



# J.W. DAVIS & COMPANY

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## Speaker Sound Pressure Level (SPL)

This key speaker specification is a measure of the efficiency and volume that can be expected from a device relative to its power input. Since raising the volume of a speaker 3dB requires doubling the amplifier power, a small increase in loudspeaker SPL can mean significant savings in amplifier costs. Unfortunately, there is not a standard method of calculating SPL specifications among speaker manufacturers. Possible variables include the measured distance between the reference microphone and the speaker, the definition of “useable frequency range” and the calculation of an “average” sound pressure level. As a result, knowledge of a manufacturer’s testing methods for determining specifications is an important factor in knowing the actual load of a sound system.