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ASC STUDIO TRAPS

SOUND TREATMENT

DEVICE SPOTLIGHT By Mitch Malloy

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
SOUND TREATMENT SPOTLIGHT

AFTER A FEW weeks of working in my new space, perusing the Internet and asking my engineer buds about what modular treatment to use to achieve tuned-room results without construction, I came across **StudioTraps by Acoustic Sciences Corp. (ASC)**. I remember visiting a studio that was professionally treated with all ASC products, and the sound of that room was remarkable.

I contacted ASC, and they suggested I get their monitor stands and eight StudioTraps to create their Quick Sound Field (QSF). The monitor stands consist of two pieces: The bottoms function as both speaker stands and bass traps and cut down on reflections; the tops correct and align midrange and treble frequencies and actually sit on top of the speakers. My Mackie HR824 monitors used to sound nice—now they sound fantastic! I did a comparison with my old speaker stand on one side and the ASC stands on the other, and it was like night and day. When I set up both sides with the ASCs, I heard things much more clearly, with the bass tightened up significantly.



Since the speaker stands had made such a huge difference, I was excited to set up the eight StudioTraps in a mixing configuration. They're fairly light, portable cylinders mounted on tripod stands, and are adjustable in height and can be moved easily. Within five minutes I was set up, and once again I couldn't believe the difference. It seemed as if I was hearing *only* the speakers and the music and not the room—nice and tight, and so *musical*. I suddenly heard *bad* things about my previous mixes, which was a *good* thing. Yikes—remix time!

Next, I set up my Lawson L251 mic in the (ASC recommended) omni pattern and positioned the traps around it, leaving just enough space for me to stand, as if I were a trap myself closing the circle. The traps rotate and have a dead side that absorbs sound and a bright/dry side that enhances sound, which is then captured by the mic. For the first time ever—even after 15 years of tracking in world-class facilities with major engineers—I heard all of my voice's tone being captured by the mic. I thought, "Wow, why don't all major studios have these, not to mention home studios?" I've since used them on everything, with great results all around.

IN A NUTSHELL: ASC's StudioTraps (and monitor stand tops and bottoms) are a portable way to make any space sound better, whether tracking or mixing. It's rare that an invention comes along that is this musical—they really should be called Tone Traps. These products will bring any studio up several notches, both and aesthetically.