

Virtual Education Lab: The first RPG application

Following my presentation at the 74th AES Convention (1983) in a Studio Design session, I met several people in the audio community including Syn-Aud-Con founders Don and Carolyn Davis and Bob Todrank, owner of Valley Audio. Bob and I discussed the application of these new diffusors in a studio he was designing and our collaboration led to the first RPG installation on the rear wall of the Oak Ridge Boys' Acorn Sound Recorders in Henderson, TN. Figure 1 shows the published announcement in August 1984.

Following the installation, a Syn-Aud-Con Workshop was held at Acorn Sound Recorders in the summer of 1984, with many of the present and future recording studio designers. In Figure 2, we see a photo from that workshop with the class, the first RPG in the background and the Oak Ridge Boys with engineer Jimmy Tarbutton. I especially like this photo because so many attendees have become important names in studio design: Russ Berger, Steve Blake, Chips Davis, Neil Grant, Doug Jones, Steve Langstaff, Neil Muncy, Lennert Nilsson, Bob Richards, Bob Skye, Bob Todrank, and Charles Bilello.

The initial acceptance of these new surfaces led to installation in hundreds of recording control rooms and live rooms, home theatres, stages, auditoria, and worship spaces.

In the next post, we will begin a review of the theory and historical evolution of the use of sound diffusors from their initial use in recording control rooms to include almost all spaces for the performance, recording, and audition of music.



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Figure 1. Acorn Sound Recorders' control room announcement



Figure 2. Syn-Aud-Con workshop at Acorn Sound Recorders