

Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory

NSMRL/F1016/TM--2022-1371

January 24, 2022



Impulse Assessment of the 3M™ Combat Arms™ Generation 4.0 Earplug

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| | | | | 5b. GRANT NUMBER | |
| | | | | 5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER | |
| 6. AUTHOR(S) | | | | 5d. PROJECT NUMBER | |
| | | | | 5e. TASK NUMBER | |
| | | | | 5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER | |
| 7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) | | | | 8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER | |
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| | | | | 11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) | |
| 12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT | | | | | |
| 13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES | | | | | |
| 14. ABSTRACT | | | | | |
| 15. SUBJECT TERMS | | | | | |
| 16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF: | | | 17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT | 18. NUMBER OF PAGES | 19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON |
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This work was supported by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery funding work unit F1016 and the Office of Naval Research funding work unit F2002. The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, nor the U.S. Government. This work was prepared by employees of the U.S. Government as part of their official duties. Title 17 U.S.C. §105 provides that 'Copyright protection under this title is not available for any work of the United States Government.' Title 17 U.S.C. §101 defines a U.S. Government work as a work prepared by a military service member or employee of the U.S. Government as part of that person's official duties.

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Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Ms. Rachael Maten for assistance in the collection of resource materials. They would also like to thank Mr. Jake See for assistance in data collection.

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Executive Summary

The impulse peak insertion loss (IPIL) is the standard measure of attenuation provided by hearing protection devices (HPDs) in response to an impulsive noise. This technical memorandum describes the IPIL testing conducted and the calculated mean IPIL values for the 3M™ Combat Arms™ Generation 4.0 Earplug (CAE Gen. 4.0; Model: 6515-01-576-8861). Testing included two test modes: open (i.e., filtered signal) and closed (i.e., unfiltered signal). Testing was completed in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard S12.42-2010, “Methods for the Measurement of Insertion Loss of Hearing Protection Devices in Continuous or Impulsive Noise Using Microphone-in-Real-Ear or Acoustic Test Fixture Procedures.” All device samples were tested at the nominal levels of 150, 160, and 170 decibel peak (dB_P, re: 20 μPa). A total of five samples were fitted to an acoustic test fixture two times each for a total of 10 trials per test level in both the open and closed modes. No samples of the HPD were rejected. Results of the testing revealed overall higher mean IPIL values when the CAE Gen. 4.0 was in the closed mode compared to the open mode at all nominal test levels (i.e., 150, 160, and 170 dB_P). The mean and standard deviation (SD) IPIL values were 26.1 (1.4) dB SPL at 150 dB_P, 31.3 (1.3) dB SPL at 160 dB_P, and 35.2 (0.8) dB SPL at 170 dB_P in the open mode, and 36.1 (2.6) dB SPL at 150 dB_P, 37.7 (2.0) dB SPL at 160 dB_P, and 39.0 (1.6) dB SPL at 170 dB_P in the closed mode (see Table 1). These results suggest that, when properly fit and functional, the CAE Gen. 4.0 can adequately protect (i.e., reduce exposure to less than 140 dB_P) against impulses below 175.2 dB_P in the open mode, and 179.0 dB_P in the closed mode.

Table 1.

CAE Gen. 4.0 mean (SD) IPIL value (in dB) for all test conditions.

| | 150 dB_P | 160 dB_P | 170 dB_P |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Open | 26.1 (1.4) | 31.3 (1.3) | 35.2 (0.8) |
| Closed | 36.1 (2.6) | 37.7 (2.0) | 39.0 (1.6) |

Introduction

The 3M™ Combat Arms™ Generation 4.0 earplug (CAE Gen. 4.0; 3M™, St. Paul, MN) is a level-dependent, triple-flange, corded earplug that is available in three sizes: small, regular, and large. The level-dependent function of the CAE Gen. 4.0 allows the earplugs to provide varied levels of attenuation as a function of environmental noise level. Specifically, the CAE Gen. 4.0 design utilizes a finger-touch rocker cover, which allows the user to manually select an open (i.e., filtered) or closed (i.e., unfiltered) mode while the earplug is in situ. Per manufacturer package instructions, the purpose of the open mode is to provide ample situational awareness by allowing the passage of quiet sounds while simultaneously attenuating loud impulse noise such as weapon fire via the earplug's filter. The purpose of the closed mode is to protect against continuous loud noises such as "aircraft, vehicles, watercraft, generators, etc." (3M Occupational Health, 2010).

The Department of Defense Instruction 6055.12 (2019) "Hearing Conservation Program (HCP)" limits impulse noise exposure to 140 peak decibels (dBP). Therefore, should an impulse noise meet or exceed 140 dBP, hearing conservation efforts to prevent hearing loss resulting from occupational and operational illness and injury are mandated. One conservation measure used to reduce the user's noise hazard below the 140 dBP limit is the use of hearing protection devices (HPDs; e.g., earplug or earmuff).

In order to calculate whether the issued HPD will reduce the impulse noise exposure below the 140 dBP limit, the impulse peak insertion loss (IPIL) value of the HPD should be subtracted from the impulse noise level (Department of Defense, 2015). The IPIL value is the standard metric (ANSI/ASA S12.42) used to determine the amount of protection afforded by an HPD in response to impulse noise. Separate calculated impulse peak insertion loss (IPIL) values for the CAE Gen. 4.0 at 160 and 170 dBP have been previously reported by the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory (NSMRL; Koliass et al, 2021). However, since military noise exposure commonly occurs around 150 dBP, the amount of protection afforded to users by the CAE Gen. 4.0 at 150 dBP was tested along with 160 and 170 dBP.

This report describes the methods and results used to determine the IPIL value for the 3M™ Combat Arms™ Generation 4.0 Earplug in the open and closed modes. In addition to reporting an overall device IPIL, ear-specific IPILs are reported for the tested nominal levels.

Methods

Facility

IPIL testing described herein was completed in the NSMRL 1000 m³ anechoic chamber in order to minimize any effects of sound reflections.

Equipment

Hardware. Acoustic impulses were generated by NSMRL's 4 inch (in., 10.2 centimeters [cm]) shock tube (B/C Precision, Inc., Greendale, IN). The shock tube pressure chamber is approximately 34 in. (86.4 cm) long, with an inner diameter of 4 in. (10.2 cm). A 64 in. (162.6 cm) long catenoidal tube horn consisting of four welded

steel flat-projection sheets forming a square cross section was connected to the shock tube using a PVC 4.5 in. (11.4 cm) coupler. An industrial air compressor (ILA#1883054; Industrial Air Corporation, Memphis, TN) supplied pressurized air (900 kilopascal) to the shock tube.

