Noise Control for Nightclubs, Restaurants, Bars, and Cafes
Product and Services Guidance Sheet

The following list is intended to provide owners of nightclubs, restaurants, bars and cafes who play music with information on a range of acoustical products, vendors, and professional services available to help control sound and vibration in their establishments and buildings. When applied properly, these acoustical tools may be helpful in reducing sound and vibration, and in achieving compliance with the New York City Noise Code, rules and regulations.

While the general approach to noise control is the same for most buildings, the specific measures and solutions should be carefully selected and implemented correctly. In general, noise control measures can be applied directly at the source, along the pathway, or at the receptor. However, amplified music from nightclubs and establishments has very strong low frequency components (e.g., the “thump” of a bass guitar or drums), which are the most difficult sounds to isolate and control. For these reasons, it is highly recommended that establishment owners discuss their particular noise condition with a qualified acoustical consultant as early as possible in the design or renovation of a prospective building or location. It is always more cost-effective to design for good acoustics from the beginning of a project, rather than to rely on retrofit solutions when noise becomes a problem in the future.

To aid in the selection of an acoustical consultant, links to several national professional are provided. (See also, http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/noise_consultants_list.pdf.) It is suggested that the proprietor, or the consultant, determine where the nearest receptor dwelling is located. It is also suggested that the proprietor utilize the following controls [or equivalent] to block, absorb or limit sounds migrating to those and other receptors.

The information provided here is not an exhaustive list of noise control products and vendors. It is intended for guidance and informational purposes only, and should not be construed as an official endorsement of any product, vendor, or consultant by the City of New York.

**Acoustical Consultants**

- Acoustical Society of America  [http://acousticalsociety.org](http://acousticalsociety.org)
- Institute of Noise Control Engineering  [http://inceusa.org](http://inceusa.org)
Ceiling and Wall Sound Isolation

*Products designed to mechanically isolate or add mass to walls and ceilings in order to increase acoustical isolation performance.*

- **Acoustiblok**  
  Acoustiblok, Acoustiblok-Wallcover  
  [www.acoustiblok.com](http://www.acoustiblok.com)

- **AcoustiGuard**  
  GenieClip, Mass Loaded Vinyl, Barrier Material, Iso-sill  
  [www.acoustiguard.com](http://www.acoustiguard.com)

- **Green Glue**  
  Noiseproofing compound, sealant, and clip  
  [www.greengluecompany.com](http://www.greengluecompany.com)

- **Kinetics**  
  Model ICC, KSCH, IsoGrid, IsoMax, PSB, KWSB, Wallmat, IPRB  
  [www.kineticsnoise.com](http://www.kineticsnoise.com)

- **Mason Industries**  
  30 and 30N Series, NPS, DNSB  
  [www.mason-industries.com](http://www.mason-industries.com)

Floor Sound Isolation

*Products for the design of floating or vibration-isolated floors.*

- **Acoustiblok**  
  Acoustiblok, Acoustiwool, Acoustipad  
  [www.acoustiblok.com](http://www.acoustiblok.com)

- **AcoustiGuard**  
  OT 4005 & 4010, Duraoustic, Barrier Material, Iso Sep 25HD,  
  [www.acoustiguard.com](http://www.acoustiguard.com)

- **Kinetics**  
  Model RIM, SR Floorboard, Soundmatt, FC, Isolayment BR  
  [www.kineticsnoise.com](http://www.kineticsnoise.com)

- **Mason Industries**  
  Type FS, RIS, EAFM  
  [www.mason-industries.com](http://www.mason-industries.com)

- **Vibro-Acoustics**  
  Isolation pads, Form work floor system, Jack-up floating floor  
  [www.vibro-acoustics.com](http://www.vibro-acoustics.com)

Sound Absorptive Wall Treatments

*Products designed to mount on interior walls and ceiling surfaces in order to absorb acoustic energy (note - only useful for reducing reverberant noise).*

- **Acoustiblok**  
  QuietFiber  
  [www.acoustiblok.com](http://www.acoustiblok.com)

- **Acoustical**  
  Wall Panel  
  [www.acousticalsurfaces.com](http://www.acousticalsurfaces.com)
Surfaces

- Eckel Industries  Model EFP, FFP, ALP, DAP  www.eckelusa.com
- Industrial Acoustics  Absorption Panels  www.industrialacoustics.com
- Pyrok, Inc.  Acoustement Plaster  www.pyrokinc.com

Acoustical Doors and Windows

Doors and windows specially designed for high acoustic performance.

- Krieger Specialty Products  Acoustical and SCIF Doors and Windows  www.kriegerproducts.com
- Overly Door Company  Acoustical Doors  www.overly.com

Audio Compressors and Limiters

Signal processing equipment used to control the dynamic range and limit the peak output level of amplified sound.

- Alesis  Model 3632  www.alesis.com
- Behringer  PRO-XL MDX Series  www.behringer.com
- dBX  Models 160, 162, 166, 1046, and 1066  www.dbxpro.com

Directional Loudspeaker Arrays

Loudspeakers arrays designed to focus amplified sound towards specific audience areas and limit excess sound projected elsewhere (note – only useful for reducing community noise levels when used at outdoor venues).

- EAW  KF Series  www.eaw.com
- JBL  Vertec Series  www.jblpro.com
- Mackie  HD Series  www.mackie.com