

GOODEAR ACOUSTIC SHIELD

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Congratulations! You have purchased, or are considering purchasing, the Goodear Acoustic Shield. This award-winning OHS product was developed in Australia following extensive consultation with musicians and the National Acoustic Laboratories. Its groundbreaking, soft headpiece reduces exposure to dangerous sound levels.

Goodear has been tested extensively in the laboratory and on the concert platform by National Acoustic Laboratories (Australia) and Musicians' Hearing Services. Results show that Goodear significantly reduces peak sound levels for users, while not affecting the quality of the sound produced. When measured directly behind the shield in normal use position, the attenuation provided by Goodear is approximately 8 dB (equivalent to an 84% reduction in dangerous sound exposure). Additional testing compared Goodear to commonly used, hard clear screens. The plastic screens showed **increases** in harmful sound exposure to adjacent musicians of approximately 3 db (thereby doubling sound exposure to affected players). Copies of all testing can be provided on request.

Tips for introducing Goodear to your musicians

It is human nature to resist change. Your musicians need to be introduced to the benefits of Goodear and to understand that using Goodear will protect their hearing while not compromising the artistic or musical integrity of their performance. You are likely to get a positive response to Goodear if you:

- talk to all players in the ensemble (not just those using the shield) and explain your reasons for introducing the shield. Ensure you explain the differences between Goodear and clear, plastic shields.
- anticipate that some will comment on the “blackness” of the shield. It is not clear like plastic shields but neither are music stands nor even the clothes worn by players. Clear screens get scratched and marked over time, which also reduces their transparency. Players will get used to the look of the shield very quickly.
- discuss placement of the shields and ensure sight lines are clear for players sitting behind them. It works well to place musicians sitting behind the shields on risers, as is typical in most symphony orchestra setups.
- ensure each shield is set at the right height for each player. Goodear should sit just behind the head, and the player can lean back into it for additional protection if s/he knows a particularly loud passage is coming.
- offer to provide players with the easy-to-read article on Goodear published in *Acoustics Australia*, and if desired the full testing results from NAL and Musicians' Hearing Services. These are all provided when you purchase Goodear, or if you just want to know more we can provide them on request.
- invite feedback on the shields – and please feel free to provide feedback to us too!

Why choose Goodear?

- Goodear does not affect the ability of users to hear what they are playing or what those around them are playing (as ear plugs can).
- Goodear does not adversely affect the hearing of musicians adjacent or behind it (as plastic shields can).
- Its soft headpiece absorbs harmful noise exposure while not affecting the sound produced by the player.

We are confident you will reap significant OH&S benefits from Goodear Acoustic Shields.

Please feel free to contact us with any queries or comments.