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<https://www.bksv.com/en/Campaign/HQ/M1-newsletters/M1-oct-2020/pressure-field-microphones>

Free-field

Free field refers to an area where sound waves can propagate without any obstacles obstructing the sound path.

It denotes an idealized state, both theoretically and physically.

In practical [terms](#), anechoic chambers, commonly used to test microphones and [speakers](#), aim to approximate this free field condition.

A free field is a space that is free from obstacles or obstructions in its vicinity. In acoustics, it signifies a state in which sound waves can propagate freely without any reflections or interference, as there are no walls or obstacles in the vicinity.

Free fields are typically realized in outdoor environments or sufficiently large indoor spaces. Due to the absence of reflecting surfaces such as walls, floors, or ceilings, sound waves propagate freely throughout the space.

The concept of a free field is crucial in acoustics, as it is employed in accurately assessing the performance of acoustic equipment or systems and in measuring and analyzing acoustic

characteristics. For instance, ensuring an adequate free field around [speakers](#) and appropriately placing microphones allows for precise measurements of [speaker](#) output signals.

The concept of a free field is not only relevant in acoustical research but also finds applications in various sound environments, including music production, broadcasting, live performances, and more. In a free field, a comprehensive understanding of sound wave propagation characteristics serves as a foundation for designing and tuning acoustic systems.

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Last update: **2023/09/17**

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