



**An anthology
of articles on
loudspeakers
from the pages of the
Journal of the
Audio Engineering
Society
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preface

The first AES *Loudspeaker* anthology published in 1978 incorporated 61 papers which had appeared in the *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society* during a period of 24 years, from 1953 to 1977. It contains 450 pages of text and diagrams representing the most up-to-date reviews of loudspeaker theory and practice available at the time of publication.

Few textbooks about loudspeakers have been published in the last two decades due, I believe, to the fact that progress has been so rapid in recent years. A textbook is bound to be out of date before the ink is dry on the page. Also, practicing development engineers are busy people and they cannot devote the time necessary to set down all that is required in a fully comprehensive technical book. Therefore, the engineering world has to rely more and more on technical papers from specialized contributors and, provided that these are readily accessible, such publications are probably more reliable than an all-embracing text by a single author. These views were certainly borne out by experience from the first *Loudspeaker* anthology which proved to be extremely popular, and is now in its third printing. Since 1977, loudspeaker development has accelerated and in the space of only six years sufficient papers have appeared to fill a second anthology. In fact, so much has been published in the meantime that we were obliged to omit from this edition some important historical papers reprinted in the *Journal* from other

publications. These are listed under Related Reading at the back of the book and should be regarded as an essential part of the narrative.

The advances cataloged in this second series of papers reveal how scientists and engineers are now coming to grips with the fundamental nature of loudspeakers. There are, of course, many purely practical problems which remain to be solved, but here and there one can see where understanding has penetrated to the theoretical heart of this extremely complex subject. Every year that passes deepens our insight and we live in hope that eventually the world of transducers will reach the state of development which electronics currently enjoys.

The papers cover a wide range of topics and although this compilation is by no means exhaustive—because no attempt has been made by the *Journal* to solicit material to fill "black holes" in the subject matter—nevertheless, there is no other publication which contains so comprehensive and penetrating an overview of loudspeakers between two covers. We are all immensely grateful to those engineers who, in addition to pushing outward the frontiers of human knowledge, have also devoted their leisure time to disseminating their ideas and experiences.

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Contents

Three-Dimensional Displays for Demonstrating Transient Characteristics of Loudspeakers. Tsutomu Suzuki, Takashi Morii, and Sumitaka Matsumara (1978 July/August) 9

Vibration Patterns and Radiation Behavior of Loudspeaker Cones. F. J. M. Frankort (1978 September)	16
The Manta-Ray Horns. Clifford A. Henricksen and Mark S. Ureda (1978 September).....	30
Computer-Aided Loudspeaker System Design Part 1: Synthesis Using Optimization Techniques. G. J. Adams (1978 November) .»-:.....	36
Computer-Aided Loudspeaker System Design Part 2: Determination of System Power Ratings and Some Design Examples Using Optimization Techniques. G. J. Adams (1978 December)	48
Loudspeaker Cabinet Reflection Effects. James M. Kates (1979 May)	56
The Effect of Loudspeaker Radiation Patterns on Stereo Imaging and Clarity. Daniel Queen (1979 May).....	69
Minimum Harmonic Distortion Levels in Ideal Loudspeakers. Daniel R. Raichel (1979 June).....	81
Synthesis of High-Pass Filtered Loudspeaker Systems Part 1—Isolated Filters Driving Second-Order (Closed-Box) Systems. J. E. Benson (1979 July/August) ...	85
Synthesis of High-Pass Filtered Loudspeaker Systems Part 1(a)—A Supplementary Note on QB2, SC3, and SC4 Alignments. J. E. Benson (1979 September)	99
Synthesis of High-Pass Filtered Loudspeaker Systems Part 2—Isolated Filters Driving Fourth-Order (Reflex) Systems. J. E. Benson (1979 October)	105
On the Specification of Moving-Coil Drivers for Low-Frequency Horn-Loaded Loudspeakers. W. Marshall Leach, Jr. (1979 December)	116
The Dependence of Loudspeaker Design Parameters on the Properties of Magnetic Fluids. W. Bottenberg, L. Melillo, and K. Raj (1980 January/February)...	126
Amplifier-Loudspeaker Interfacing. R. A. Greiner (1980 May)	135
An Acoustic Power Monitor for Loudspeaker Testing. L. A. Abbagnaro, B. B. Bauer, and E. L. Torick (1980 June)	141
Loudspeaker Driver Phase Response: The Neglected Factor in Crossover Network Design. W. Marshall Leach, Jr. (1980 June)	149
Acoustic Radiation of a Horn Loudspeaker by the Finite Element Method—A Consideration of the Acoustic Characteristic of Horns. Shigeru Morita, Noboru Kyono, Shinichi Sakai, Tatsuo Yamabuchi, and Yukio Kagawa (1980 July/August) ...	161
Effect of Voice-Coil and Surround on Vibration and Sound Pressure Response of Loudspeaker Cones. Takeo Shindo, Osamu Yashima, and Hideo Suzuki (1980 July/August)	169