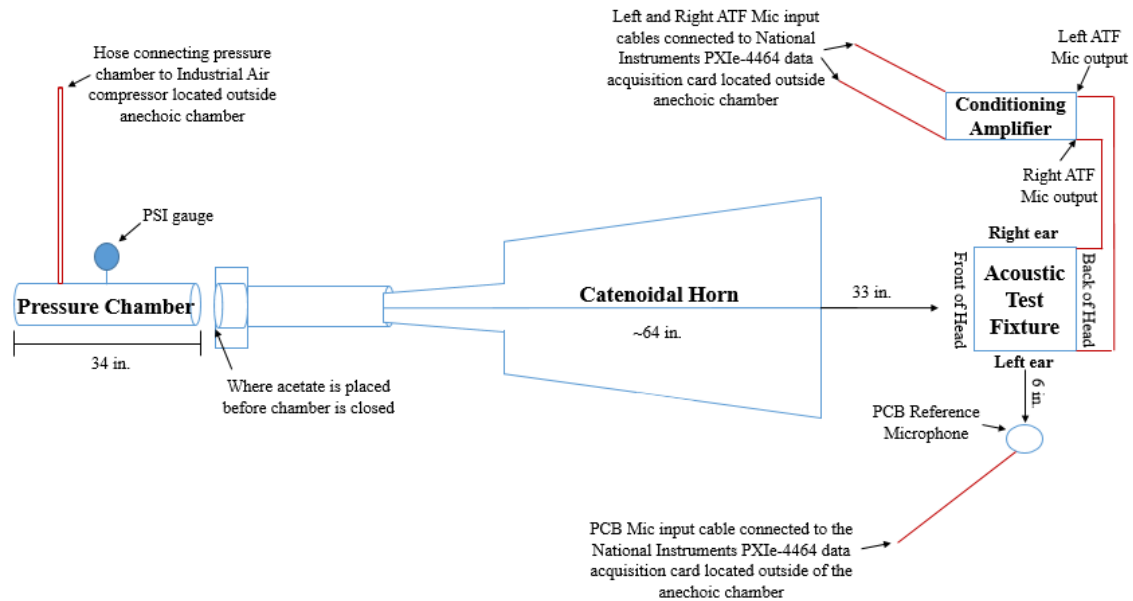
For each trial at 150 dBp, a 7 in. (17.8 cm) by 7 in. (17.8 cm) polyester sheet (SEVA Technical Services, Inc, Newport News, VA) was used as a membrane between the pressurized chamber and the catenoidal tube horn to enable pressurization of the air chamber. Each polyester sheet was 0.001 in. (1.0 mil, 25.4 micrometer [μm]) thick. For each trial at 160 and 170 dBp, a 7 in. (17.8 cm) by 7 in. (17.8 cm) acetate sheet (Grafix Plastic, Maple Heights, OH) was used as a membrane to enable pressurization of the air chamber. Each acetate sheet was 0.002 in. (2.0 mil, 50.8 micrometer [μm]) thick.

All waveforms were recorded with the ANSI/ASA S12.42 (2010) compliant GRAS 45CB acoustic test fixture (ATF) along with GRAS RA0045-S7 Ear Simulators (GRAS Sound and Vibration, Twinsburg, OH). The ATF was connected to a conditioning amplifier which served as the power supply (GRAS Type 12AA; GRAS Sound and Vibration, Twinsburg, OH). As required by ANSI/ASA S12.42/2010, the ATF was placed to front-face (i.e., nose facing) the catenoidal tube horn at 0° elevation and 0° azimuth.

A reference microphone (Type 378C20; PCB Piezotronics Inc., Depew, NY) was placed 6 in. (15.2 cm) from the ATF left pinna. The reference microphone, the left ATF microphone, and the right ATF microphone were calibrated each morning prior to data collection at 124 dB sound pressure level (SPL) using a 250 hertz (Hz) tone. A diagram depicting the aerial view of the NSMRL 4 in. (10.2 cm) shock tube and test system is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1.

Diagram of the NSMRL Acoustic Shock Tube and ATF.



Data Acquisition System. The data acquisition system (NI chassis PXIe-1071 with NI PXIe-4460 and NI PXIe-4464; National Instruments Corp., Austin, TX) was controlled by a standalone laptop computer running project specific software (LabVIEW; National Instruments Corp., Austin, TX). The data acquisition system was connected to the laptop using an MXI cord and host interface card (NI PXIe-8360). The software controlled the acquisition of waveforms from the three source microphones (left ATF microphone, right ATF microphone, and a reference microphone) at a sampling rate of 204.8 k Samples/second during each impulse recording. Pre-trigger settings were 1024 samples per 0.005 seconds, with a trigger level of 110 dB SPL. Each recording was 0.3 seconds in duration.

Rather than using an ANSI/ASA S12.42-2010 standardized in-line analog external Bessel filter (6th order, corner frequency 20.0 kHz [3 dB down]) to filter impulses during data acquisition, anti-alias filtering was accomplished by an analog filter and a digital filter. First, an electronic analog anti-aliasing filter (corner frequency of 93.0 kHz [3 dB down]) was applied to all waveforms by the National Instruments data acquisition system during data collection. This deviation was made due to equipment and software limitations.

The custom-written software program saved all recorded waveforms as files (*.tdms), which were exported and converted to data files using an additional custom software programming script. The script compiled the reference PCB microphone, left ATF microphone, and right ATF microphone channels into a file (*.mat) that saved variables for input to analysis script (MATLAB) similar to the script provided in Annex H of the ANSI/ASA S12.42-2010 standard. Minor alterations were made to the analysis script in order to accept 150 dBp, 160 dBp, and 170 dBp data (see Data Analysis below).

Hearing Protection Device Samples. Five samples (See Figures 2 and 3 for examples) of the 3MTM Combat ArmsTM Generation 4.0 Earplugs (Manufacturer Product Number: 6515-01-576-8861) were tested in accordance with ANSI/ASA S12.42-2010. All samples were regular size. Each sample, consisting of one set of two earplugs, was randomly assigned a number 1 through 5. Each earplug in the sampled set was labeled 'L' for left or 'R' for right to indicate which ATF ear they were to be inserted for all trials.

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Figure 2.
Photograph of a CAE Gen. 4.0 (Open) Earplug Sample.



Figure 3.
Photograph of a CAE Gen. 4.0 (Closed) Earplug Sample.



Procedure

Two HPD modes (i.e., open [filtered], closed [unfiltered]) were tested for each of the five samples of the CAE Gen. 4.0. Each HPD sample (left and right earplug pair) was fitted to the ATF twice, resulting in two trials (trials A and B) per sample, and 10 total trials per nominal level test condition (150, 160, and 170 dB_P) for each HPD mode (i.e., open, closed). No samples of the HPD were rejected. To achieve an appropriate fit that would provide maximum attenuation, each sample was expertly fitted to the ATF

in accordance with instructions on the device packaging. The manufacturer fitting guidelines stated that all samples be inspected for any wear, cracks, or damage prior to use. Once inspected, the rocker cover was placed in the closed or open position and the earplug was inserted into the ear canal. Appropriate fit of each earplug was confirmed by pulling gently on the earplug to confirm it did not easily come out of the canal.

Testing at the 130 dBP nominal level was omitted, and the nominal level of 160 dBP was incorporated as impulses generated with the NSMRL 4 in. (10.2 cm) shock tube at levels below the nominal level of 150 dBP were found to be without a shock front. Measurement of IPIL at 160 dBP was added in order to provide accurate guidance for exposures between 150 and 170 dBP. At the measured levels described herein, all generated impulses had a shock front. As previously stated, the action level for the US DoD is 140 dBP for impulse noises. Therefore, IPIL values below 140 dBP are of marginal value to the DoD. Due to non-linear effects of HPDs on IPIL, it is best to use IPIL values measured close to the level of the predicted exposure (Department of Defense, 2015).

Impulse noises were presented to the ATF in the occluded (i.e., HPD inserted) and unoccluded (i.e., without the HPD inserted) test configurations. For all occluded measures, the earplugs were fitted on the ATF in accordance with the specifications outlined in ANSI/ASA S12.42-2010. Each HPD sample was exposed to two impulses at each tested nominal level in each test mode. Adequate pressure for each impulse was determined by increasing pressure (measured in pounds per square inch [psi]) to a point within a pre-specified range necessary for producing either 150 dBP (8.9 to 9.3 psi, 61 to 64 kilopascals [kPa]), 160 dBP (19.5 to 22.1 psi, 134 to 152 kPa), or 170 dBP (28.5 to 29.5 psi, 197 to 203 kPa). The acetate was then punctured using a manual trigger, releasing pressurized air into the catenoidal horn, which created an impulse wave through the catenoidal horn to the ATF. The peak decibel level emitted was dependent upon the amount of air pressure released.

In place of the ANSI/ASA S12.42-2010 standardized calibration impulses at 130 dBP, six total calibration impulses (three pre-, three post-testing) were generated per nominal level (150,160 dBP) in the unoccluded (i.e., without HPD) test configuration. Calibrations were not completed at the 170 dBP nominal level due to exposure limitations of the ATF right and left microphones.

