



ACOUSTICS TODAY

Magazine Information and Author Instructions

For any questions, please contact the Acoustics Today editor, Arthur Popper (apopper@umd.edu)

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Checklist MS Preparation

The following pages cover all aspects of manuscript preparation for *Acoustics Today*. However, to help in preparation, the list below gives some of the key points that are often the most overlooked when a manuscript is submitted to the Editor. Please go through this checklist before submitting your manuscript to make sure you have followed these key points. This list does not, however, substitute for following all other instructions in this document.

- MS Word format with 1" margins, text Times Roman 12 pt font, and left justification for all text
- Double-spaced text *except tables* (see page 5 regarding tables)
- Limit of 6,000 words for articles (see page 4 for decrease in words for figures)
- Title page set up as described on page 4
- Headings in **bold** with major words capitalized
- Secondary headings italicized (no more than 2 heading levels)
- References in correct format (see page 5)
- References carefully checked to make sure all references cited in the text are in the reference section AND that all references cited in the reference section are in the text
- Final figures in one of the formats described in **Graphics** (see page 7)
- Copyright Transfer Form signed
- Permissions obtained, if applicable
- Author biographies do not exceed 100 words
- Each file labeled with last name of first author followed by the content of the file (e.g., LastName – MS; LastName – Figure 1)
- Manuscript complete with all parts required

About *Acoustics Today*

Acoustics Today is a magazine (**not a journal**) whose primary purpose is to provide timely technical and societal information to the membership of the Acoustical Society of America that is interesting, understandable, and worth reading regardless of a member's background. It is expected that any article submitted to the Editor for publication has not been published or accepted for publication elsewhere nor has it been submitted to another magazine or journal simultaneously.

Acoustics Today contains tutorials, technical articles, and articles whose subject content is related to acoustics as well as news items and other short pieces highlighting Technical Committees and important ASA programs such as Standards and Education. A typical issue of *Acoustics Today* is about 64 pages in length. The magazine is published quarterly in full color. Each issue of *Acoustics Today* is sent to ASA members in print form and is also available online and open access at www.AcousticsToday.org.

It is important to realize that writing a magazine article is very different from writing a journal article. For a journal article, the principal criterion is to be accurate in the facts connected with the subject matter that is reported. In *Acoustics Today*, the facts must still be accurate, but they must be interesting and understandable to all, including members who have a background in acoustics but may not be versed in the particular subject of the article.

The articles in *Acoustics Today* are general reviews of a specific topic, although the topic may be very broad (e.g., principles of instrument acoustics) or reasonably narrow. *Acoustics Today* is not a venue for original research articles or preliminary studies nor is it generally a venue for work from one laboratory or laboratory group.

Indeed, as you prepare your article for *Acoustics Today*, it is important to keep the magazine's audience in mind at every step of the process. Please do not think of the audience as your discipline peers in ASA. Instead, think of the scholarly level of your audience as a member of ASA in a totally different area of acoustics from you and assume that they do not have the knowledge of those in your discipline. In addition, the audience is even broader than ASA members and may include a senior in college with a good, but not great, background in physics, engineering, and/or biology or a regulator or journalist with a good science or engineering background.

Instructions for Preparation of Manuscripts

Proposing an Article: Articles for *Acoustics Today* are invited contributions. However, ideas for articles are welcome by the Editor and such ideas are very encouraged and welcome. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the Editor before you start writing to discuss what you have in mind.

Publication Timeline: *Acoustics Today* is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall, and winter). Once we have agreed to include your article in a particular issue of *Acoustics Today*, you will be given a date by which we must receive the final article for it to be included. Because we work on a very tight deadline, late submissions will not be possible nor can we guarantee that a late submission will get a place in a subsequent issue of *Acoustics Today* because we work several issues ahead.

