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Faraday Cage

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[arizonaevp](#)

Moderator



Joined: Jun 26th, 2009

Location: [Heart Of Arizona](#)  
[Indian Country](#),  
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Posts: 178

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Greetings all,

When it comes to EVP's (electronic voice phenomenon); skeptics only have 2 arguments / explanations about the recordings.

1. Cross-Modulation – One or more unwanted signals such as stray radio frequencies finding its way into the recording.
2. Pareidolia – Misperception of sound in random noise

Source:

[http://www.csicop.org/specialarticles/show/electronic\\_voice\\_phenomena\\_voices\\_of\\_the\\_dead/](http://www.csicop.org/specialarticles/show/electronic_voice_phenomena_voices_of_the_dead/)

With regard to Paredolia, Apophenia, Simulacrum, Confabulation, Hyper-Reality or any other aspect of the human condition, the best we can ever do is to be aware of these situations and not let our hopes or fears distort our perception.

However...on the techie side of the equation, we can use scientific principles to help reduce Cross-Modulation in our recordings.

Back at the dawn of this phenomena, EVP experiments conducted in a "screened room" helped to remove most of the doubts associated with Cross-Modulation.

Source: Voices From The Tapes, Peter Bander, 1973

**Attached Image (viewed 10 times):**



Ken Attwood, Chief Engineer, Pyc: "I have done everything in my power to break the mystery of the voices without success; the same applies to other experts. I suppose we must learn to accept them."



A. P. Hale, Physicist and Electronics Engineer: "In view of the tests carried out in a screened laboratory at my firm, I can not explain what happened in normal physical terms."

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Moderator



Joined: Jun 26th, 2009  
Location: [Heart Of Arizona](#)  
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[Arizona USA](#)  
Posts: 178  
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Today, a room size enclosure is not necessary. A much smaller, portable enclosure can and is already in use by various individuals.

You see; another name for a screened room is a Faraday Cage.

A Faraday Cage be made from inexpensive conducting material like aluminum window screen; which is available at most hardware stores. It can also be made to a small size and still be effective.

For purposes of recording EVP's, a Faraday Cage suppresses RF (radio frequency) by conducting the RF energy around the exterior of the enclosure. This causes the interior of the Faraday Cage to be clear of an unaffected by certain frequencies. Using a conductive metal mesh allows one to view / record the item placed inside the enclosure.

An enclosure made to accommodate your digital recorder can go a long way to eliminating False Positives due to radio and other explainable RF sources.

Here is an article on building a simple Faraday Cage:

<http://www.jeddaniels.com/2007/faraday-cage-part-1/>

Here is an oversimplified youtube video on building an enclosure. This enclosure is open-ended however I'm sure you could figure out how to close up the ends.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQyvyg30S1Q>

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As an example of an efficient low cost enclosure I went to the hardware store and purchased a 32 inch by 24 inch piece of aluminum window screen for \$2.00 plus tax. I then went to the post office and got a



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small priority mail box for free.

Presto – Change-o and I now have Faraday Cage. Does it work? Yes it does. With the extra cardboard from the box I made a raised pedestal to place a digital recorder on. I even have a leftover 12 x 32 inch piece of screen.

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Grounding the cage is something of an option. However, a length of wire and a couple of alligator clips can be used. Clip one end to the cage and one end to a suitable ground and you are effectively dissipating the RF energy amassing around the enclosure.

I would point out the size of the mesh you use is important because different signals have different size wavelengths.

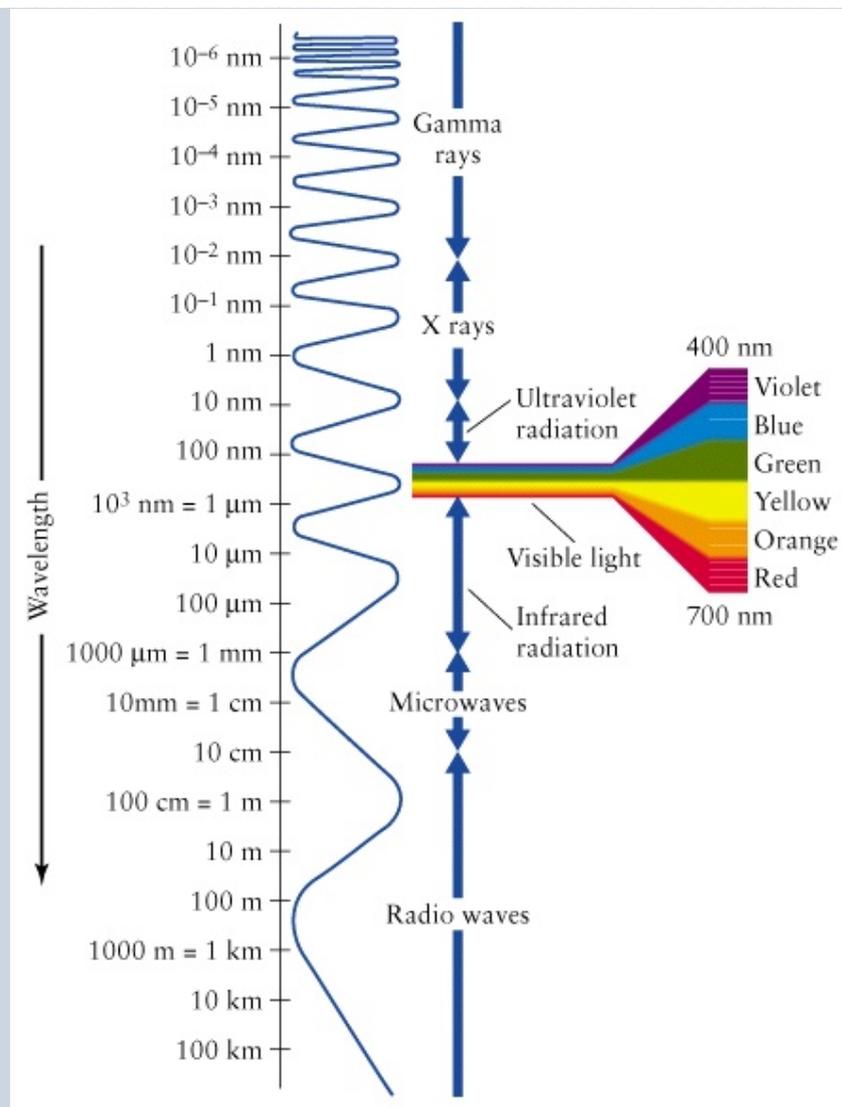
For example... AM radio has a large wavelength than FM. While a larger mesh will attenuate an AM signal, the same size opening might not completely shunt an FM signal. Hence, the smaller the opening of the mesh, the smaller the wavelength you can block.