Data Analysis

MATLAB (Natick, MA) was used to calculate IPIL values at the 150, 160, and 170 dBP nominal levels and to generate all waveform graphs (See Appendices A to R). The mean pressure of each waveform was subtracted from the waveforms to remove any constant offset. The peak levels were then calculated by converting the maximum absolute value of each waveform into dB SPL. The transfer functions of the free-field probe to each ear of the ATF was calculated for the unoccluded waveforms gathered at the 160 dBP nominal levels. The mean transfer function for each ear at each level was then calculated, and the first elements of the transfer functions were set to zero in order to avoid calculations at 0 Hz. The fit of the mean transfer function was tested by applying the mean transfer function for each ear to the free-field probe data gathered in the 150 and 160 dBP nominal level. The difference of the maximum absolute values of

the calculated values and the measured values was then calculated, converted to dB SPL, and displayed.

The calculated IPIL value (in dB) equaled the mean difference of the maximum absolute value of the waveforms from the ears of the ATF in dB SPL and the maximum absolute value of the estimated values of the unoccluded ears in dB SPL. The estimated values of the unoccluded ears are the waveforms from the free-field probe with the mean transfer function applied to them. These values were calculated for each ear in each trial and condition. The mean values were calculated across both ears and trials, resulting in a displayed mean for each nominal level (i.e., 150 dBP, 160 dBP, and 170 dBP). Every waveform was plotted with time on the x-axis and pressure on the y-axis. The transfer functions were not plotted.

Deviating from ANSI/ASA S12.42-2010, a second digital Butterworth filter (6th order, low-pass, corner frequency of 20 kHz [3 dB down]) was applied to all recordings by the MATLAB post-processing script. This digital filter was used to mimic the effect of the ANSI/ASA S12.42-2010 standard required anti-aliasing Bessel filter which was omitted due to equipment limitations.

Results

At all nominal test levels, greater IPILs were obtained when the earplug rocker cover was closed (i.e., unfiltered) compared to when it was open (i.e., filtered). As shown in Table 2, the overall mean (SD) IPIL value in the open mode was 26.1 (1.4) dB for the 150 dBP test condition, 31.3 (1.3) dB for the 160 dBP test condition, and 35.2 (0.8) dB for the 170 dBP test condition. The overall mean (SD) IPIL value in the closed mode was 36.1 (2.6) dB for the 150 dBP test condition, 37.7 (2.0) dB for the 160 dBP test condition, and 39.0 (1.6) dB for the 170 dBP test condition. Calculated IPIL values for all individual sample trials in the open mode ranged between 23.8 and 29.0 dB at 150 dBP, between 28.7 and 33.9 dB at 160 dBP, and between 33.8 and 36.6 dB at 170 dBP, while all tested sample trials in the closed mode ranged between 30.8 and 41.2 dB at 150 dBP, between 33.9 to 41.8 dB at 160 dBP, and between 35.9 to 42.7 dB at 170 dBP.

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Table 2.*Mean (SD) IPIL values (in dB) for Tested CAE Gen. 4.0 Samples.*

| | 150 dBP | | | | 160 dBP | | | | 170 dBP | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Open | | Closed | | Open | | Closed | | Open | | Closed | |
| | Right | Left | Right | Left | Right | Left | Right | Left | Right | Left | Right | Left |
| HPD 1, Trial A | 24.7 | 24.7 | 38.7 | 37.0 | 32.3 | 32.5 | 39.2 | 38.3 | 34.6 | 35.2 | 40.3 | 39.9 |
| HPD 1, Trial B | 25.7 | 25.7 | 30.8 | 36.2 | 31.9 | 32.3 | 33.9 | 38.4 | 35.9 | 35.6 | 38.0 | 40.4 |
| HPD 2, Trial A | 25.2 | 25.9 | 35.0 | 34.1 | 30.0 | 31.1 | 37.7 | 37.5 | 34.6 | 36.1 | 38.7 | 39.1 |
| HPD 2, Trial B | 28.6 | 29.0 | 36.9 | 37.0 | 30.3 | 31.6 | 38.2 | 38.2 | 34.3 | 35.8 | 39.3 | 39.3 |
| HPD 3, Trial A | 25.6 | 26.6 | 38.5 | 37.9 | 30.1 | 30.8 | 40.7 | 38.3 | 34.3 | 35.7 | 39.5 | 39.5 |
| HPD 3, Trial B | 23.8 | 24.8 | 38.4 | 41.2 | 28.7 | 28.9 | 39.0 | 41.8 | 34.4 | 36.6 | 40.0 | 42.7 |
| HPD 4, Trial A | 25.9 | 26.3 | 31.1 | 36.6 | 30.1 | 31.7 | 34.6 | 38.6 | 33.8 | 34.5 | 35.9 | 39.2 |
| HPD 4, Trial B | 25.0 | 25.2 | 35.4 | 36.2 | 31.2 | 32.2 | 36.8 | 37.6 | 34.3 | 35.0 | 37.9 | 38.6 |
| HPD 5, Trial A | 27.4 | 27.8 | 32.5 | 34.4 | 31.5 | 32.3 | 34.2 | 35.9 | 34.7 | 36.1 | 36.0 | 37.7 |
| HPD 5, Trial B | 27.0 | 27.7 | 35.2 | 38.3 | 33.0 | 33.9 | 36.0 | 39.0 | 35.4 | 36.6 | 37.6 | 40.1 |
| Ear Specific Mean (SD) | 25.9 (1.4) | 26.4 (1.4) | 35.3 (3.0) | 36.9 (2.0) | 30.9 (1.3) | 31.7 (1.3) | 37.0 (2.3) | 38.4 (1.5) | 34.6 (0.6) | 35.7 (0.7) | 38.3 (1.5) | 39.7 (1.3) |
| Level Overall Mean (SD) | 26.1 (1.4) | | 36.1 (2.6) | | 31.3 (1.3) | | 37.7 (2.0) | | 35.2 (0.8) | | 39.0 (1.6) | |

The waveforms for all trials with the CAE Gen. 4.0 open (i.e., filtered) are provided in Appendices A to I and are color-coded green. The waveforms for all trials with the CAE Gen. 4.0 closed (i.e., unfiltered) are provided in Appendices J to R and are color-coded orange.

Discussion

Results showed greater IPIL values when the CAE Gen. 4.0 earplug was in the closed mode compared to the open mode at all nominal test levels (i.e., 150, 160, and 170 dBP). The overall mean IPIL value for the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the open (i.e., filtered) mode was 26.1 dB at 150 dBP, 31.3 dB at 160 dBP, and 35.2 dB at 170 dBP. The overall mean IPIL value for the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the closed (i.e., unfiltered) mode was 36.1 dB at 150 dBP, 37.7 dB at 160 dBP, and 39.0 dB at 170 dBP. Across ears, the individual trial mean IPIL values were found to vary as much as 5.2 dB at 150 dBP, 5.2 dB at 160 dBP, and 2.8 dB at 170 dBP in the open mode, and 10.4 dB at 150 dBP, 7.9 dB at 160 dBP, and 6.8 dB at 170 dBP in the closed mode. This may be due to a combination of inherent variance within the impulse system and/or variability in fit as a result of each HPD sample being fitted twice.

It is important to note that these results do not guarantee similar CAE Gen. 4.0 product performance across all users and environments. Product performance may be impacted by factors such as variability in physical fit of the device, HPD configuration (e.g., single, double- or triple- configuration), and impulse noise exposure level.

Conclusions

This report described the determination of the mean impulse peak insertion loss (IPIL) values provided by the 3M™ Combat Arms™ Generation 4.0 Earplug (CAE Gen.