Article Length: The **maximum** length of an article is 6,000 words, including title page, references, figure legends, and tables. Note, however, that authors should subtract 100 words for each small figure (equivalent to about 1/6 of a page), 150 words for each larger figure (equivalent to 1/3 of a page), and 75 words for each stand-alone equation. The maximum length of the author bio is 100 words.

One-, two-, and three-column pages are used throughout the magazine; therefore, any graphics submitted may be resized to fit the number of columns used in the article. Authors should be cognizant of length before submission because longer articles will rarely be accepted.

Title Page: The title page should include the following information.

- **Title:** Titles should be descriptive of the article. Acronyms should not be used in titles unless they are so common (such as sonar) that they can be found in standard dictionaries. Do not make the titles too long.
- **Author(s):** Include first name, middle initial (if desired), and last name, full postal mailing address, and e-mail address of all author(s).
- **Teaser:** Include a one-sentence (maximum 20 words) teaser that will spark a reader's interest. It is placed below the title of your article in the Table of Contents. An example of a title, author, and teaser is

Acoustic Remote Sensing of Ocean Gyres

Peter F. Worcester, Walter H. Munk, and Robert C. Spindel

Ocean acoustic tomography is a powerful tool for making rapid and repeated measurements of large-scale ocean temperatures and heat content.

- **Running (or Short) Title:** Provide a maximum of 4- to 5-word short title that can be used on the top of pages.
- **Key Words:** Include 10 or more key words that do not appear in the title of the article. These will be used as metawords for your article so they can be more easily found in Web searches. Keep in mind that *Acoustics Today* is now open access, which means that a much larger number of people are potentially able to use your article, if found. Thus, having great key words for indexing purposes is of great value. In selecting key words, do use important terms in your article but not very broad words.
- **Technical Committee(s):** Include the technical committee(s) most closely associated with the material in the article. (A list of the ASA Technical Committees can be found at <http://acousticalsociety.org/about/committees>.)

Text: The manuscript should start on a new page and be submitted in MS Word format. Do **not** submit Acrobat pdf text files or LaTeX. The entire manuscript (except tables, see below) should be double spaced with 1-inch margins and left justification. Put continuous line numbers in the left margin (automatic with Word).

The entire manuscript should be submitted in Times Roman 12 pt and symbols should be from the Word list of symbols. This ensures the most accurate transfer of symbols to the printed version.

Acronyms and abbreviations must be defined when used for the first time in the article.

Figures: Each figure should be submitted as a separate file. The general location of each figure in the article should be noted with “Figure X about here” on a separate line in the text. See **Graphics** below for details of acceptable formats.

Figure legends should start on a new page at the end of the manuscript after the references.

Tables: Tables should be placed after references and before figure legends. Place a callout in the MS as to the general location for the table. Tables should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals with the caption placed in to top cell of the table and extend across all columns. Tables should be created using the tables feature in Word. Do **not** use Microsoft Excel tables.

Tables should be **single spaced** and surrounded by a border. Lines within tables should be thinner than the border. **The font of the table title should be Times Roman 11 pt** and the material in the **other cells should be Times Roman 10 pt**. Center items in cells vertically and, if appropriate, horizontally. Do not use color in any cell.

Equations: Equations should be created using Math-Type in Word if possible. Equations that stand alone and occupy a single line should be numbered consecutively at the right margin (using Arabic numerals in parentheses). Use the same tools for equations that are within a line of text. Remember, the smaller the number of equations, the easier the article will be to read and understand by the greatest number of readers.

Acknowledgments: Articles may include acknowledgments to people and/or funding agencies. However, please keep these short.

Use of URLs: If you are using URLs in the text of your article, please test it right before submission and make sure that it is working. If there is any chance that the URL is not really viable over several years, please do not use it. If URLs are at all long, please use a URL shortener such as Google shortener (<https://goo.gl/>) to cut the URL length.

References: Use the format for references as shown on the next page (page 6).¹ Only published or in press papers can be included in References. Papers in preparation or submitted can be cited in the text as personal communication but not in References. Also note the following.

