

## Too Loud?

Silly stunts and salient comments

### The LAB Community

#### QUESTION POSTED BY JOE DAWSON

What is loud?

#### REPLY BY MITCH GRANT

To me, Fran Dreschler (of the insidious show *The Nanny* – editor) is always too loud.

#### REPLY BY SCOTT ABRAHAMSON

In high school we used to go to the airport and lay at the side of the runway when jets were taking off. That was loud. And stupid!!

#### REPLY BY W. MARK HELLINGER

When I was a kid we used to hide out under a railroad trestle when a freight train was going past. This trestle was on a pretty good incline, and we'd squat under it inches below the track. That seemed pretty loud at the time.

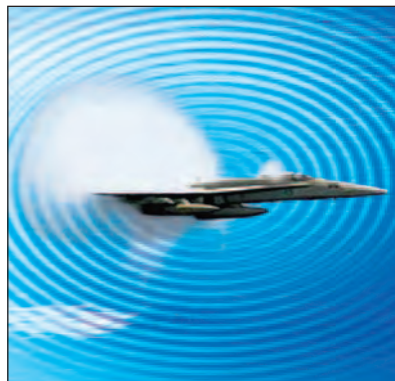
Another time when I was a kid, I was filling balloons with oxy/acetylene mixtures and tying a firecracker fuse in the bottom of them, and lighting them. I had one go off at point blank range as soon as I lit the fuse. That seemed pretty loud at the time.

The neighbor's dog, barking all night long, sometimes seems pretty loud.

Once, a 12-foot by 20-foot I-beam fell off a grain elevator from about 120 feet up and landed on the concrete right behind me. That seemed pretty loud at the time.

Dave Rat's system with the Red Hot Chili Peppers seems pretty loud.

My wife and I lived in Alaska for a few winters, at Icy Bay, so we had the opportunity to be pretty close to a glacier that was calving off icebergs. That seemed pretty loud at the time.



Of course, I've never been around anything really loud, just things that seemed pretty loud at the time.

#### ANOTHER REPLY BY W. MARK HELLINGER

Now I remember something that *really* was loud. My dad and I were fishing at Steamboat Lake (I think) in North Idaho back in the early 1970s. Most of the lake is surrounded by walls that are, I don't know, maybe 500 feet high.

Anyway, a jet flying along at tree top level went supersonic directly over the lake, maybe 1000 feet over our heads. The sonic boom pretty much knocked the wind out of me. (And the fishing wasn't any good the rest of the day as I remember it.)

#### REPLY BY BARRY BOZEMAN

One of my pet peeves as a sound company owner is mixers who start a show at the maximum PA level and try to keep it there, fighting power, compression and destroying drivers. Sound engineers need to remember that doing this day in and day out

makes their ideas of loud much different from the audience that attends a concert once a month or so, or goes to the live music club once a week.

It's usually better to ease the audience into the level you want to ultimately achieve, and leave some room for dynamics.

#### REPLY BY STEVE BRADBURY

If you don't like a particular type of music, it's more likely to sound louder. One study I read suggested that a person in direct control of the volume was likely to perceive loudness as being less than those not in control.

#### REPLY BY MARTY MCCANN

Loud is in the ear of the "behearer." Guns & Roses may not be too loud for a teenager at 90 dB, but his father may insist that he "turn it down." However if the kid played Merle Haggard at 85 dB, dad would probably tell him to "turn it up."

Of course, a distorted sound is perceived as louder than an undistorted sound at the same level.

The loudest thing I ever heard was an explosion of an underground ammo supply bunker in Vietnam. The blast was so strong it knocked over an outhouse. (Unfortunately, I was in it at the time.)

#### REPLY BY JOE DAWSON

Could that be termed a "sh—load of loudness?" Just kidding! ■

*The LAB (Live Audio Board) on ProSoundWeb is the predominant on-line forum for sound reinforcement. Check it out at [www.live-audio.com](http://www.live-audio.com), and for more LAB Best Threads, to [www.prosoundweb.com/sr/bt](http://www.prosoundweb.com/sr/bt).*