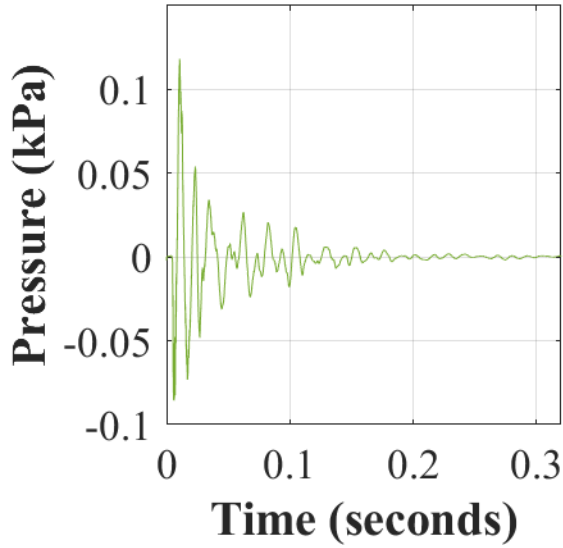
4.0) at 150, 160, and 170 dBP nominal levels in both the open (i.e., filtered) and closed (i.e., unfiltered) modes. The calculated overall mean (SD) IPIL values for the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the open mode were found to be 26.1 (1.4) dB at 150 dBP, 31.3 (1.3) dB at 160 dBP, and 35.2 (0.8) dB at 170 dBP. The calculated overall mean (SD) IPIL values for the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the closed mode were found to be 36.1 (2.6) dB at 150 dBP, 37.7 (2.0) dB at 160 dBP, and 39.0 (1.6) dB at 170 dBP. These results imply that, when properly fit and functional, the CAE Gen. 4.0 can adequately protect (i.e., reduce the exposure below 140 dBP) the user from impulses below 175.2 dBP in the open mode, and 179.0 dBP in the closed mode.

References

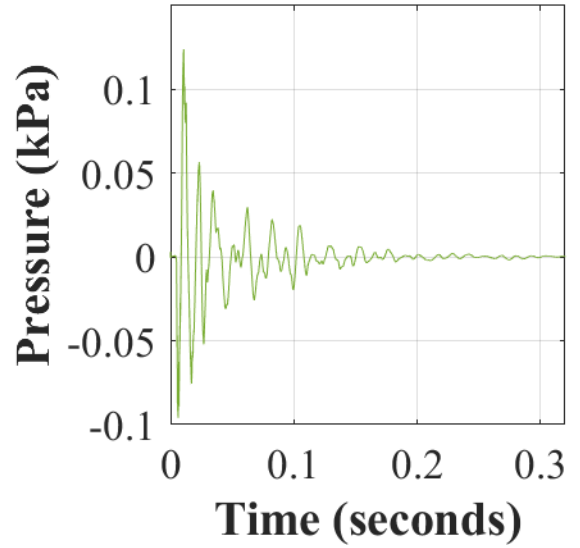
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Appendix A. Recorded occluded (closed-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 150 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the open mode.

