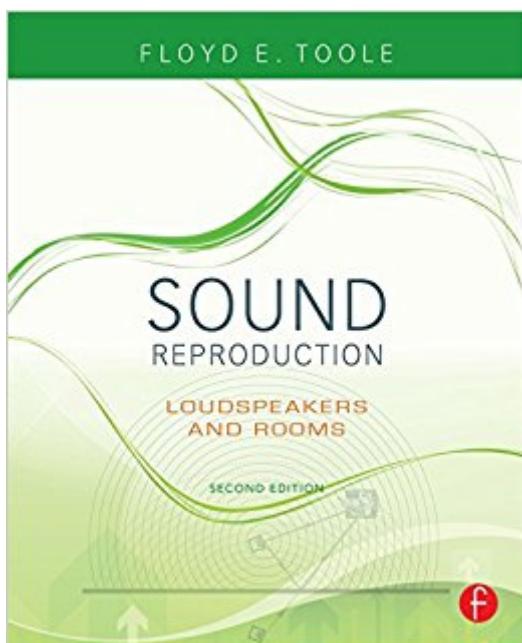


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# Sound Reproduction: The Acoustics And Psychoacoustics Of Loudspeakers And Rooms (Audio Engineering Society Presents)



## **Synopsis**

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## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The book is certainly excellent and deserves 5 stars even if you disagree with some (or many) arguments presented within. Writing style is absolutely engaging, easy while technical, almost hard to believe it could be done so eloquently. You will learn just about everything there is to know about sound, recording and projection. At the same time in order to be with the author, you must also agree that sound of some (very few in fact) concert halls produces the best there is and anything else is just plain wrong or at least short of live perfection. I could not disagree with assertion more, yet it is repeatedly stated in early parts of the book (which is where I am right now). I'm not only saying that most concert halls are not good enough to compete with sound projection of the most recognized ones, I'm plainly saying that like sound reproduced at home, or anywhere you listen to, it is what it is and may or may not be approved as best by many listeners. It has nothing to do with one being infrequent hall goer, hence inexperienced in the ... experience. It is different and things

should remain so. Author asserts that hall experience will never be matched in home environment. Perhaps so, but so what? You will love the book even if you fall in the same as me category of experiencing sound. The book is worth every dime it costs. But I would caution against falling for all the rhetoric with blinders on. Even if it is a gem of a book, a great read to boot (and that is a lot for such a narrowly focused technical publication).

This book is a standard reference that should be in everyone's library who is interested in home audio and home theater. In an easy to read format the book provides the results of decades of research performed by Dr. Toole (with support from other excellent staff) at Harmon International. The results of real research, not just opinions, are hard to come by in the audio field. This book demonstrates what factors are important in loudspeaker response, how loudspeakers fit into rooms, subwoofer and room interactions, and much more. I've had a copy of the book for several years. I just purchased another copy to be circulated among members of a local audio club. The book would make a great gift for someone you know who is into audio.

In short, I keep re-reading this book - probably the last collection by Floyd Toole. I wish most speaker manufacturers would heed his advice and give the consumer the data they need to make meaningful decisions. As an engineer (retired) but from another discipline, I gather a lot of useful information in this book. Sean Olive or other protege should come up with an enhanced version in the future. Discuss, please, the types of automatic room equalization systems available, and which ones work well and which don't. I've done a lot of manual equalization after the first steps of speaker placement and some room treatment. Various devices enable rapid measurements now. A means to bring all this data together and provide a downloadable EQ curve to a parametric equalizer is something I would like to see (as opposed to some proprietary algorithm where one just presses a button.) The consumer digital camera world has become very technical, precise and accurate in terms of product technical reviews of capability and performance. Even in 2016, and at the most extreme prices, "HiFi" continues to be defined by "snake oil" salesmen. And the Audio Critic is dead. Is anyone listening to Toole other than JBL?

I am not going to write long about that book. Simply put: it just changed my attitude completely. Many things in this book seem contradictory to the common knowledge. That pushed me to investigate more on the topic (especially in terms of loudspeakers), that as a consequence led me to Mr. Linkwitz web page... Then I realized that I was spending huge amount of money to be able to

listened to some nice music...and all that was not necessary. Suddenly I got to know that proper loudspeakers could sound fantastic in my empty, modern equipped living room. I then got one, tested them and found most of the concepts in the book to be accurate and true. Now, my specially designed "listening room" (with "golden dimensions", acoustic treatment etc.) stays empty...and my wife used to call it "guest room" as we all listen to the music in our living room now.

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