If you’re like me, and you travel a lot, and you have to do voice-over recording work on the road, you’ve probably encountered some pretty horrible acoustic conditions. Hotel room acoustics that are out of your control, noisy guests in the next room, kids running up and down the hallways, ice and vending machines going off, the hotel pool outside your balcony and yes, even noisy elevators.

Over the last nearly thirty years of doing this, I’ve recorded in hotel rooms both large and small, trying everything to create a somewhat background-noise free environment. From New York to L.A., Rome to the Island of Malta. I’ve covered my head in everything from finest 800 count linens to bathroom rugs in order to cut down hotel room background noise, and it’s nearly impossible!
Quit Trashing Your Hotel Rooms!

To be sure, I’ve recorded in cars (pretty sound proof acoustics to keep out road noise), closets, dressing rooms, bathrooms, under mattresses, pillows, comforters… anywhere and using anything I could find to create a somewhat quite niche in which to set up a microphone and portable gear and still be able to read copy.

As an “artist” with Auralex Acoustics, the world’s number one acoustical treatment manufacturer, I was afforded the opportunity to help in developing some forthcoming product specifically designed for the voice over industry.

To be blunt, I wanted to design an acoustical treatment for me - The traveling voice actor. After all, necessity is the mother of invention right?

So, I met with Eric Smith, President and Founder of Auralex Acoustics. I proceeded to tell him my issues with voice recording on the road, specifically the issue of “knocking down” the size of a hotel room. And what I mean by that, is simply this: The larger the room (hotel or otherwise) the more echo, slap back and ambient noise to contend with while recording.

What I tried to explain to Eric is that my problem isn’t what’s in front of me in my makeshift portable recording setup. I’ll usually use as many pillows as I can muster from the hotel bed to eliminate front-wall bounce. My issue is what’s behind me, or should I say, what isn’t behind me.

I’ve gone to great lengths in order to “knock down” hotel room echo. God knows how many hotel rooms I’ve trashed in the process! It starts with comforters and blankets draped over stand-up lamps and leads to actually taking down heavy room curtains in order to crudely fashion a suitable booth environment with desk lamps and suitcases. It’s not only a time consuming nightmare for me, but you should see the looks on the faces of the maids who have to clean up my “acoustic creations”.

For me, the solution had to be both light and portable so it was easy to travel with. It had to be easy to carry and more importantly, it had to be easy to pass through customs and baggage claim.

What was developed was this. A portable Auralex backdrop. An array of three, lightweight 2’ x 2’ x 3” Auralex panels on light-weight, quick release stands.

The panels are designed to surround you, in order to “knock down” the size of the room behind you and create a more “enclosed” recording environment. Perfect for recording at a desk in your hotel room or even at home!

You can even mount two more on mini stands to go on the desk in front of you, should you need more sound deadening, and you don’t really want to use hotel room pillows.

The panels stow-away in an easy to carry travel bag and the quick release stands come in a duffle bag.

So if you’re tired of trashing your hotel rooms and overheating under multiple layers of comforters and blankets in order to find your own acoustical serenity, this portable Auralex array is the perfect traveling solution!

For more info on where you can buy these for yourself, go to www.auralex.com

Endorsed by me,

Ed Victor “The Big Gun”