

**What's
all the noise
about?**

**Understanding
acoustic
landscapes**



Acoustics by Icon



we
know
screens



"Acoustics play a critical role in office design but it cannot be considered in isolation - it's more than just noise that has an impact on productivity at work"

Numerous research studies have confirmed that noise, in addition to causing nuisance and disturbance in an office environment, is a primary cause of reduction in productivity and can contribute to stress and illness.

Modern workplaces seem to be in a constant state of change. Occupiers and designers discuss and debate every aspect - form versus function, open versus private, old versus new - but we should never lose sight of the principal purpose of the office: to aid the business function.

Open, flexible spaces seem to be the order of the day and whilst they can aid communication and collaboration, the noise associated with this type of arrangement can have a negative impact on the people who use them.

Another key influence in workplace design today is the fact that many organisations are under pressure to reduce real estate costs. This means being creative and flexible with leases and square footage, which in turn has an impact on how employees work - often in less space with more noise and visual distraction.

Amidst all of these changes, the one constant is people. By 2020 we will have five generations in the workplace, all with different behaviours, tolerances and ways of working; It is important that architects, office designers and indeed any business with an office, consider the impact this will have.

With so many different factors affecting the workplace, you need an office specialist that can see the bigger picture. At Icon, we can help you identify problem areas at design & build stage - or in an existing occupied space. We can offer expert advice and a range of products to help reduce noise, offer privacy where needed and increase productivity.

Acoustics. It's not rocket science... just ABC

A

Absorb.

Noise reflected off hard surfaces may be amplified and create uncomfortable reverberation.

B

Block.

Block the direct path of sound with standard or custom designed acoustic screens.

C

Cover.

Mask unwanted sounds by raising the background sound level.

Which Icon products can help?

ArtSorb

Fabric panels for walls, storage cabinets and ceilings help absorb noise whilst still looking attractive. The panels can be upholstered in fabric or covered with graphics, to match any kind of office design. Create a visually stunning, but also practical, piece of art.

Stitch & Simple Blades

Increase acoustic absorption in the office with beautifully upholstered desk screens. These luxurious fabric blades have a 20mm dense BASF acoustic foam core, a rating of NRC 0.6 and are available in a plethora of different colours to suit your scheme.

Freestanding Stitch & Simple

If you want to create a bit of privacy, or a little peace and quiet in an otherwise busy workplace, Stitch and Simple are also available as NRC 0.6 rated freestanding screens, giving you flexibility to create the space you need instantly.

System 02

Designed to block the direct path of sound at 480mm high or greater, the chunky 36mm System 02 range is highly flexible and functional. It provides good sound absorbing properties (NRC 0.6) on both sides of the screen to reduce reflection of seated workstation users close to the source.

System 05

This 30mm angular profile is our most popular system screen, available in desk and freestanding options. Combined with a 20mm BASF acoustic core, System 05 offers an NRC of 0.6.

System 06

Our flexible System 06 consists of a high density sound blocking core sandwiched between two layers of sound absorbing material. At heights of 1200mm or greater this screen will block all the direct sound and absorb noise at NRC 0.7. Use it as a cubicle to create personal work space, define meeting areas for team working or even as a dividing wall.

Seven

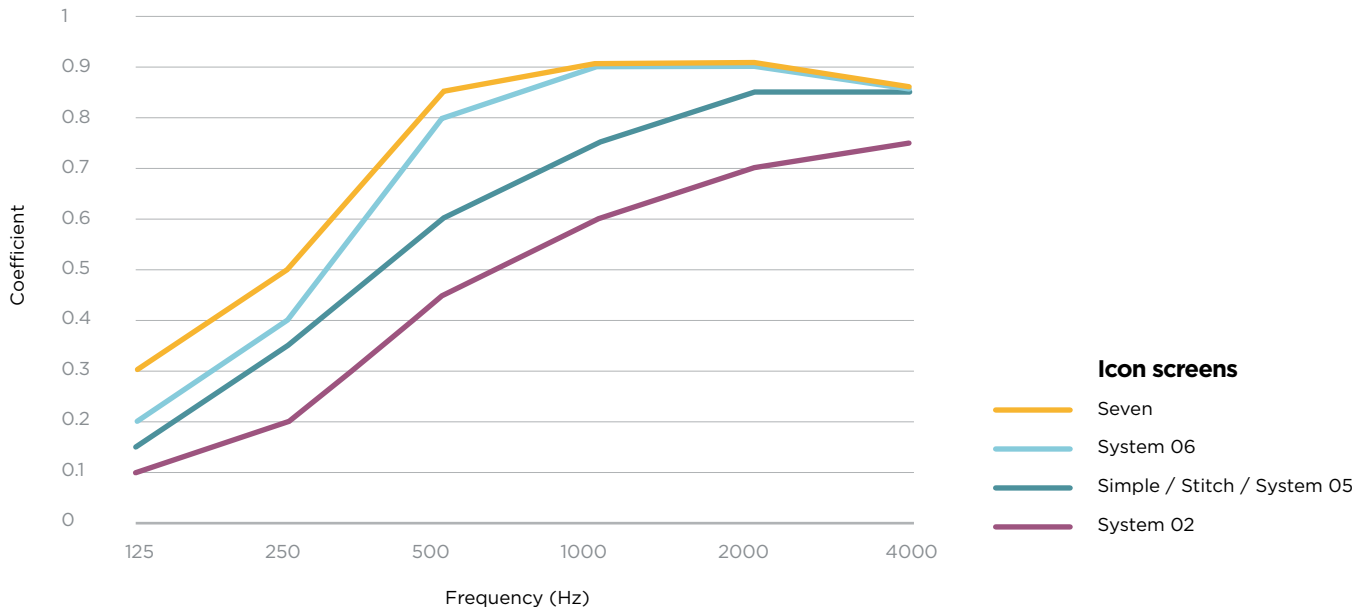
Designed to maximise sound absorption for collaboration and breakout areas, Seven is an elegant curved freestanding screen system upholstered with heat bonded foam backed fabric. Available as either NRC 1.0 or NRC 0.7.



How much will it absorb?

Every material has a coefficient of absorption from 0 to 1, where 0 is fully reflecting (such as glass) and 1 is fully absorbing. We use a variety of core materials to achieve the best sound absorption in the speech frequency range of 500 - 4000 Hz, while maintaining the integrity and strength of the screens. See how our different screens perform below.

Absorption coefficients



Acoustic landscapes

We all experience times at work when we're trying to concentrate on a task, but get distracted by something else happening in the room. Whether it's visual or verbal, it's an unwelcome distraction and there is only one result - your productivity suffers. By improving the visual landscape and acoustics in your workplace you will be improving productivity and efficiency.

Numerous studies have demonstrated the harm done by poor acoustics, it can lead to poor concentration, degraded memory and even health problems. The same studies also show the vast benefits following acoustic landscaping. Remember, the office is there to aid the business function - the success of the business is largely determined by its people and their ability to do their job.

A consultative approach

With over 30 years' experience at improving office acoustics, our partner Acoustix has successfully surveyed and installed products around Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

This depth of knowledge and industry experience is second to none and we are delighted to offer this specialist consultancy to Icon clients. Acoustix take a plain English approach to consulting and can provide different levels of service from a written summary of findings to a full acoustics report.

Call us on +44 (0)1977 695 222
or email hello@weknowscreens.co.uk

We think workplaces should be inspiring places. They should help people build their businesses, grow as people and bring their ideas to life. Get in touch to find out more about how Icon can help you make the most of your office space, whatever its size.



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