

Case Study:

# Kobalt Music Group

A unique project incorporating different noise reduction products to achieve a seamless and aesthetic finish





## Overview

### About the Client

Leading independent music publisher and music services country. This project was carried out at Kobalt's London headquarters.

### Project Won

Phase one awarded in April 2014

### Project Completion

All phases completed and handed over in October 2014

### Type of Project

Project included design (including bespoke items), manufacture, installation and full project management.

### Products Used

- IAC Noise-Lock™ Acoustic Door
- Schüco Jansen Economy 60 screens and doors
- Double glazed acoustic screens



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Oliver Mendelsohn  
Mute Soundproofing

Kobalt Music Group is a leading independent music publisher and music services company. Kobalt directly administers more than 250,000 copyrights worldwide on behalf of over 1,200 content holders including the world's top songwriters, artists and other music publishers. Earlier this year, their London headquarters required some additional soundproofing to maximise productivity and contain sound, whilst maintaining a clean and modern look to complement their existing décor.

IAC Acoustics was approached by Mute Soundproofing, a London-based company specialising in inter-space noise control and interior space acoustics. Working directly for Kobalt, Mute contacted IAC Acoustics for a solution to four noise problem areas faced by staff working in the central London office.

Firstly, a meeting room used for playing amplified music needed to be

suitably soundproofed to minimise noise break-out into the adjoining open plan office used by the accounts team. A current glass partition was removed and replaced by an acoustic screen, utilising a proven aluminium track system and acoustic glass. Access was provided by a full-height IAC Acoustics Noise-Lock™ acoustic door, painted to match the glazing track system. The screen was specified at R'w50dB and performs as stated, ensuring people using the room can listen to music without disturbing fellow colleagues.

In addition to the meeting room, the accounts department directly opposite had an existing single glazed partition removed and replaced with a R'w40dB acoustic screen, complete with a Schüco Jansen steel acoustic door. As a recently approved Jansen fabricator, this additional range of products, including fire rated screens, windows and doors can now be used on similar projects where a level of acoustic integrity is required,

whilst maintaining the look and feel associated with glass. Such was the focus of this project on aesthetics in addition to acoustic performance, the screen uses an integrated internal blinds system to improve privacy and reduce distractions from people walking along the adjoining corridor.

The third area requiring acoustic treatment was a private office for the Account Director. Also a replacement of an existing glass partition, this small L-shaped screen uses the same double-glazed track as the meeting room plus integrated blinds for additional privacy. Access is provided by an R'w40dB Jansen steel door. Due to the additional weight, IAC Acoustics had to also fabricate a bespoke steel support system to cap the new screen and take the weight of the door hinge fixings. This simple screen proved to be the most complex on the entire project, utilising 3 different systems to create a seamless looking end result.



end result means the reception area is now a quiet and relaxing space, despite being directly linked to a small open plan office on the other side of the new door.

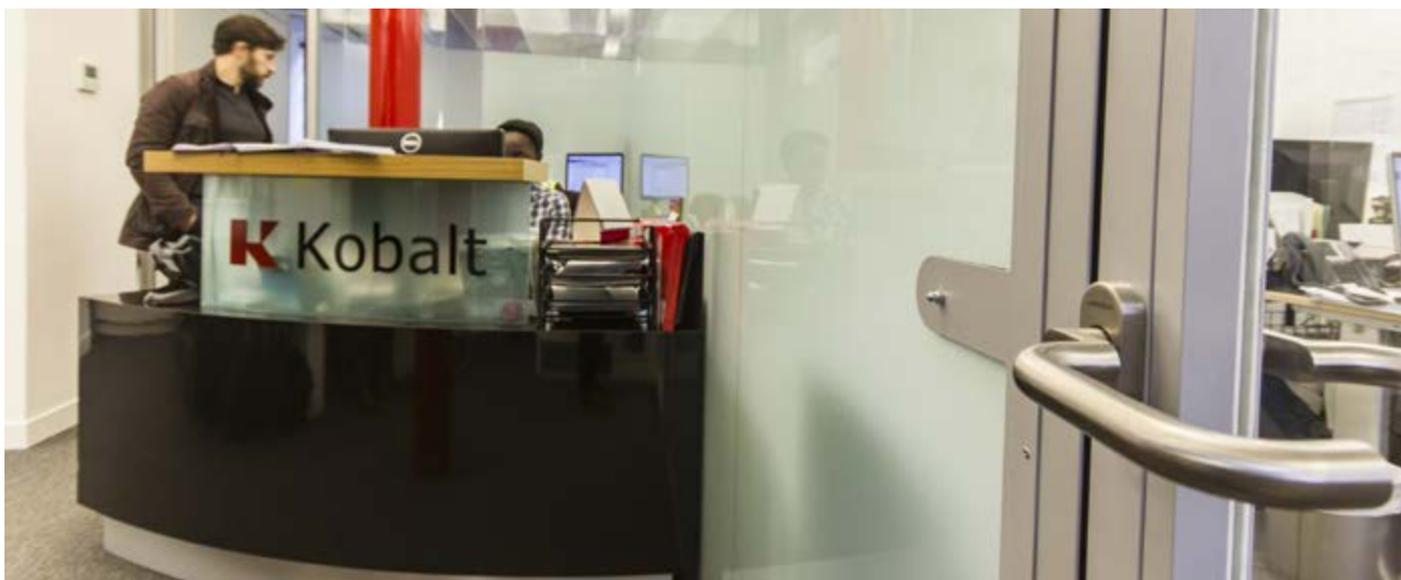
Speaking on behalf of Mute Soundproofing, Managing Director Oliver Mendelsohn said: "When Kobalt Music, one of our longest-standing and most valued clients, contracted us to implement acoustically-insulated office spaces at their UK headquarters, we didn't hesitate to engage IAC Acoustics as our principal supplier. IAC offer a uniquely holistic service, providing 'in-house' design, manufacture and installation, which from a project management point of view, is a pleasure to work alongside. The Kobalt contract progressed fluidly. IAC were unequivocally responsive and accountable throughout; ultimately, delivering an outcome which surpassed the client's expectations. In the words of Kobalt's office manager:

'Thank you so much...A lot of people have commented on how much they love the look of the glass meeting rooms. It has been refreshing to work with such a professional company, making my job so much easier.'

Finally, an existing glass partition located next to the main reception area required some additional soundproofing. The previous fully glazed system was replaced by an R'w40dB Jansen acoustic door. This door had to work seamlessly within the existing partition, but like the private office, required additional strengthening measures to be used. IAC Acoustics fabricated extra supports for the hinge side of the door due to the additional weight and designed a bespoke cover strip to finish the strike and cover where the existing door furniture had been. The

Finally and certainly worth mentioning, whilst IAC are a global organisation, their working style is highly personal. Throughout the Kobalt contract, they were on hand and conducted themselves in a friendly and enthusiastic manner."

Each of these separate treatments work together to improve the acoustic environment of a busy office, increasing productivity of employees and creating private spaces for sensitive client meetings and music playback.



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