- References are listed at the end of the article in alphabetical order by author regardless of number of authors and year. If there are several references by the same author(s), list them by year. If there are several references by the same author(s) in the same year, use “a,b,c...” after the year.
- All authors’ names should be listed. However, if there are more than four authors, the first four names can be followed by et al.
- For journal articles, include the full title of the paper. Do not abbreviate the journal name, e.g., *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, not *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.*
- NOTE: correct name of JASA starts with “The.”

¹ If you are using a type of reference not included here please use the closest reference style, and include all information necessary so that readers can find the publication.

- For book chapters, include book title, editor(s), publisher, city and state or country of publisher, and page numbers of chapter.
- Add DOI if available for papers at the end of the reference.
- For reports and other material on the Web be sure and include URL followed by the last accessed date.
- Within the text, citations should be by author and year. For two authors, cite both names. For three or more authors, cite as “first author et al.” Multiple citations should be in chronological order, e.g., (Smith, 1954; Jones and Curley, 1975; Magnus et al., 2013). Note that for two authors we link using “and.”

The following are examples of proper reference formats.

- Alexander, A., Forth, O., and Tunstall, D. (2012). Music and noise fingerprinting and reference cancellation applied to forensic audio enhancement. *Proceedings of the Audio Engineering Society 46th International Conference: Audio Forensics - Recording, Recovery Analysis, and Interpretation*, Denver, CO, June 14-16, 2012.
- Apfel, R. E. (1998). *Activatable Infusible Dispersions Containing Drops of a Superheated Liquid for Methods of Therapy and Diagnosis*. US Patent No. 5,840,276, November 1998.
- Ashida, G., and Carr, C. E. (2011). Sound localization: Jeffress and beyond. *Current Opinion in Neurobiology* 21, 745-751.
- Bennett, R., and Pearsons, K. (1981). *Handbook of Aircraft Noise Metrics*. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Contractor Report 3406, NASA, Washington, DC.
- Colgate Palmolive. (2012). Safe-in-Sound Excellence Award. National Hearing Conservation Association meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 24, 2012. Available at <http://www.safeinsound.us/swf/colgate/index.html>. Accessed October 21, 2015.
- Dallos, P., Popper, A. N., and Fay, R. R. (eds). (1996). *The Cochlea*. Springer-Verlag, New York.
- De Jong, K., Bouton, N., and Slabbekoorn, H. (2007). Azorean rock-pool blennies produce size-dependent calls in a courtship context. *Animal Behaviour* 74, 1285-1292.
- Fay, R. R. (1988). *Hearing in Vertebrates: A Psychophysics Databook*. Hill-Fay Associates, Winnetka, IL.
- Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise (FICUN). (1980). *Guidelines for Considering Noise in Land Use Planning and Control*. US Government Printing Office Report No. 1981-337-066/8071, FICUN, Washington, DC.
- Hastings, M. C. (2008). Coming to terms with the effects of ocean noise on marine animals. *Acoustics Today* 4, 22-34.
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO). (2015). *Acoustics – Description, Measurement and Assessment of Environmental Noise - Part 1: Basic Quantities and Assessment Procedures*. ISO/CD/1996, Final Draft of International Standard 1996-1, ISO, Geneva, Switzerland.
- National Transportation Safety Board. (2007). *Cockpit Voice Recorder Handbook for Aviation Accident Investigations*. Vehicle Recorder Division, Office of Research and Engineering and Office of Aviation Safety, Washington, DC. Available at <http://tinyurl.com/ntsb-cvr-pdf>. Accessed May 27, 2015.
- Nobile, M.A. (2011). PNR: A Simplified Product Noise Rating for the General Public. Proceedings of InterNoise 2011, Osaka, Japan, Institute of Noise Control Engineering, September 2011. Available at http://www.inceusa.org/bod/137_and138/files/06.7.1_Board_meeting_agenda_item_PNR.pdf. Accessed December 11, 2015.
- Patten, E., Belardi, K., Baranek, G., Watson, L., Labban, J. D., and Oller, D. K. (2014). Vocal patterns in infants with autism spectrum disorder: Canonical babbling status and vocalization frequency. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* 44, 2413-2428. doi:10.1007/s10803-014-2047-4.
- Tierney, C., Mayes, S., Lohs, S., Black, A., Gisin, E., and Veglia, M. (2015). How valid is the checklist for autism spectrum disorder when a child has apraxia of speech? *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*. doi:10.1097/DBP.000000000000189.

