Sector
Legal

Case study

Mace & Jones

Manchester

Primary objective
- Speech privacy

Product used
- LogiSon sound masking

Scope of work
- Client meeting suites

Mace & Jones regularly held client meetings in glass partitioned rooms and required total confidentiality.

Mace & Jones is a regional law firm with a national reputation in employment, property, construction, dispute resolution and corporate law. In 2005 they relocated to a 1960's Grade II listed building, which when built was the first open plan office in Manchester.

From the client

"On completion of the installation, we could not hear the content of the clients' meetings in the adjoining meeting rooms. We are extremely happy with the solution, service and after sales attention provided by Acoustic Comfort."

Ian Brownhill
Financial Director

Due to the listed building status, there was a requirement that the vision across the floor was to be kept as open as possible, which the firm achieved by using glass partitions to enclose their eight meeting rooms and boardroom. However, the partitions were raised floor to underside of the metal perforated ceiling, which caused sound transmission between the rooms and compromised the confidentiality of client meetings.

In addition to this problem the staff at Mace & Jones were particularly concerned about the move from cellular to open plan offices, as much of their time was spent on the telephone or dictating.

Acoustic Comfort carried out a survey and suggested Screen Solutions'

1600 high desk screens to reduce noise transfer and create more privacy in the open plan area. The LogiSon Sound Masking System was recommended for all areas of the office to aid concentration and give speech privacy in the meeting and boardrooms. The sound masking was installed out-of-hours and the whole process, including tuning, was completed in less than 24 hours.

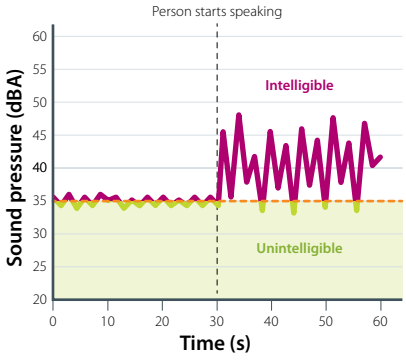
Sound level tests

Illustrative tests

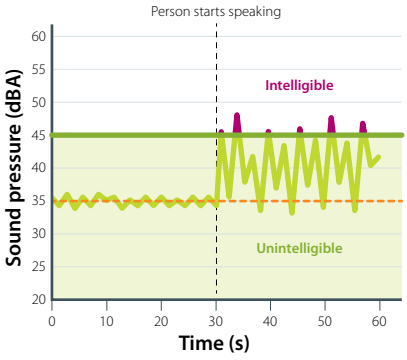
These example test results measure sound leaking from a closed meeting room into an open plan area.

- For both tests, a person was positioned in the conference room with the door closed.
- Sound pressure measurements were taken in the open plan area.
- For the first half of each test, there was no speech.
- For the second half, the person in the conference room spoke with a 'presentation' voice.

Before treatment



After treatment



How sound masking works across different spaces

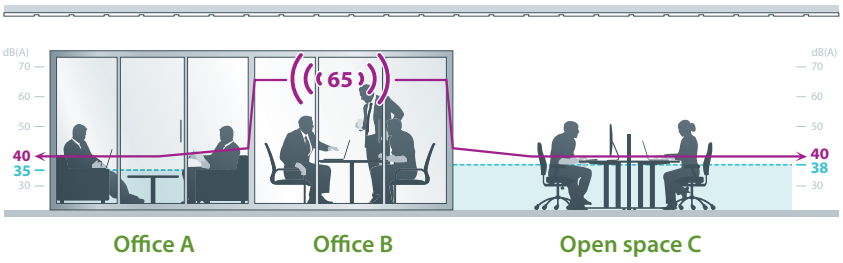
The problem

Low background noise level

Noise coming from office B is distracting people working in adjoining spaces A and C.

Background noise is measured at 35dB(A) in office A and at 38dB(A) in open space C. Measured sound levels in office B are recorded at 65dB(A) and can be heard in adjoining office A and open space C at 40dB(A).

Without sound masking



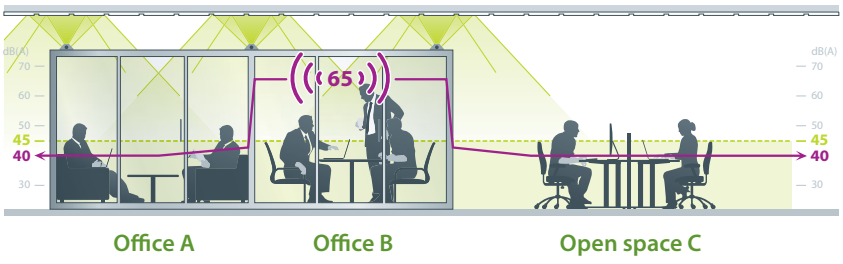
The solution

Raise the background noise level

To prevent conversations from being overheard the background noise level in A and C must be higher than the disruptive noise coming from office B.

Adding sound masking raises the background noise level in A and C to 45dB(A) which is just high enough to make conversations from B difficult to hear and therefore less distracting.

With sound masking



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