


# Passive speaker


 Low-tech with Refugees - Low-tech & Réfugiés



[https://wiki.lowtechlab.org/wiki/Enceinte\\_passive/en](https://wiki.lowtechlab.org/wiki/Enceinte_passive/en)

Dernière modification le 08/08/2024

 Difficulté Facile

 Durée 10 minute(s)

 Coût 0 EUR (€)

## Description

Build passive loudspeakers using tile chip boxes and compare their sound quality to determine the best way to build this type of loudspeaker.

# Sommaire

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Description

Sommaire

Introduction

Étape 1 - Setting up tests

Étape 2 - Telephone only

Étape 3 - Simple box

Étape 4 - Double boxes

Étape 5 - Failed prototypes (avoid)

Étape 6 - Customisation

Commentaires

# Introduction

You've probably already seen small speakers made from boxes of crisps. The aim of our project is to test different models by playing around with the number of boxes, the layout and size of the sound outlets, and so on. At the end, we'll come up with the best models, and it will be up to you to choose the one that suits you best, based on sound quality and simplicity of design.

## Matériaux

One or two boxes of tile crisps.

## Outils

A knife or a cutter.

A phone.

A microphone.

Software for obtaining the spectrum of a sound signal (example: audacity)

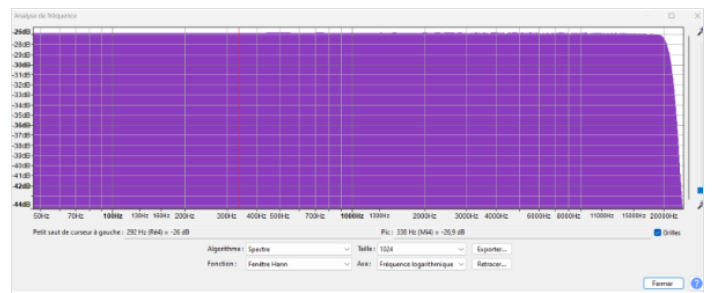
A sound file containing white noise (white noise

source:<https://lasonotheque.org/detail-1037-bruit-blanc.html>)

## Étape 1 - Setting up tests

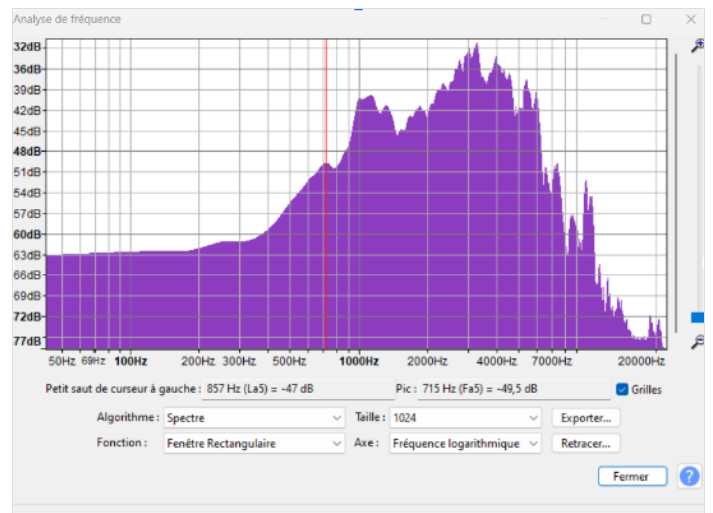
In order to carry out these tests in the best possible conditions, you need to go to a place that is as quiet as possible (this helps to avoid unwanted noise). The microphone and loudspeaker to be tested should then be placed on a stable surface with a constant distance between them.

We then play white noise from the loudspeaker, which will be recorded on audacity. The analysis -> plot spectrum option will show the distortions in the sound and allow you to compare the different speakers.



## Étape 2 - Telephone only

In order to have a point of comparison between the different speakers, it is important to have the spectrum of the phone without a speaker. Even with the phone alone, you can see that the white noise is distorted. In particular, very low and very high frequencies are virtually inaudible.



