Type	60R	1"	2	.11	.33	.77	.92	.70	.96	.70	12" x 12"	2.07	Unpainted	1936
(1" x 3" furring)														
Acoustex Type	60R	1"	1	.07	.22	.54	.87	.78	.77	.60	12" x 12"	2.31	Painted by mfr.	1939
Acoustex Type	60R	1"	1	.09	.27	.71	.92	.62	.62	.55	12" x 12"	—	Same as above, brush painted 5 coats at NBS.	1939
Acoustex Type	70R	1 1/8"	1	.09	.27	.62	.89	.78	.84	.65	12" x 12"	—	Unpainted	1939
Rockwool pad, plus metal facing and pad supports, plus furring										(Pad) metal, .4608 holes per sq ft, .068" dia.				1939

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY (Cont'd)

SOUND CONTROL CORPORATION

Sound-Cor	1"	1	.07	.25	.65	.84	.72	.83	.60	12" x 12"	1.40	Spray painted by mfr.	1937
Sound-Cor	1"	1	.13	.40	.68	.63	.60	.68	.60	12" x 12"	1.14	Painted by mfr.	1939
Sound-Cor	1"	1	.20	.26	.31	.22	.18	.23	.25	12" x 12"	-	Same as above except brush painted 5 coats at IBS.	1939
Sound-Cor	1 1/8"	8	.53	.58	.52	.65	.74	.72	.60	12" x 24"	1.41	Painted by mfr.	1939
Sound-Cor	1 1/8"	8	.54	.48	.33	.43	.51	.54	.45	12" x 24"	1.6	Painted by mfr.	1939

THE SPHINX ACOUSTICAL COMPANY

UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY

UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY (Cont'd)

1703 CONVERSATION COMPANY

Balsam Wool	1"	4	.18	.36	.55	.65	.67	.73	.78	.87	.55	—	.29	Scrim facing	1928
Krexstone Tile (Balsam Wool)	1"	6	.12	.24	.62	.73	.73	.73	.78	.87	.60	12" x 12"	0.83	Screen wire	1931
Muwood Bevel	1/2"	6	.12	.19	.30	.40	.40	.40	.40	.40	.30	12" x 12"	0.59	Unpainted	1931
Lap Tile	1"	6	.14	.19	.37	.37	.41	.41	.41	.41	.35	12" x 12"	1.41	Unpainted	1931
Muwood Bevel	1"	6	.14	.19	.37	.37	.41	.41	.41	.41	.35	12" x 12"	1.41	Unpainted	1931
Lap Tile	1"	6	.14	.19	.37	.37	.41	.41	.41	.41	.35	12" x 12"	1.41	Unpainted	1931

Table 2

Acoustic Materials for Plastic Application

Unless otherwise stated each sample of acoustical plaster was mixed according to the specifications furnished by the manufacturers and applied by a skilled plasterer on a false ceiling at the N.E. of S. All samples of material applied with an air gun or blower were constructed at the N.E. of S. The panels were laid on the floor of the Reverberation Chamber for test.

CALIFORNIA STUCCO PRODUCTS OF NEW ENGLAND, Inc.

Material	Thickness	Coefficients			No. of Coats	Coat	Application	Treatment	Surface	Date
		128	256	512	1024	2048	4096			
Stuccoistic Type A.D.	3/4"	.18	.36	.65	.62	.62	.55	1st coat 7/16"	3/4"	1935
								2nd coat 5/16"	Gypsum plaster.	
								2nd coat 1/4"	Gypsum plaster	
								1st coat 1/4"	3/4"	
Stuccoistic	1/2"	.12	.29	.52	.78	.74	.60	1st coat 1/4"	3/4"	1939
								2nd coat 1/4"	Gypsum plaster	
								1st coat 1/4"	3/4"	

THE CELOTEX CORPORATION

Reverbolite (Regular)	1/2"	.19	.29	.51	.70	.69	.78	.55	1st coat 1/4"	Gypsum plaster	1st coat applied on dry base coat, 2nd coat applied as soon as first coat had set.	Finished with steel trowel.	1938
									2nd coat 1/4"	on metal	lath.		
Reverbolite (Pumice aggregate)	1/2"	.18	.29	.41	.51	.55	.65	.45	1st coat 1/4"	Gypsum plaster	1st coat applied on dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hours after 1st coat.	Brushed root brush then finished with steel trowel.	1938

