



“Why acoustical transparent fabrics?”

“All home theaters and media rooms consist of what may be considered the “bones, muscle and skin”. The bones are the shell construction, floor, ceiling, doors, etc.) that may also serve to contain the sound to and from the theater. The muscles are the acoustic treatments and loudspeakers that create the quality of sound inside the room. Finally, the skin is the aesthetic finish that covers the bones and muscle and allows the theater to both look and sound great.



Steve Haas

One of the most common types of “skins” used to conceal acoustic treatments and AV equipment is fabric. Yet, not just any fabric can be employed for this most critical application. The fabric must allow sound to pass multiple times between the listening space and the speakers/treatments without any noticeable alteration of the sound. Various ad hoc tests, such as holding a fabric up to light or trying to breathe through it, can be done to give an idea of whether it can be used effectively for this application. However, there is only one true objective test: using a loudspeaker playing “pink” noise (think, radio static) and measuring the one-third octave band sound levels with and without a large piece of the fabric in question stretched in front of the loudspeaker. The difference at each frequency between the exposed speaker and the speaker covered by the fabric is called its “insertion loss.” When a fabric exhibits an insertion loss of 3dB or less at all frequencies up to 16kHz, it can be classified as Acoustically Transparent.

SH Acoustics has tested all available CINE Living fabrics in accordance with the procedures described above and have certified that they meet the requirements for being acoustically transparent for use in front of loudspeakers and/or acoustic treatments.

“We are extremely excited about the launch of the new CINE Living fabric series,” says SHA President, Steve Haas. “For the last decade, working with designers like Theo Kalomirakis, we have certified a variety of fabrics from many top brands as being acoustically transparent; but never before have we seen such a wonderful collection of great looking and acoustically acceptable offerings. I truly look forward to seeing the CINE Living fabrics become a staple in our offerings to our clients and their designers!”

