



GIK Acoustics 244 Bass Traps

The domestic living room is not the ideal acoustic environment for listening to hi-fi systems, due to resonances that can be caused by the room. Indeed, some of us may have toyed with the idea of sticking egg boxes to ceilings and walls, but perhaps this is not the most acceptable domestic solution! Enter GIK Acoustics' 244 Bass Traps!

These traps are acoustic energy absorbers that dampen low frequency sound energy. Their purpose is to achieve a flatter low frequency room response by reducing low end resonances in rooms. Although commonly used in recording studios and mastering rooms, these traps have been created with the home listening environment in mind.

GIK Acoustics note that studio engineers often assume that inaccurate bass levels are due to their monitors, when in actual fact an unbalanced sound may stem from the audio characteristics of a particular room. By installing the 244 Bass Traps, GIK claim that, as well as improving overall clarity, you will have a much more accurate low end perception and be able to hear the bass properly. The design of the traps allows them to be used in multiple quantities to absorb as much bass as possible without over absorbing the high end.

The trap is a very well made, professionally manufactured velocity broadband bass trap with a two-frame system allowing sound to be absorbed from the sides, while maintaining a crisp, sharp and neat edge on the frame. It has a built-in air gap that not only increases low end absorption, but also allows the panel to hang flush on the wall using the supplied wire hanging support on the back. They can also stand vertically on the floor or can be used in conjunction with ash wood or wire stands, available as an optional extra (£42).

As the 244 Traps are entirely passive devices, they require no connections or power supply and can be placed at appropriate locations in the listening room. The traps are 600mm wide by 1,200mm tall and 118mm deep, but can be custom sized to fit your own particular specifications. They come in a wide range of colours and fabrics to harmonise with virtually any domestic environment. The nine standard colours are Off-white, Brilliant White, Black, Glass (Pink-Grey), Argyll (Mint), Sand, Lead, Pitlochry (Red) and Galilee (Blue).

GIK quote the performance of its traps in Sabins, rather than using the NRC (Noise Reduction Coefficient). NRC is a measure of the energy absorption calculated as an average of the absorptions at several frequencies and doesn't really measure much below about 125Hz. Sabins, on the other hand, are a measure of absorption at a specified frequency multiplied by the surface area and are, therefore, more useful as a measure of bass trap performance. One metric Sabin is defined as one square metre of material absorbing 100 percent of the sound energy that strikes it or, to put it another way, a one square metre hole in the outside wall of your listening room. GIK, therefore, measure the performance of its panels over a range of frequencies down to 50Hz and the details are available on its website.

In use

Since the traps are very easy to move around, conducting 'before and after' tests were simple. Starting off with some Bach organ music, the difference with the traps in the room was instantly apparent. The tendency for bass-boom when I sat at the back of my listening room was significantly reduced and the sound was noticeably much more even when I moved around the room. The bass was far more musical and tuneful and the individual notes were more easily discerned. Moving to some techno music with a very pronounced bass line, the effect of the traps was even more dramatic – they do a wonderful job at taming an overly-excited room. Furthermore, the overall balance with a full orchestra was far more natural with the traps in place.

As my friend (who has a square listening room) put it; these traps stop your room from humming along with the music. In my opinion, these traps are beautifully made, work really well, represent excellent value for money and are therefore highly recommended. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE: £134
PER PAIR

CONTACT:
020 7558 8976

WEBSITE:
GIKACOUSTICS.
CO.UK

OUR VERDICT