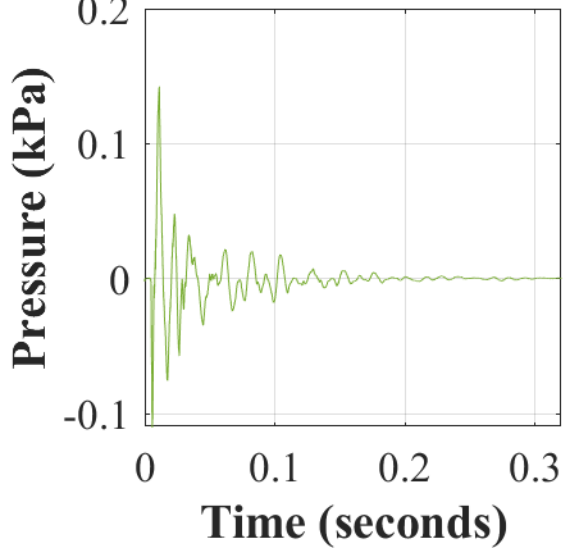
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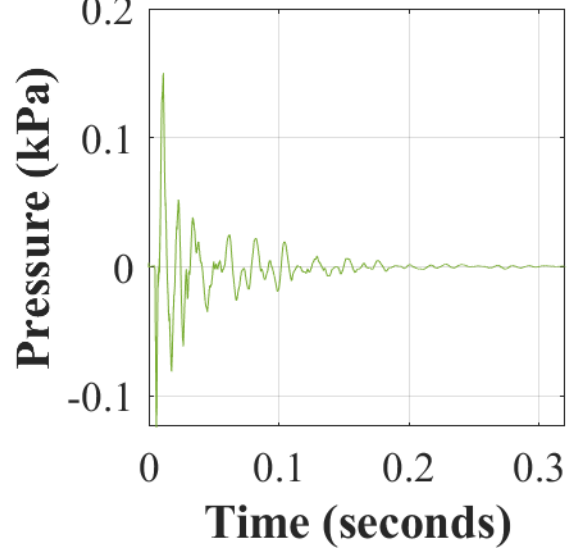
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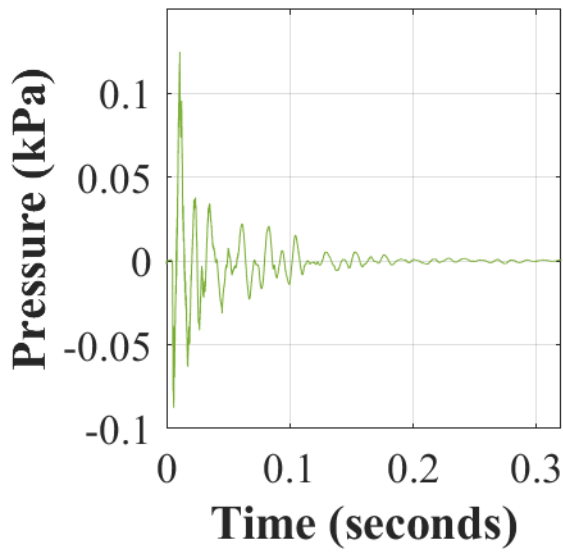
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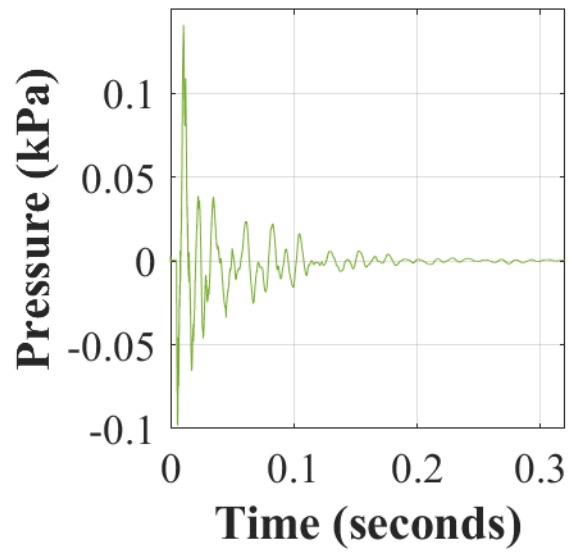
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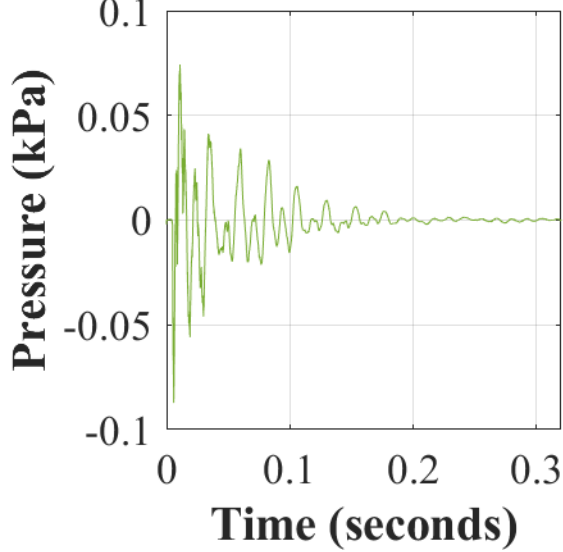
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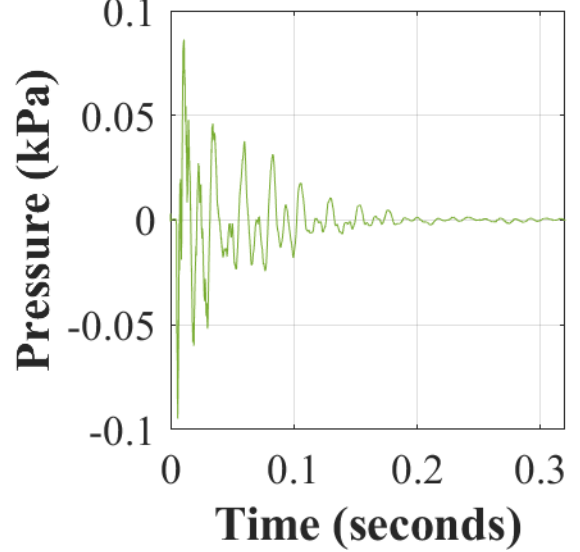
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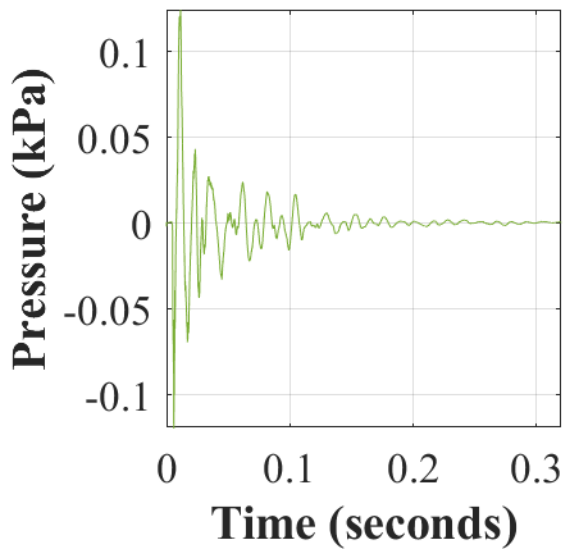
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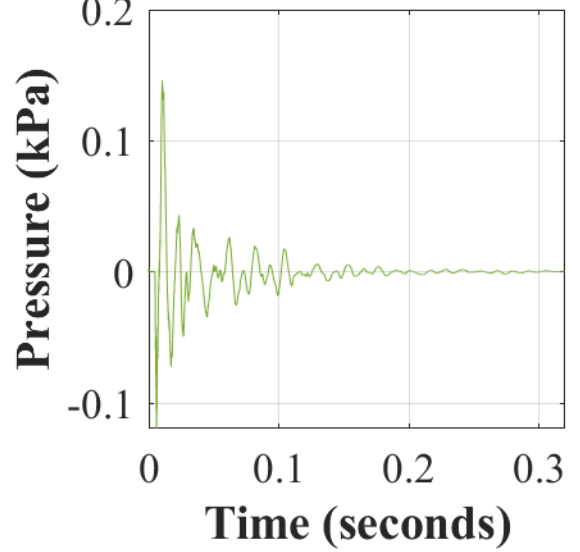
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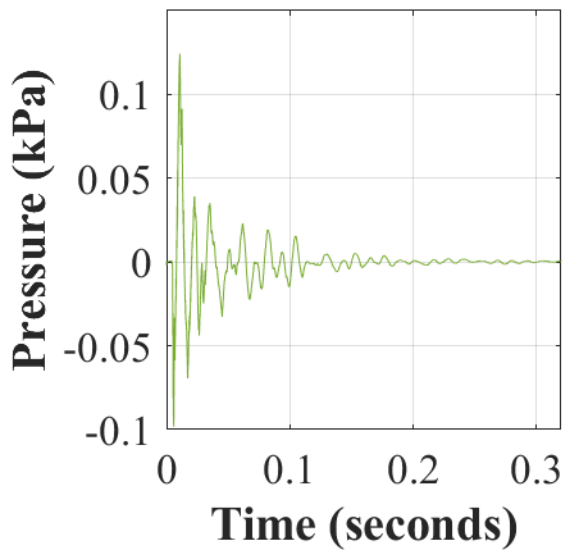
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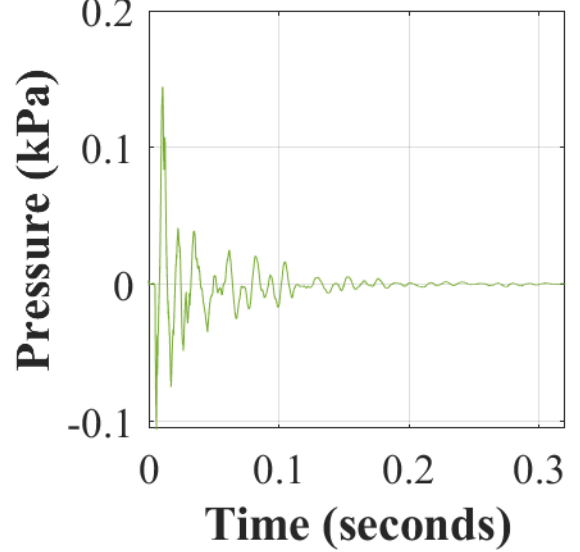
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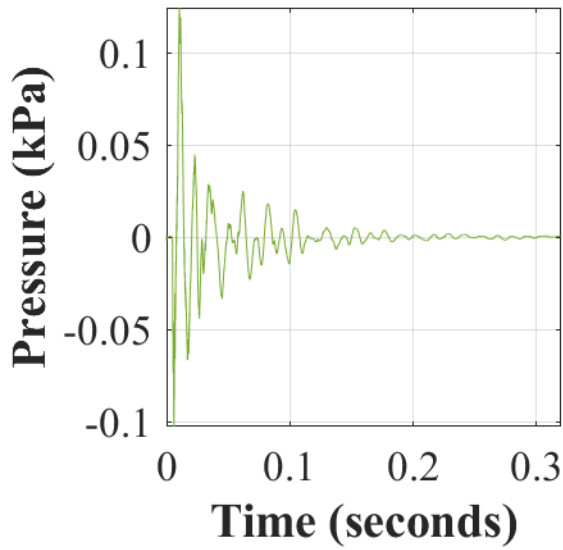
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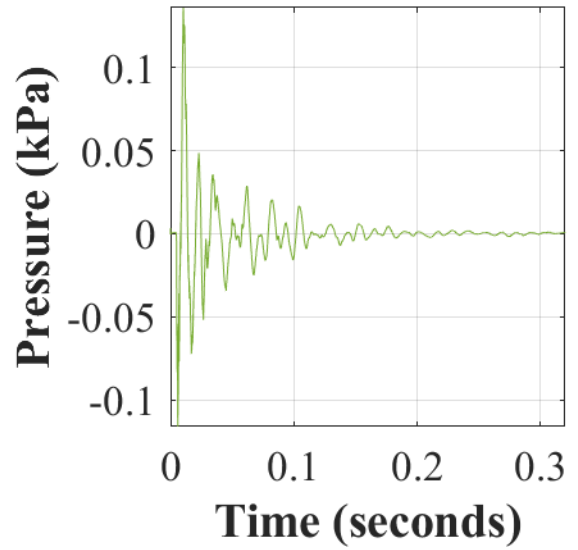
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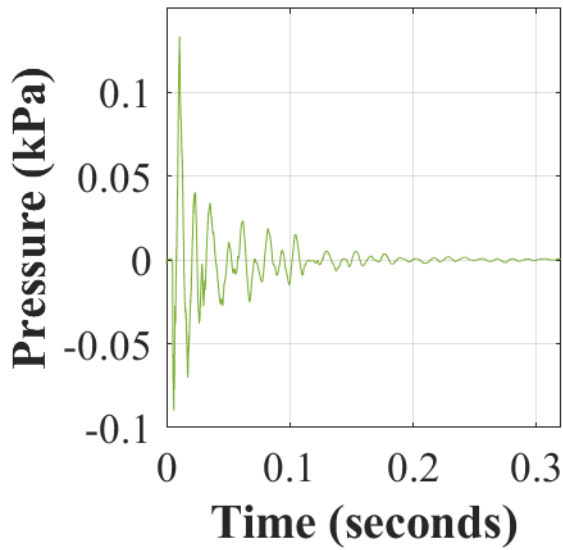
Occluded 150 4AL