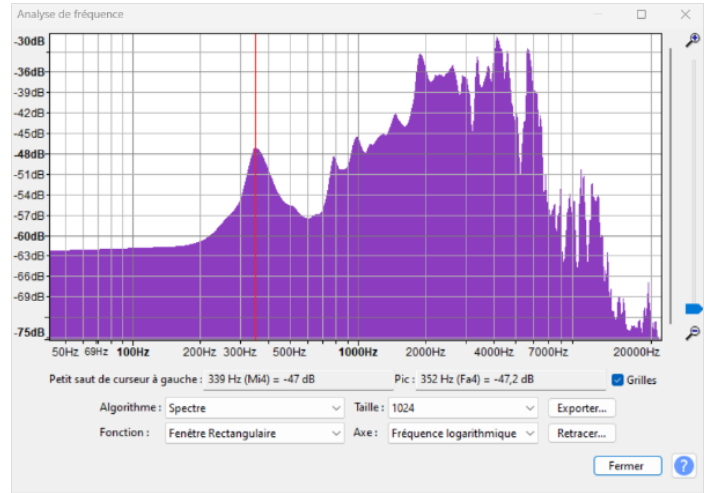
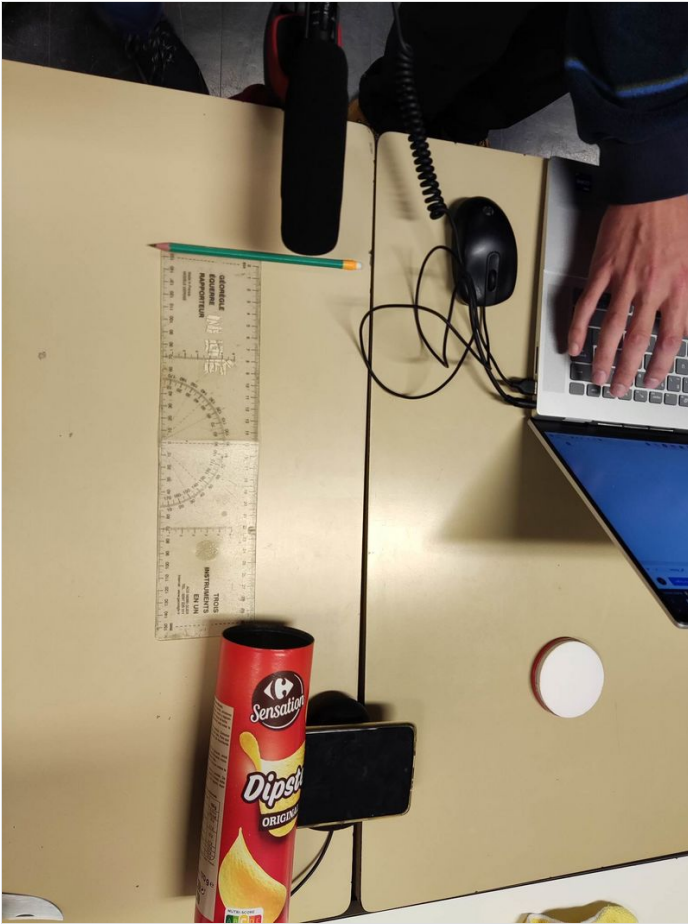
## Étape 3 - Simple box

For the simplest version of the enclosure, make a cut in the side of the crisp box. Make the cut just big enough to let your phone through, which you will then slide into the box.

This variant showed a 2dB increase in overall sound volume (i.e. a maximum sound approximately 1.6 times louder). In addition, it has a peak between 200Hz and 300Hz, showing that it gives more low-pitched sound than the telephone alone. On the other hand, the sound is less regular (the spectrum is less smooth).

This variant is therefore suitable for obtaining a louder sound or for bringing out the low frequencies more effectively, but at the cost of a loss of overall sound quality.

We also tried reducing the size of the aperture to see if this had any impact. The result is a more irregular, softer sound. It is therefore more interesting to simply remove the cover.

