



# DOPE FROM HOPE

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## ON TEST REPORTS

We are frequently asked for "test reports" on our speakers, and by various magazines, "laboratories" and reviewers for some samples of our equipment to test.

We submitted a sample to one laboratory. The published results were shocking. I doubt if sales were hurt; perhaps readers of the report could realize what they saw was not what they heard.

I spent several sessions in our lab trying to simulate the response curve published by the reviewer. I came fairly close, by putting the loudspeaker on a high stool, remote from all wall, floor and ceiling surfaces, in a medium-live 4000 cubic foot room, with a single microphone **behind** the loudspeaker. The response was 20 dB down at the ends of the spectrum "Just like the reviewer's" curve.

We have been reluctant to submit samples that would get "tested" in this or similar "laboratories".

I'd like to cite just one more (of many) examples of poor judgement on the part of reviewers. One reviewer remarked on printed page that distortion increases only slightly with power level, and that modulation distortion in loudspeakers is inaudible. Our measurements show that total distortion is nearly proportional to power output, that modulation distortion usually exceeds harmonic distortion, and our listening tests show that modulation distortion is far more irritating to the listener than an equal amount of harmonic distortion. You can readily see why we'd rather not have this tone-deaf reviewer "measure" our speakers.

Therefore we will do our own reviewing. Accuse us if you will of "conflict of interest", but I feel we honestly and accurately evaluate loudspeakers. Admittedly we like to see our speakers reviewed in a favorable light. But to be honest **with ourselves**, we have to test the speakers of other makes as fairly as we do our own — else how could we improve our own products?

I'd like to extend an invitation to witness our tests and to bring speakers not hitherto tested here, but frankly I'm afraid of an invasion that would preclude getting progress in our research. If a reader feels he has a real contribution or challenge, he is invited to communicate with us and if mutually agreeable we can arrange a schedule in our laboratory.

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... The mark of integrity in loudspeakers!