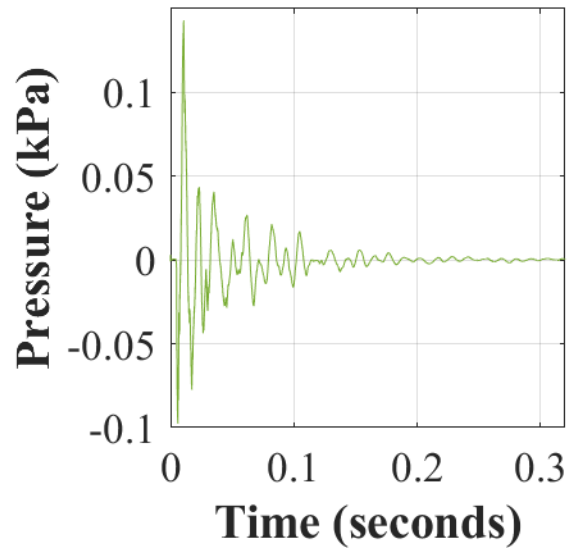
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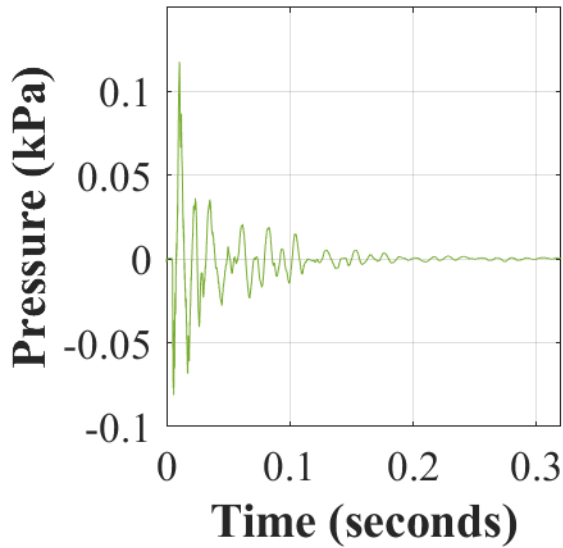
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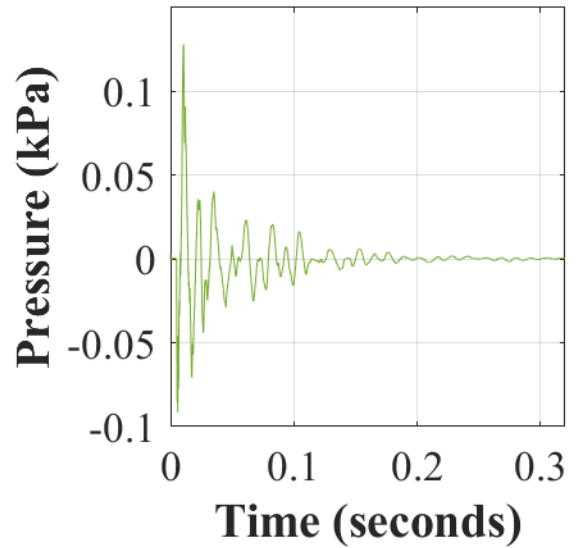
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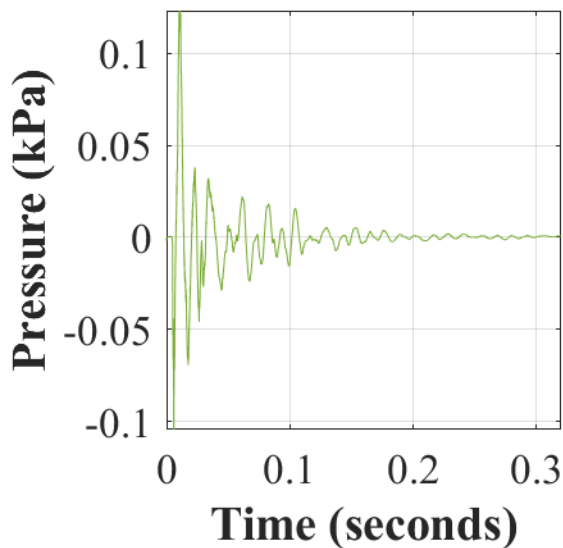
Occluded 150 5AL



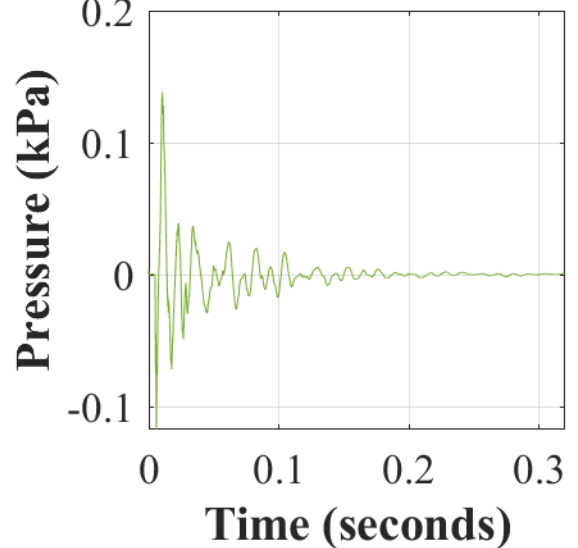
Occluded 150 5AR



Occluded 150 5BL

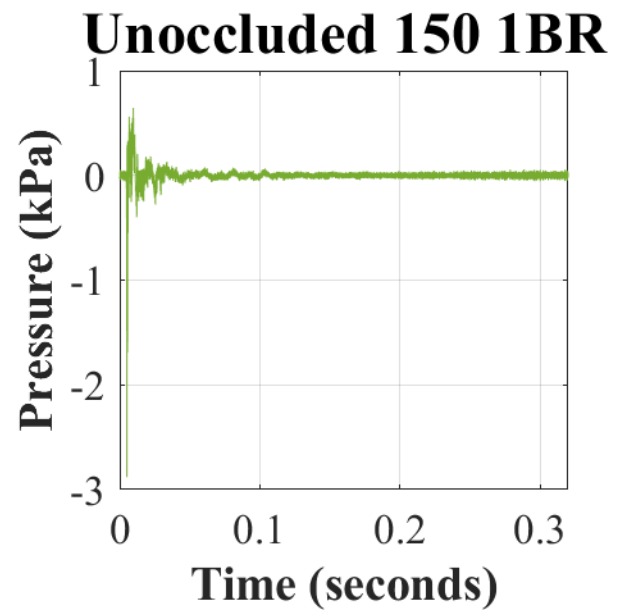
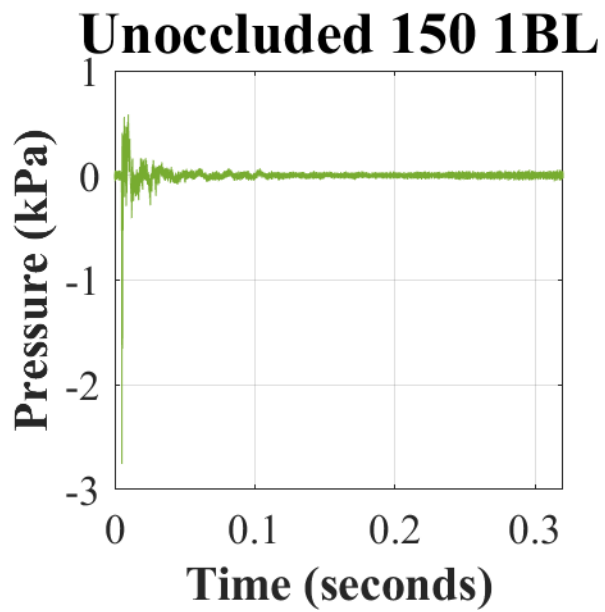
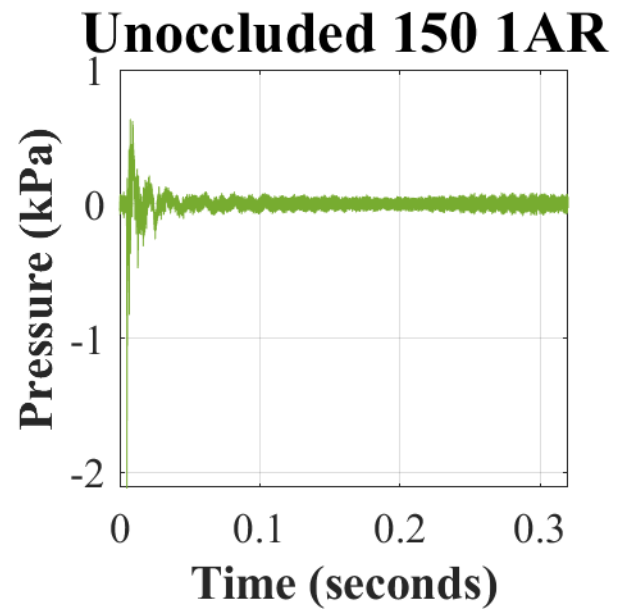
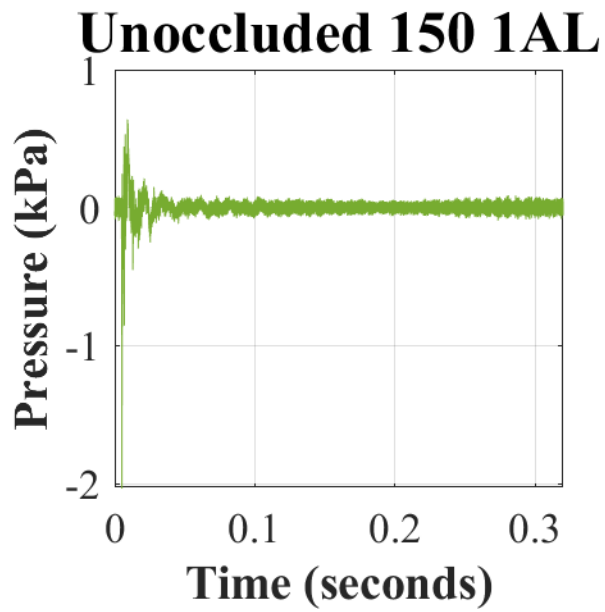