Wood, F. G., Jr., and Evans, W. E. (1980). Adaptiveness and ecology of echolocation in toothed whales. In Busnel, R.-G., and Fish, J. F. (eds), *Animal Sonar Systems*. Plenum Press, New York, pp. 381-425.

Authors must check to ensure that all references listed in the reference section are cited in the text and all references cited in the text are listed in the reference section!

Instructions for Submission of Manuscripts

Text Submission: Submit the complete manuscript including text, tables, equations, references, and figure captions in one file. Use last name of the first author and content of the file as the file name for all files, e.g., LastName-Text-Acoustics Today.

Graphics Submission: Submit each graphic (pictures, drawings, and charts) in a separate file, e.g., LastName-Figure 1. You can submit the files in one zip file if you wish.

Copyright Transfer Form: You must fill out a Copyright Transfer Form for your contribution to *Acoustics Today*. You can find this form at <http://goo.gl/bO7Hcp> (the authors' page on our Web site). You can fill in this form using a PDF reader and use an electronic signature or you can print it out and sign it. In either case, please return *as an electronic file* when you submit your paper. Use LastName-CopyrightTransfer as file name. If, for some reason, you cannot submit it electronically, see instructions at the bottom of the form.

Permissions: Include a PDF copy of all written permissions obtained for use of any previously published material with the manuscript submission, if possible. All permissions should be in a single PDF file and may be in the format provided the author (e.g., permission form, email). If the source of the figure does not require permission, please indicate that and give the citation to the statement of this on the publisher's Web page. See **Permissions** (page 11) for full details.

Author Information: A photo and short biography (no more than 100 words for articles and 75 words for Sound Perspectives) of each author is included with the article. All biographies should be in one file in order of the authors on the title page and sent in a separate electronic file in MS Word to the editor, e.g., LastName-AuthorBios. Informal color photos in separate files are preferred, e.g., LastName-AuthorPicture. Please see **Graphics** for submission of acceptable photo formats. We prefer that you not include pictures of children, but if you do include anyone under the age of 18, you must provide signed written permission of the parent or guardian that they approve of the use of the picture (email is fine).

Graphics: Each graphic should be submitted as a separate file in TIF or JPEG format. Resolution is also very important. Figures must be at least 300 ppi (600 ppi for color) or they cannot be used because they will not reproduce well. On charts, do not include grid lines. Use tic marks on the axes. All text on a graphic must be large enough to be readable. A typical printed chart width is only about 3.5 inches so plan your graphic text accordingly. Every graphic must have a legend that is listed separately. Do not put the legend or the figure number in the graphic. Every graphic must be explicitly mentioned in the text, including its figure number. Please ensure that all figures and graph labels are large enough to withstand an image area reduction, if it becomes necessary. PowerPoint graphics are not acceptable because they are very difficult to work with and usually provide substandard graphics.

Figures should be numbered. Use the following naming convention for the graphic files-last name of the first author followed by the number of the figure. (Example: “LastName-Fig1,” “LastName-Fig2,” etc.). Both black and white or color graphics and photos are acceptable with color being preferred. Every figure must have a legend. Please do not place the legend on the graphics page but rather include all the legends together on a separate page at the end of the article body. Graphics will be placed by the publisher close to the point in the text where they are first mentioned.