CERTAIN-TTEED PRODUCTS CORPORATION

Material	Thickness	Noise Coefficients	Noise Coef.	No. of Coats	Base Coat	Application	Treatment	Date	Surface
Kalite H Coarse Aggregate	1/2"	128 256 512 1024 2048 4096	4096	.55 3/8" 2nd coat 1/8"	1st coat 3/4" Gypsum plaster on metal lath, attached to 1" channels.	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 1 hour after 1st coat.	Finished with steel trowel.	1935	Brush painted 2 coats non-briding lacquer.
Kalite H Coarse Aggregate	1/2"	.26 .31 .46 .67 .65 .68	.50	1st coat 3/8" 2nd coat 1/8"	Same sample as above				
Hushkote Acoustic Plaster	5/8"	.16 .34 .50 .53 .43 .37	.45	1st coat 3/8" 2nd coat 1/4"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hrs. after 1st coat.	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hrs. after 1st coat.	Finished with steel trowel.	1935	Brush painted 2 coats non-briding lacquer.
Hushkote Acoustic Plaster	3/4"	.28 .36 .45 .50 .53 .57	.45	1st coat 1/4" 2nd coat 1/4" 3rd coat 1/4"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 5 days after 1st coat. 3rd coat applied 3 days after 2nd coat.	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 5 days after 1st coat. 3rd coat applied 3 days after 2nd coat.	Finished with steel trowel.	1938	Brush painted 2 coats non-briding lacquer.

THE DODSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Material	Thickness	Coefficients	Noise	No. of Base Coats	Application	Surface Treatment	Date
Dodson Acoustic Plaster	3/4"	.15 .25 .30 .35	128 250 512 1024	.34 .26 .40 .40	1st coat 1/4" gypsum 2nd coat 1/4" on metal lath.	1st coat applied to half green base coat. 2nd coat applied as soon as 1st coat had taken initial set.	1939

R. GUASTAVINO COMPANY							
Akoustolith Plaster	1/4"	.13 .21 .19	.23 .33 .45	.25 1 coat	Gypsum plaster.	Applied on binder coat. See mfg. directions.	1931
Akoustolith Plaster	3/4"	.20 .26 .35	.56 .59 .50	.45 1 coat	Gypsum plaster.	Applied on binder coat. See mfg. directions.	1932

GYPSUM INSULATION AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY							
Super-Acoustic Plaster	1/2"	.12 .24	.45	.71 .62	1st coat 1/4" gypsum 2nd coat 1/4" on metal lath.	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hours after 1st coat.	1938

KEASBEY AND MATTISON COMPANY							
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	1/2"	.57	.87	.83	.78	.84	.87 .85
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	3/8"	.54	.87	.78	.73	.78	.75 .80
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	3/8"	.56	.78	.70	.54	.53	.59 .65
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	3/4"	.59	.94	.90	.78	.87	.83 .85

Same as above. Same as above. Same as above. Same as above. Same as above.

Applied with air gun on metal lath. Unpainted. Same as above. Same as above. Same as above. Same as above. Finished with roller. Unpainted.

KEASEY AND MATTISON COMPANY (Cont'd)

Material	Thickness	Coefficients				Noise ness	No. of Coats	Base Coat	Application	Treatment	Surface
		128	256	512	1024						
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	3/4"	.52	.94	.89	.80	.91	.91	.90	Same as above	Same as above except spray painted 3 coats at NBS.	1939
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	3/4"	.58	.93	.87	.84	.88	.84	.90	Applied with air gun on metal lath.	Finished with roller. Spray painted 10 coats at NBS.	1939
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	1/2"	.07	.17	.49	.70	.79	.67	.55	Applied with air gun on gypsum wall board.	Finished with roller. Unpainted.	1939
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	3/4"	.13	.31	.66	.83	.74	.66	.65	Same as above	Same as above	1939
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	1"	.17	.38	.81	.83	.78	.78	.70	Same as above	Same as above	1939
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	1"	.16	.37	.82	.80	.71	.77	.70	Same as above	Same as above except spray painted 3 coats at NBS.	1939
Limpet (Sprayed Asbestos)	1"	.16	.41	.86	.81	.81	.88	.70	Same as above	Same as above except spray painted 10 coats at NBS.	1939
<hr/>											
NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY											
Macoustic Plaster (Trowel Finish)	1/2".15	.27	.42	.45	.36	.29	.40	1st coat 1 1/4"	3/4"	1st coat applied to half green base coat. 2nd coat applied 2 hours after 1st coat.	1936
Macoustic Plaster (Trowel Finish)	1/2".17	.27	.52	.76	.66	.55	.55	1st coat 1 1/4"	3/4"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied on metal lath.	1937
								2nd coat 1 1/4"	Gypsum plaster	with steel trowel.	

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY (Cont'd)

Material	Thickness	Coefficients	Noise	No. of Coats	Application	Surface Treatment	Date
	128 256 512 1024 2048 4096						
Macoustic Plaster	.25 .41 .67 .63 .52 .47	.47 .55 .55 .52 .47 .40	.42 .39 .36 .36 .35 .35	1st coat Gypsum plaster on metal	.74" .73" .73" .72" .71" .70"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hrs. after 1st coat.	1937 finished with steel trowel.
Rockwall Acoustic Plaster	1/2"	.31 .36 .39 .42 .44 .41	.40	1st coat Gypsum plaster on metal	.74" .74" .74" .74" .74" .74"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hrs. after 1st coat.	1938 finished with cork float.
Rockwall Acoustic Plaster	1/2"	.13 .20 .35 .65 .70 .64	.50	1st coat Gypsum plaster on metal	.74" .74" .74" .74" .74" .74"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 3 hrs. after 1st coat.	1938 finished with steel trowel.
Old Newark Acoustic Plaster	3/4"	.16 .34 .63 .74 .73 .72	.60	1st coat Gypsum plaster on metal	.74" .74" .74" .74" .74" .74"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hrs. after 1st coat.	1938 finished with steel trowel.
Old Newark Acoustic Plaster	3/4"	.16 .34 .63 .74 .73 .72	.60	1st coat Gypsum plaster lath.	.74" .74" .74" .74" .74" .74"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hrs. after 1st coat.	1938 finished with steel trowel.