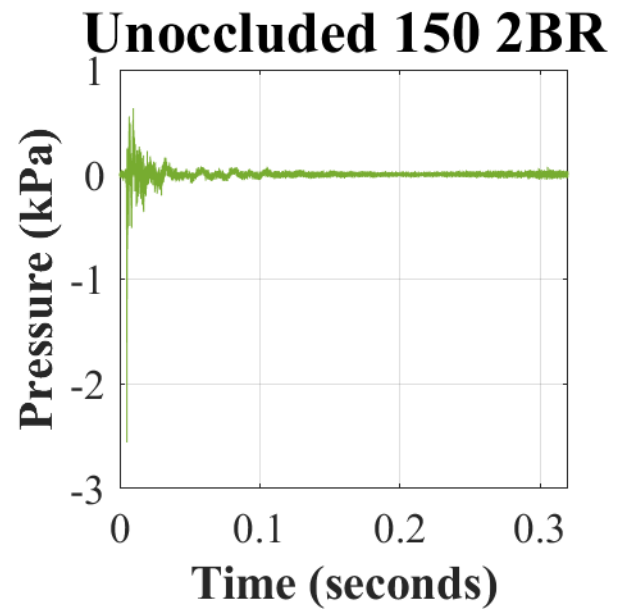
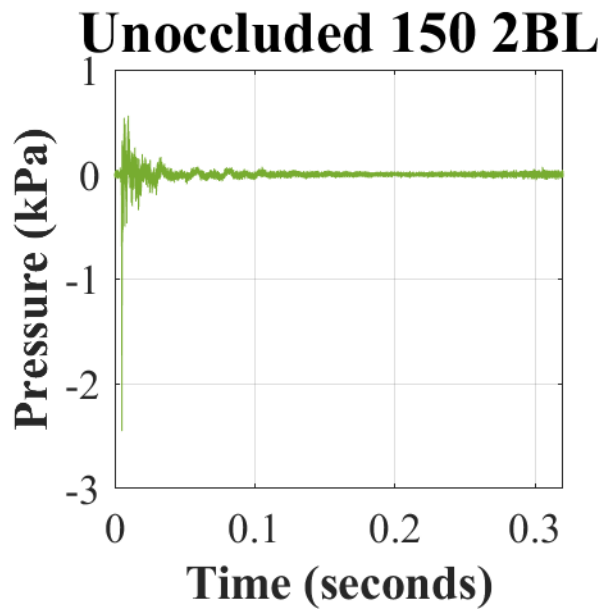
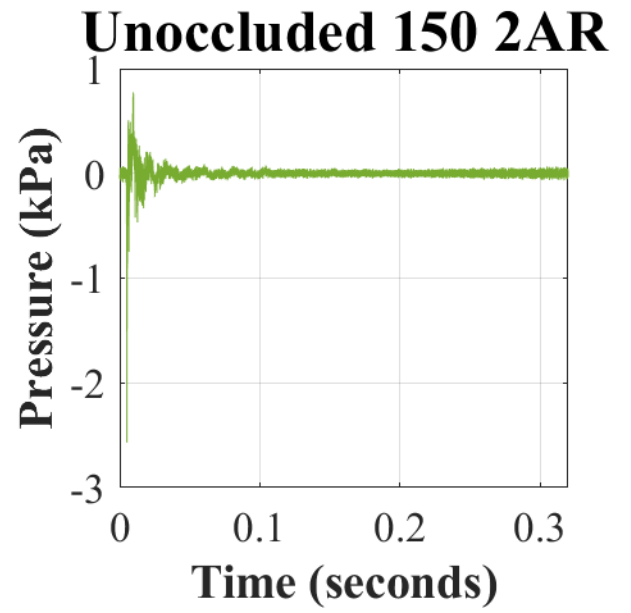
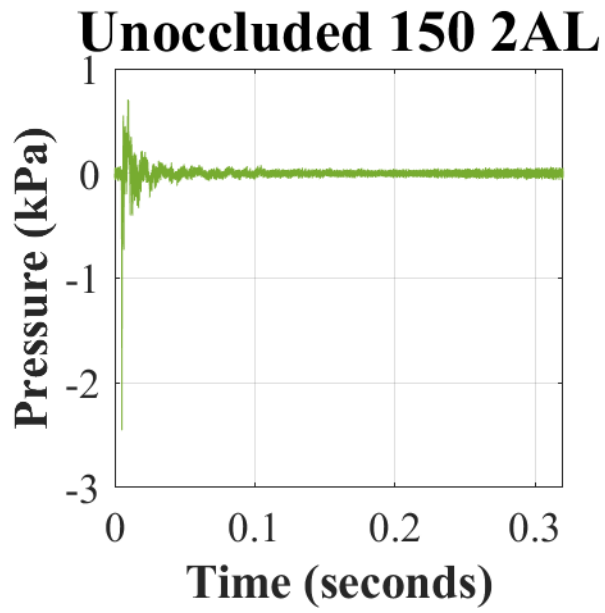
Occluded 150 5BR

