DIY BASS TRAPS! A HOW TO GUIDE

Intro, Why Bass Traps Are Important

A lot of bedroom producers have foam stuck to their walls and ceiling. This foam deadens sound reflections and allows you to hear sound out of your speakers without added sound interference from wall reflections.

Lower frequencies require thicker absorption materials.The 2” thick foam that you will find on tons of bedroom producer’s walls (see here: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07X4253L2?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1 will only absorb the reflections down to around 1500 hz. This is a great chunk of the audible spectrum, so these foam panels still do have a place in bedroom studios; however, you need something thicker to absorb lower frequencies. Enter bass traps.

Image taken from: https://arcacoustics.com/2016/10/24/where-should-i-locate-bass-traps/

These are thick panels filled with dense material, exactly what you need to absorb bass reflections.

Unfortunately, these things are pricey, the cheapest ones I could find were around $400 bucks a pop. I wanted at least 8 for my studio, and I didn’t have $3200 lying around, so I built my own. Here is how I did it.

My DIY Traps

I ended up making 9 traps. 5 of them I covered with a cheap, plain fabric to save money. The other 4 I covered with a cool jungle print fabric I found at Joanns. This is how they turned out:

How to Build Your Own Traps

The finished product that I'd like to help you make is a 25" x 49" bass trap that is 4" thick. I made 9 traps using this method, and it cost me around $576 which comes out to $64 per trap ($336 savings per bass trap, compared to $400 per trap). Below you will find the tools and materials you will need, and the price breakdown.

Tools

- Stapler and staples
    - This is to attach the fabric to the wood and keep the insulation in the frame
    - Cost: $20 from Joanns fabric

- Power Drill
    - This is for drilling the brackets into the wood to make the wood frame
    - Cost: $50 bucks from home depot. Borrow your neighbors if you don't have one.

Materials (for one trap)

- *Wood (from local hardware store, I bought the cheapest option)*
    - (2) 1 x 4s, 25" long
    - (2) 1 x 4s, 48" long

    - Cost: $13

- *Insulation (from buyinsulationproductstore.com)*
    - (1) slab of mineral wool, 24 x 48 x 4"
    - Link: https://www.buyinsulationproductstore.com/4-thick-4-mineral-wool-acoustical-board/

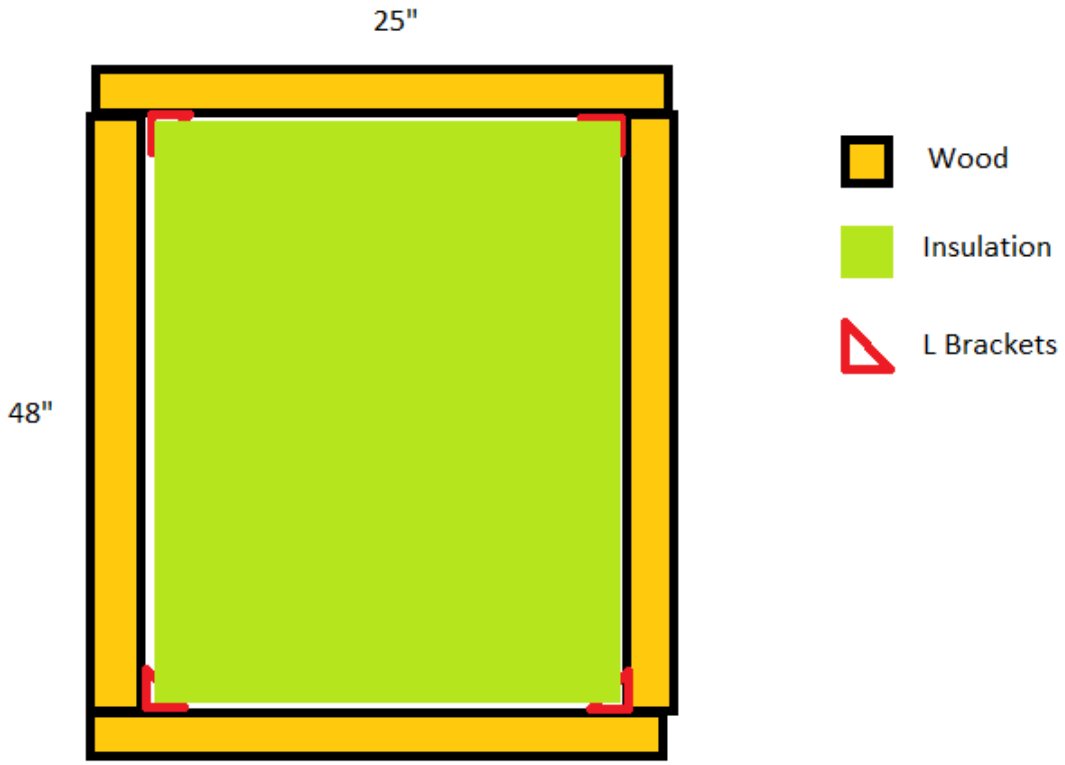
    - Cost: $36
        - This is the cheapest option I could find anywhere on the internet, March of 2022. I had to buy (3) slabs at a time

- *Fabric (from local Joanns)*
    - (1) 34 x 57" piece of fabric (for front)
    - (1) 25 x 49" piece of fabric (for back)

    - Cost: $13

- *Hardware (from amazon):*
    - (4) L brackets
        - Link: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08QD6PF1D?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1
    - Cost: $2

Assembly (See below for an artistic rendition)



- First I built the wood frame
- Next I laid the frame on a 34 x 57” piece of fabric and stapled the fabric to the opposite side of the frame.
- Then I laid the insulation into the frame
- Finally, I stapled a 25 x 49” piece of fabric to the back of the trap

Conclusion

This is how I made my traps! I hope this helps you on your journey to create awesome music! Check out www.acidriotmusic.com for more music producer resources.