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Analytical Hearing-adequate Assessment of Disturbed Radio Broadcast

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Radio broadcast signals may be disturbed in various ways as often experienced in driving situations. Audible and disturbing “pops”, noise bursts, short term mutes, or noticeable stereo/mono switching occurs. Such parameters can be assessed by applying relatively simple level or spectral analyses for the FM receiver output signals. However, it needs to be considered that the perception in a vehicle may differ from these analytic receiver measurements. The transition between mono/stereo playback, its critical timing or the design of “high cut” filters (cut-off frequency, attenuation) may be perceived differently in the vehicle due to reflections and reverberation. Furthermore the correlation of such analyses to perception by the human hearing requires experts’ experience or is even often unknown. This contribution discusses hearing-adequate analyses of receiver signals after HRTF filtering to simulate specific vehicles. A data base of individual ratings for the same samples provides the link to quality perception.

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