



# SE Electronics Reflexion Filter

Stuck for a convenient way to tame those room acoustics? **Jon Musgrave** turns to the Reflexion Filter for some welcome help.

## DETAILS

**PRICE** £229

## CONTACT

**Web:** [www.sonic-distribution.com](http://www.sonic-distribution.com)  
[www.seelectronics.com](http://www.seelectronics.com)

**THE LINK USB IS** Looks a bit mad, doesn't it? But if it can really tame the unwanted ambiances arriving at your microphone, this latest gadget from microphone maker SE Electronics could become an extremely commonplace fixture. Dreamt up by China's most high-profile mic manufacturer, this project has been some time in development. Even so, the idea itself stems from common techniques such as putting screens behind mics. The difference is, they've gone to the trouble of seeking out the most suitable materials for the job, producing an all-in-one stand-mounted contraption. It's a neat idea, and one that, I dare say, many people are wishing they'd come up with first.

### Cheap at the price

Compared to a fully treated room, at £199 the Reflexion Filter is a bargain, but what are you getting for your cash? Well the unit

comprises two aspects – the acoustically treated surround, and the integrated mic mounting. The surround is the scientific bit, and is basically a half-pipe, about 15 inches in diameter and a foot high. The main absorber element contains layers of wool, aluminium and an air gap, sandwiched between a perforated aluminium skin. The inner surface has 4 highly absorptive polyester fibreboard panels courtesy of Korean firm Diseven to further diffuse the sound.

The filter fits into a dedicated bracket, which you can attach to any mic stand. This bracket also includes an adjustable mic mounting that replicates the standard end of a mic stand.

### Does it work?

It's worth mentioning that the RF works in two ways. Firstly, sound directed at the mic (and hence the filter) will get reduced, preventing it from adding to the room ambience.

Secondly, any sound coming towards the back and sides of the mic will hit the filter and get reduced.

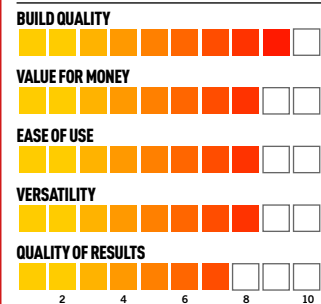
Out of the box, the RF mounting requires a little home assembly, but with only a cursory glance at the instructions I'm up and running. Even just speaking towards the filter, it's obvious how absorbent it is, and a bit of gratuitous screaming later I'm convinced of this. Setting up a mic is simple enough, although the mounting bracket in general requires a little elbow grease to tighten it fully.

So what about the sound? As indicated from the literature, the frequency response doesn't seem coloured by the RF, which is good news. But listening back to various trial recordings the difference is subtler than I'd anticipated. In a more lively space under A/B testing there's definitely less ambience. So bearing in mind that a cardioid mic already has reasonable rejection at the back, this must be the result of the RF's absorption of direct sound. Even so, sound sources generate sound in all directions, adding to the general ambience that way as well, and there's little the RF can do to stop that. With this in mind, I stuck the RF behind my head, and that proved to be very effective also (though slightly uncomfortable).

### Verdict

The Reflexion Filter is a clever idea well executed and will appeal to lots of people. I don't think it replaces the need for an acoustically designed space, and is certainly no miracle cure, but it does help tame the negative impact of room acoustics. I think future models (of which I've no doubt there'll be many) could also benefit from a little 'drum kit stand' type finesse on the mounting assembly. Overall a potentially useful bit of kit. **FM**

## VERDICT SE FILTER



**The Reflexion Filter may not be a miracle cure, but it helps tame room acoustics.**