PACIFIC PORTLAND CEMENT CO.

Material	Thickness	Coefficients	Noise	No. of Coats	Base Coat	Application	Surface Treatment	Date
Calacoustic Plaster	1/2"	.128 .256 512 1024 2048 4096	.67 .66 .66	.50	1st coat 1/4"	3/4"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied after 1st coat.	Finished with cork float. 1936
					2nd coat 1/4"	plaster	coat applied 72 hrs. on metal after 1st coat.	

UNITED STATES GIPSUM COMPANY

Sabinite Plaster Hydraulic	1/2"	.14 .24 .27 .38 .48 .64	.35	1st coat 1/4"	Gypsum plaster.	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied after 1st coat had set and partly dried.	Floated with cork float.	1931
Sabinite Plaster A	1/2"	.16 .24 .38 .78 .75 .77	.55	1st coat 1/4"	Gypsum plaster. 2nd coat 1/4"	1st coat applied to dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 24 hrs. after 1st coat.	Floated with cork float.	1935
Sabinite Plaster A	3/4"	.13 .27 .59 .81 .74 .85	.60	1st coat 1/4"	3/4"	1st coat applied on dry base coat. 2nd coat applied 48 hrs. after 1st coat.	Floated with cork float.	1935
Sabinite Plaster F	1/2"	.19 .22 .43 .80 .75 .75	.55	1st coat 1/4"	Gypsum plaster 2nd coat 1/4"	1st coat applied on metal after 1st coat. 3rd coat applied 72 hrs. after 2nd coat.	Floated with cork float.	1936

Table 3

Audience seated in chairs of various types

- A - cane seat chairs, open back
- B - theatre chairs, box spring seat, heavily padded back
- C - same as B, but single layer of padding on back
- D - church pews, seating five

Absorption per person *	128	256	512	1024	2048	Date
Women without coats,	A	0.7	1.3	2.3	3.6	4.6 1930
Women with coats,	A	1.3	2.4	4.0	5.8	6.7 1930
Men without overcoats,	A	1.3	2.1	4.1	5.5	7.4 1930
Men with overcoats,	A	2.3	3.2	4.6	6.2	7.6 1930
Mixed audience,	B			3.9	4.7	1929
Empty seat,	B	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.6	1929
Mixed audience,	C	3.5	4.1	4.9	4.2	1930
Empty seat,	C	3.0	2.5	2.9	3.1	1929
Mixed audience,	D	2.7	3.3	3.8	3.6	1930
Plywood Chair,		0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	1930

* These figures are numerically equal to the number of square feet of a material having an absorption coefficient of 1.00, which would absorb the same amount of sound energy.

Suggestions Concerning the Proper Use
of Acoustical Material.

As there has been considerable misconception as to the proper use of acoustical material it is considered desirable to call attention to two of the fundamental principles underlying the formulas which are used in acoustical design. It is assumed in all of the formulas that (1) the absorption is proportional to the area of the absorbing material and that (2) there is a uniform distribution of sound energy. As a rule neither one of these assumptions is true.

It has been found from experiment when very small areas are used, such as the panels in a coffered ceiling having areas from 1 to 4 square feet and separated from each other by a foot or more, that the effective absorption of the material in these panels is greater than when the material is installed in one large area. In fact, for materials having large coefficients, this effective absorption may be as much as 50 percent more than one would expect from the coefficient.

It has also been found when all of the acoustical material is applied on one surface of a relatively small room, say 50,000 cubic feet or under, that this creates a non-uniform distribution of sound energy in the following manner. Let us assume that the ceiling of a room is covered with a highly absorbent material. Under these conditions the sound energy which is traveling between the floor and ceiling is absorbed quite rapidly, while that traveling between the untreated wall surfaces, having very little to absorb it, may continue for some considerable time. This persistence of sound energy between the untreated surfaces may cause the measured reverberation time to be considerably longer than would be computed using the ordinary reverberation formula and the coefficient usually given. For this reason, it is essential in small rooms that the acoustical material be distributed on the side walls as well as on the ceiling, if the effective absorption of the material is to be anywhere near that which one would expect from the coefficient of the material. For further discussion of this problem see Circular C418.

We also wish to call attention to the fact that a proper distribution of the acoustical material should be worked out in the initial plans of a building, as it is frequently impossible to obtain a satisfactory distribution after the interior design has been completed without taking into account the acoustical treatment.