If people are in any photo and they can be identified (for example, their faces are visible in the photo), their names should be submitted and their written permission for publication in *Acoustics Today* must be obtained and submitted with other permissions. (*Note that pictures of children under the age of 18, if faces can be identified, are not permitted unless we receive written permission from a parent or guardian to use these pictures in Acoustics Today. A copy of this permission must be submitted along with other permissions. Names of children in figures are not permitted.*)

Questions: Questions regarding page layout, artwork, permissions, or copyright issues should be sent to the Editor at apopper@umd.edu or to the publications office at helenwallmurray@comcast.net.

Multimedia

Acoustics Today welcomes multimedia with articles. We have capabilities for both sound and video, and we encourage authors to provide such material. The material will be placed on an *Acoustics Today* multimedia site and links will be provided in the printed text. The links will be “live” in the PDF that is online. Furthermore, people going to the Web site will be able to look at multimedia and then link back to the article. Note that material for the Web must be original to you and not be copyrighted by someone else.

Multimedia from another Web site is considered to be copyrighted by the site owner and therefore we cannot, without written permission from the site owner, put it on our Web page. However, it is totally acceptable to have a link from our multimedia site to the site of the material you want to use. Please make sure we know that the material is on another site when you submit your article and we will work with you to ensure it is properly linked to your article.

Technical Committee Reports

Acoustics Today publishes reports from the various Technical Committees (TCs) of ASA. These are invited by the Editor. These reports provide an overview of the topic areas of the TC to inform members of ASA and others about the general areas of research within the scope of the particular discipline. The author(s) of the reports is encouraged to tell a bit about the activities of the TC but to focus is on the broad areas of research. A limited number of citations, to illustrate the breadth of the TC, are encouraged. The maximum length of the report, including references, is 2,000 words. A 75-word biography of each author(s) should also be included (see page 7), as well as a picture of the author(s) (tiff or jpeg). An example of a TC report can be found at: <https://goo.gl/FvntDr>.

Sound Perspectives

Acoustics Today publishes invited editorials and other material of relevance to ASA in a section of the magazine called *Sound Perspectives*. Articles in this section of AT serves to inform members of ASA and others about a particular issue. The maximum length of each report is agreed to on a case-by-case basis with the Editor. The report should start with a title and full contact information of the author (including email and phone). A small picture of the author(s) should be provided (jpeg or tiff, and a 75 word bio of each author (see page 7). An example of a report can be found on page 52 for the spring 2017 AT issue (<https://goo.gl/96o132>).

History Articles

Acoustics Today is soliciting articles that provide an historical perspective of a field. The “origin” of doing this comes from the observations by many more senior investigators that younger scholars and students tend to focus on recent work (sometimes work that is only available on the Web) and ignore, and often do not know, earlier work and its impact on their field. Indeed, we now often encounter papers that ignore the fact that very similar, and excellent, work was done 20, 30, 50, or more years earlier.

In addition to understanding the earlier literature, it is invaluable for investigators today to know about the very accomplished scholars who did the work. These workers often made contributions of immense value and with real experimental creativity. And they very often provided insights into questions and findings that are still germane today.

Thus, the purpose of *Acoustics Today History* is to make today’s scholars and students aware of the history of a discipline and the people who helped shape the field. These reviews can go as far back in history as appropriate, should be fairly broad in coverage of a discipline, and focus on the major ideas that shaped the field as we know it today. Specific guidelines for *Acoustics Today History* are enumerated below.

1. History articles should follow the same length considerations as all other *Acoustics Today* articles.
2. Focus should be on the history of the topic, highlighting the major milestones in the development of the field.
3. The preference is for coverage of a field that is fairly broad rather than on a very specific aspect of the field.
4. Less emphasis should be placed on recent work unless it has some bearing on the earlier work. Works after 2000 should certainly not be included, but the focus could be on work before the 1960s. However, implications for the current state of the field are appropriate.
5. When possible, tracing a topic back hundreds of years, or even millennia, is totally acceptable. Indeed, if there is mention of your topic in “ancient history,” information about that might be quite interesting.
6. Information about major figures in the field, including a bit of biographical information, is most appropriate. Pictures of these individuals are encouraged.
7. As appropriate, we encourage mention of past or current ASA members and any contributions to ASA (e.g., “This discovery was made by former ASA gold medal winner Leo Beranek”).
8. Wherever possible, pictures from earlier papers should be used, although summary illustrations are certainly acceptable. In all cases, be sure to check if you need copyright permission. Generally, this is not needed for things from the 19th century, but for later things, it is important to check and get permission is required. (See section on

Permissions, page 11.)