Aluminum window screen is a perfect size for our purposes. However, if you feel the need to use a conductive mesh with smaller openings, very fine copper and brass mesh can be obtained from craft stores, hardware stores and even from ebay.

You could even have your recorder sitting inside a copper screen that is sitting inside of an aluminum screen enclosure.

Here is a graphic on wavelengths courtesy of Nasa.Gov:

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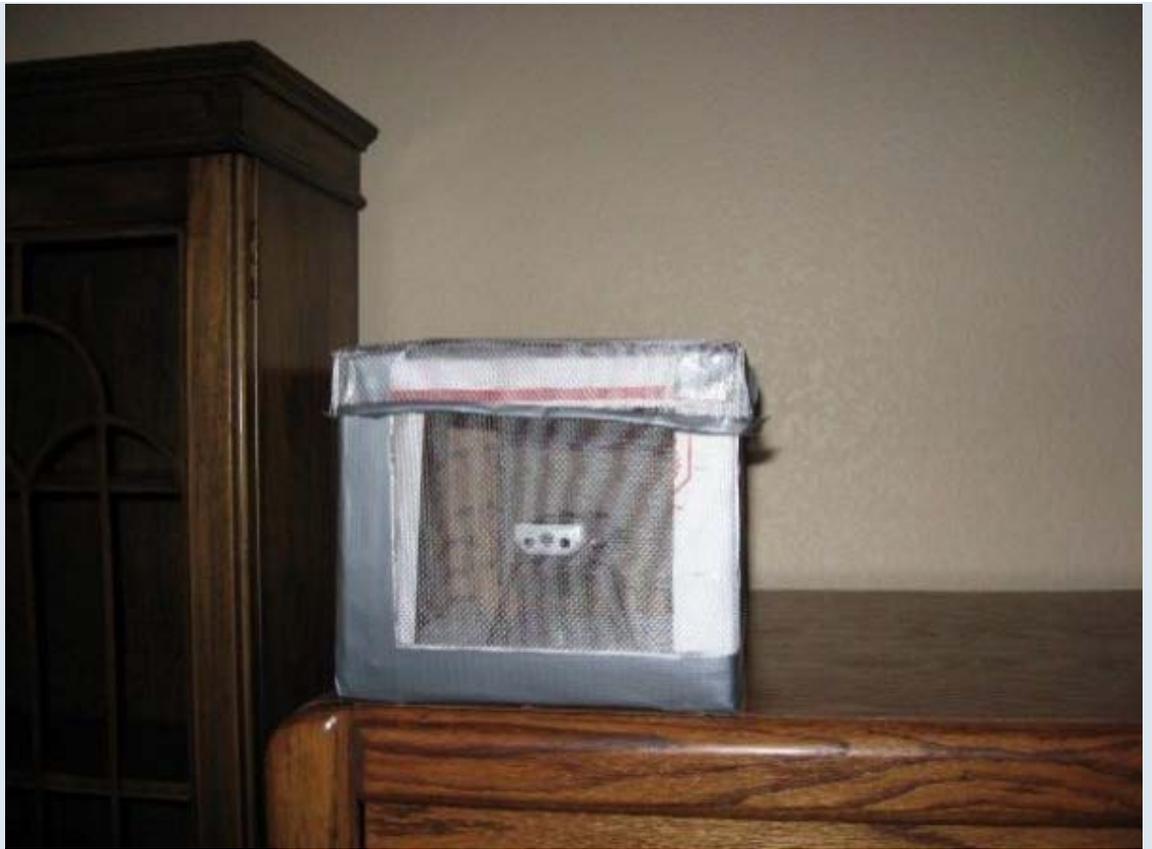
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By reducing false positives, an EVP's credibility factor rises exponentially when used in a properly functioning Faraday Cage.

If you have a desire to try a new twist in recording EVPs or taking the extra step in trying to reduce Cross-Modulation and obtain EVP evidence then a properly constructed Faraday Cage might be right for you.

Peace,  
Ron

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