On the Perception of Phase Distortion. Hideo Suzuki, Shigeru Morita, and Takeo Shindo (1980 September)	179
Dynamic Equalization for Loudspeakers. Daniel R. von Recklinghausen (1980 November)	184
Optimum Loudspeaker Directional Patterns. James M. Kates (1980 November)	190
High-Fidelity Loudspeakers with Boronized Titanium Diaphragms. Takeo Yamamoto, Tsunehiro Tsukagoshi, Teruo Tohma, Masami Kimura, and Fujio Tanaka (1980 December)	198
Moving-Coil Loudspeaker Topology as an Indicator of Linear Excursion Capability. Mark R. Gander (1981 January/February)	204
Augmented Passive-Radiator Loudspeaker Systems, Part 1. Thomas L. Clarke (1981 June)	221
Active Equalization of Closed-Box Loudspeaker Systems. W. Marshall Leach, Jr. (1981 June)	232
Augmented Passive-Radiator Loudspeaker Systems, Part II. Thomas L. Clarke (1981 July/August)	235
Synthesis of Loudspeaker Mechanical Parameters by Electrical Means: A New Method for Controlling Low-Frequency Loudspeaker Behavior. Karl Erik Stahl (1981 September)	241
The Resonances of Loudspeaker Diaphragms. D. A. Barlow, G. D. Galletly, and J. Mistry (1981 October)	251
Tweeter Using New Structure and New Material for Diaphragm (Direct-Drive Ribbon Tweeter). Heitaro Nakajima, Masana Ugaji, and Hideo Suyama (1981 October)	257
Loudspeaker with Honeycomb Disk Diaphragm. Naraji Sakamoto, Katsuaki Satoh, Kazue Satoh, and Nobuhisa Atoji (1981 October)	263
Polymer-Graphite Composite Loudspeaker Diaphragm. Tsunehiro Tsukagoshi, Shinichi Yokozeki, Sumio Hagiwara, Toshikazu Yosnino, Yasuyuki Arai, and Takeo Yamamoto (1981 October)	272
Coaxial Flat-Plane Loudspeaker with Polymer-Graphite Honeycomb Sandwich Plate Diaphragm. Jiro Nakazono, Kunihiro Shimada, Yukio Tsuchiya, Takashi Furukawa, and Yukio Matsumoto (1981 November)	278
Reinforced Olefin Polymer Diaphragm for Loudspeakers. Hirotoshi Niguchi, Osamu Yamamoto, Mitsuru Ieki, Toshio Shimizu, and Naraji Sakamoto (1981 November)	286
Radiation and Diffraction Effects by Convex and Concave Domes. Hideo Suzuki and Jiri Tichy (1981 December)	292
Computerized Analysis and Observation of the Vibration Modes of a Loudspeaker Cone. Kiyooki Suzuki and Isami Nomoto (1982 March)	301
Alignment of Filter-Assisted Vented-Box Loudspeaker Systems with Enclosure Losses. R. A. R. Bywater and H. J. Wiebell (1982 May)	310
Cumulative Spectra, Tone Bursts, and Apodization. John D. Bunton and Richard H. Small (1982 June)	322
Loudspeaker-Crossover Systems: An Optimal Crossover Choice. Robert M. Bullock, III (1982 July/August)	332
Computer-Aided Design Loudspeaker Crossover Networks. G. J. Adams and S. P. Roe (1982 July/August)	342
On the Magnitude and Audibility of FM Distortion in Loudspeakers. Roy Allison and Edgar Villchur (1982 October)	350

Low-Frequency Measurement of Loudspeakers by the Reciprocity Method. Josef Merhaut (1982 December)	357
Acoustic Radiation of a Horn Loudspeaker by the Finite Element Method— Acoustic Characteristics of a Horn Loudspeaker with an Elastic Diaphragm. Noboru Kyouno, Shinichi Sakai, Shigeru Morita, Tatsuo Yamabuchi, and Yukio Kagawa (1982 December)	364
A Family of Linear-Phase Crossover Networks of High Slope Derived by Time Delay. Stanley P. Lipshitz and John Vanderkooy (1983 January/February)	374
Time-Frequency Distributions of Loudspeakers: The Application of the Wigner Distribution. Cornells P. Janse and Arie J. M. Kaizer (1983 April).....	393
Improvements in Monitor Loudspeaker Systems. David Smith, D. B. Keele, Jr., and John Eargle (1983 June).....	419
Satisfying Loudspeaker Crossover Constraints with Conventional Networks—Old and New Designs. Robert M. Bullock, III (1983 July/August)	434
Glass-Fiber and Graphite-Flake Reinforced Polyimide Composite Diaphragm for Loudspeakers. Susumu Takahashi, Tomomi Katoh, Sadao Taguchi, and Toshio Watanabe (1983 October)	445
Amplitude and Phase Measurements of Vibrations of Radiating Surfaces in Order to Determine the Emitted Sound Field. A. M. Bruneau (1983 December)	451
Optimum Loudspeaker Placement Near Reflecting Planes. K. O. Ballagh (1983 December)	458