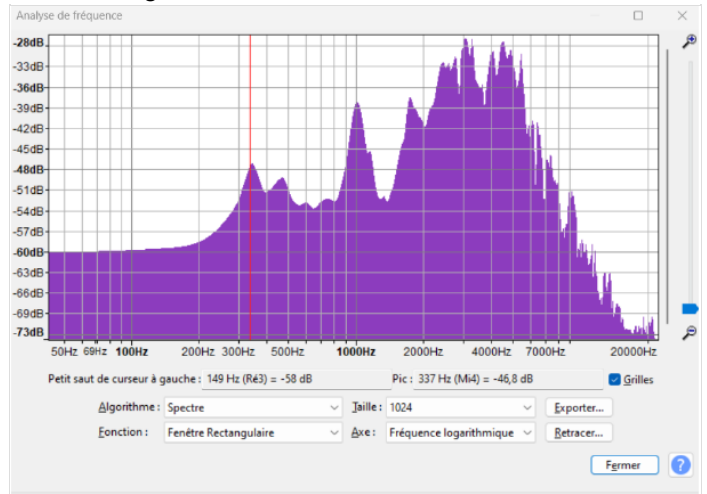
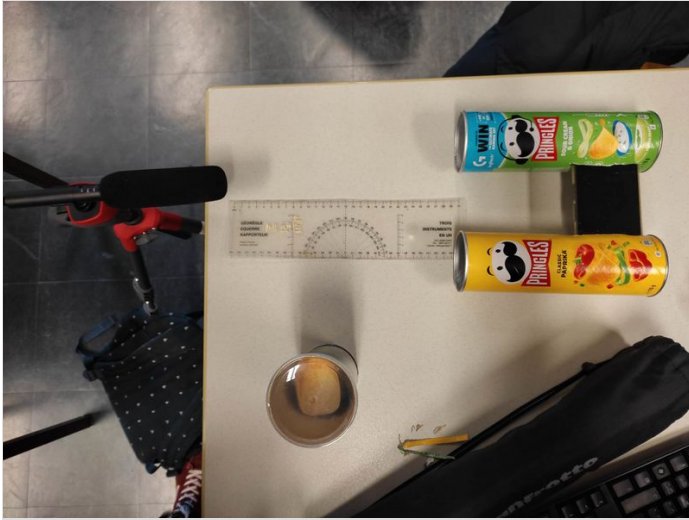


## Étape 4 - Double boxes

Some phones (including the one we used for testing) have two speakers, one on each side of the phone. It is therefore possible to repeat the previous step a second time in order to have a dual speaker.

This variant increases the sound volume even further (+2dB in our case) but the sound becomes even more irregular.

As with the simple box version, simply removing the lid gives better results than drilling small holes.

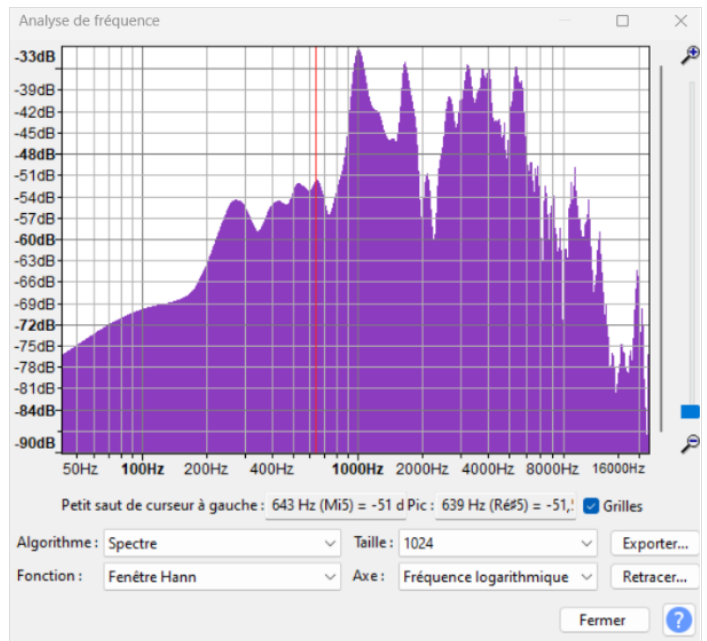


## Étape 5 - Failed prototypes (avoid)

We also tested two prototypes that distorted the sound too much:

-The tri-box: made up of two boxes inserted perpendicularly into another in which the telephone is inserted.

-A mono box variant with the lid closed but holes added to the side.



## Étape 6 - Customisation

You can also customise your loudspeaker to your liking by painting it, for example, and take it with you wherever you go!