9. Citations to the earlier literature are strongly encouraged when this is possible. Sometimes this will be through secondary literature (e.g., other reviews), and this is acceptable.
10. Wherever possible, citations to the earlier literature should include a URL if the material is available on the Web. (Note, relevant books can be identified by searching for them online, for example, <http://books.google.com/>.)
11. If URLs are not available for the earlier literature, authors might indicate, with the citations, if they have PDFs of papers that readers can request. (Note, these cannot be put on the *Acoustics Today* Web site for reasons of copyright ownership).

Letters to the Editor

Persons wishing to submit Letters to the Editor are welcome to do so. Letters can be on any topic related to acoustics and may be comments on material in recent issues of *Acoustics Today*. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. Submitters should feel free to express their opinions but are expected to follow the normal rules of polite writing. Letters should be free of commercialization. Submission implies giving the editor, copy editor, and the publications office staff the authority to make minor editing changes to improve the quality of writing and clarity. Inclusion of any letter is at the discretion of the editor. Letters should be no more than 150 words (no figures or mathematical equations) and may include up to two citations in the form of footnotes (citations are not included in the word count). Citations should include full titles, all authors, and source. Authors should give their full name and email address.

Obituaries

Acoustics Today will, when space is available, include pieces about recently deceased members of the ASA. Anyone who would like to do an obituary about a colleague or friend may offer to do so. However, please do not prepare the piece before contacting the editor. We have limited room in each issue of *Acoustics Today* and may have to limit the number of obituaries in any issue. *Acoustics Today* policy is that obituaries are limited to ASA Fellows and to individuals who have been very active in function and leadership of the organization.

Obituaries should be no more than 500-600 words (including references), and authors should review past examples to get a sense of what to include (e.g., <http://goo.gl/Nei9Af>). Focus should be on the scholarly contributions of the deceased and mention should be made of her/his contributions to the ASA. A bit of personal information should be included such as education and family.

Also note that obituaries that have been or will be published in any print or electronic form must not be offered to *Acoustics Today*. All obituaries must be original to the magazine and this must be indicated by the author(s).

Be sure and provide a good quality color photo of the person being written about. Informal is preferred but not required. This figure should be submitted as a TIFF or JPEG file (see **Graphics** above for details).

Obituaries may include up to six citations of work by the deceased. The preference is for articles that appeared in *JASA*, but it is more important that these be citations that are representative of

the very best work done by the individual and the breadth of their work as well as publications that are still available in print or on the Web. The papers or books listed do not have to be cited in the obituary unless the author wishes to do so as she/he talks about the major work of the deceased. In addition, if there is a Web site with the full bibliography of the deceased or a Web site of the deceased that will stay up, please feel free to include a link to that as well.

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Write for permission as early as possible before your manuscript deadline. Publishers may be slow in responding to requests for permission, and it is possible that permission will be denied or that you will be asked to also obtain the author's permission (in cases where the author controls sole rights or joint rights with the publisher). In any case, it is in your own best interest to also ask the author of the original publication. If the author cannot be located, keep good records of your attempt.

Most publishers offer submission of permission requests online or via email, which may be the fastest and most convenient way of receiving a reply. When the signed permission is returned to you, **please insert any credit lines** required by the copyright owner in your figure and/or table legends.

In most cases, permission will be free of cost, but if there is a cost, this cannot be paid by ASA. We suggest that you use a different figure instead.

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