

MARCH 18, 2009, 10:31 AM

Battling Noise Complaints With Crown Molding

By SONIA ZJAWINSKI

Sonia Zjawinski

When I first moved to New York I lived in one of the worst apartments of all time – no joke. Located in the hip enclave of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, my large loft was within an old factory that had minimal renovations done to make it “livable.” One of the major improvements it was lacking was any type of insulation between floors. The wooden slats seen in the ceiling were literally the wooden slats my upstairs neighbors walked on.

It being a rental, I obviously didn’t want to put in much regarding improvements, so I invested in [stellar earplugs](#) and an ambient album called [Psychologically Ultimate Seashore](#). It did the trick to a point, but if I had wanted to invest in the place, besides for some awesome insulation, I would have called on the experts at [SoundSense](#). The company, based in East Hampton, N.Y., is singularly focused on noise cancellation.

One reason I like this company is that it not only offers heavy-duty options like fiberglass ceiling tiles and foam absorber panels, it also engineers solutions that mimic architectural elements in a room, so you don’t have to live in what looks like an oversized recording studio.

For example, the NoiseOut Millwork is meant to act as crown molding, baseboards, ceiling beams, fireplace mantels, wood columns and more. Each piece is mathematically designed to absorb, reflect and scatter sound based on its internal proprietary material and shape – sorry, patent pending so SoundSense can’t reveal exactly what that is.

As if this wasn’t awesome enough, these components feature a space inside to tuck unsightly wires from your speakers, flat screen, modem, or anything else that’s causing a snake pit in your house. The channel that holds your wires can also be shielded against RF interference so you won’t have any degradation.

While this probably wouldn’t have been enough to help me regain my sanity in Williamsburg, it’s a great solution to use when remodeling your media room. A multithousand-dollar home theater will sound only as good as the room it’s in.