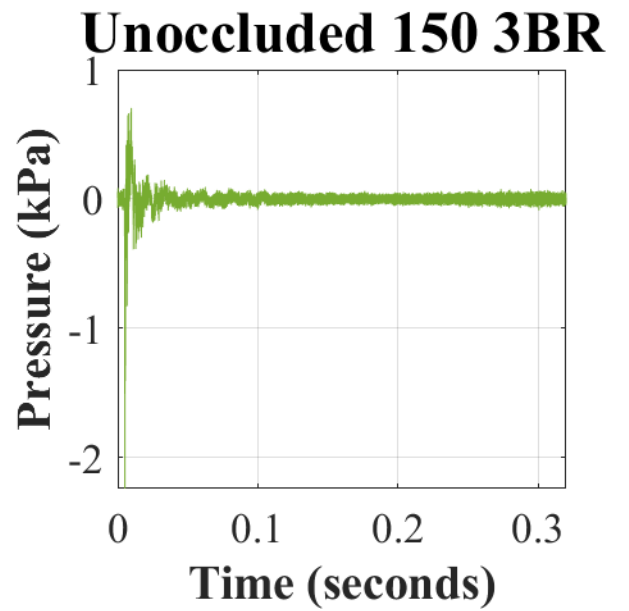
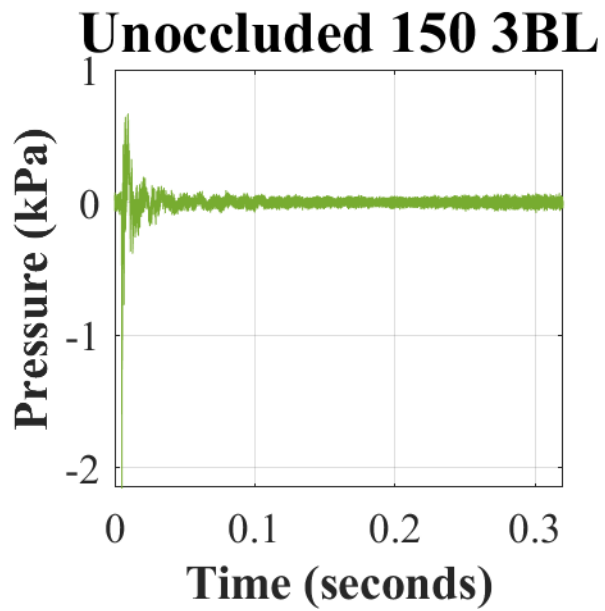
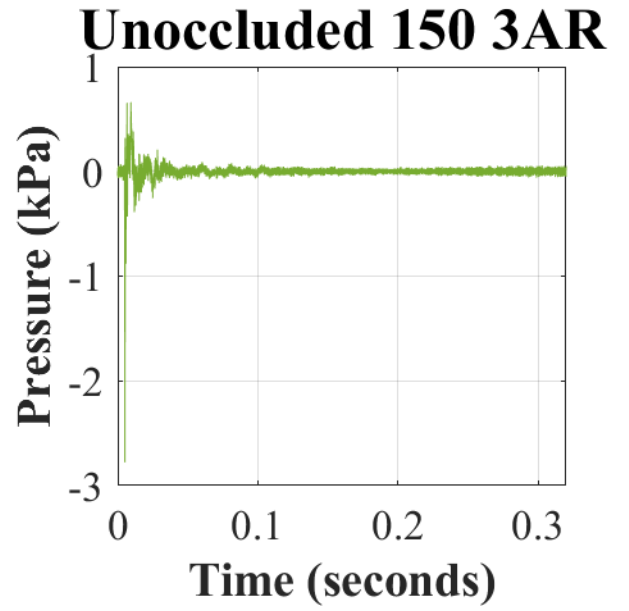
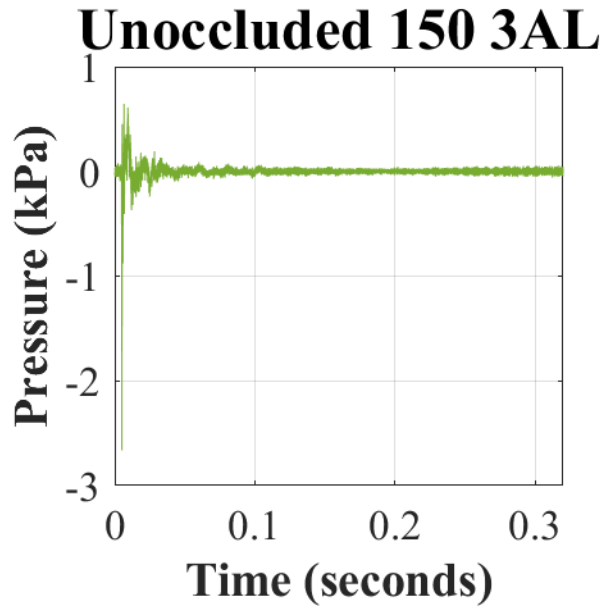


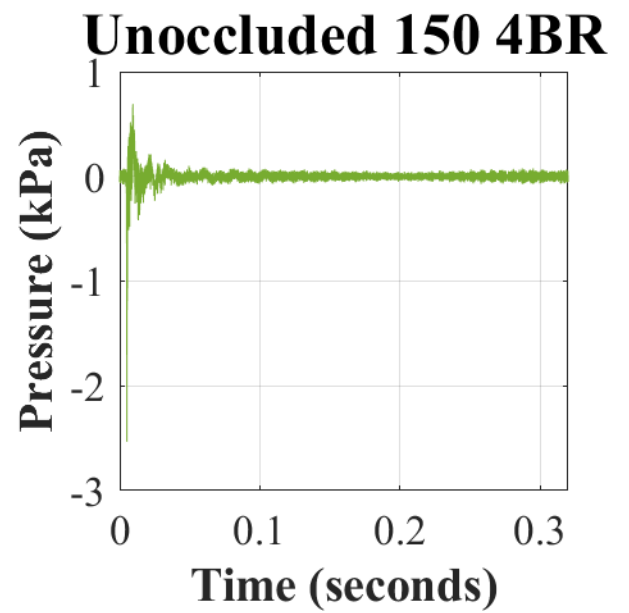
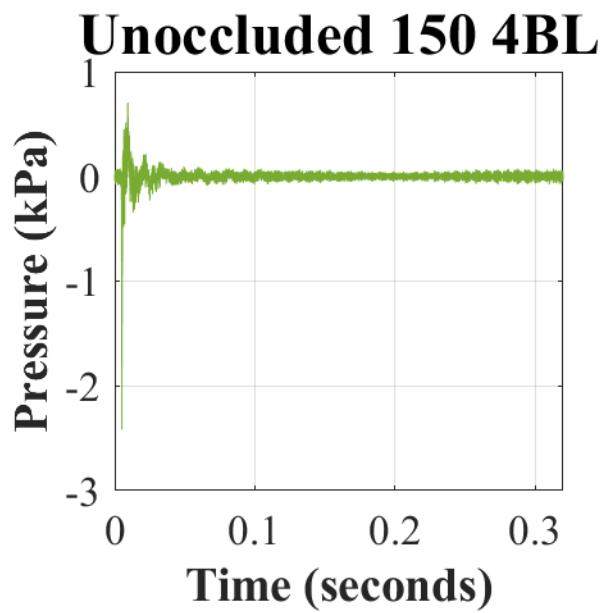
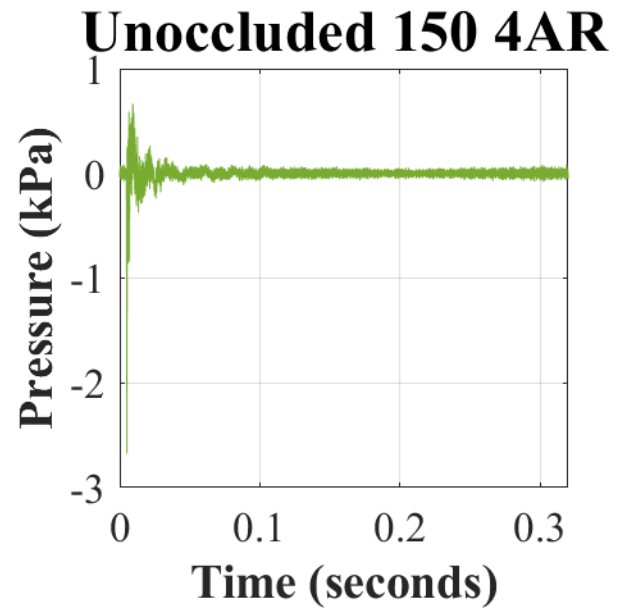
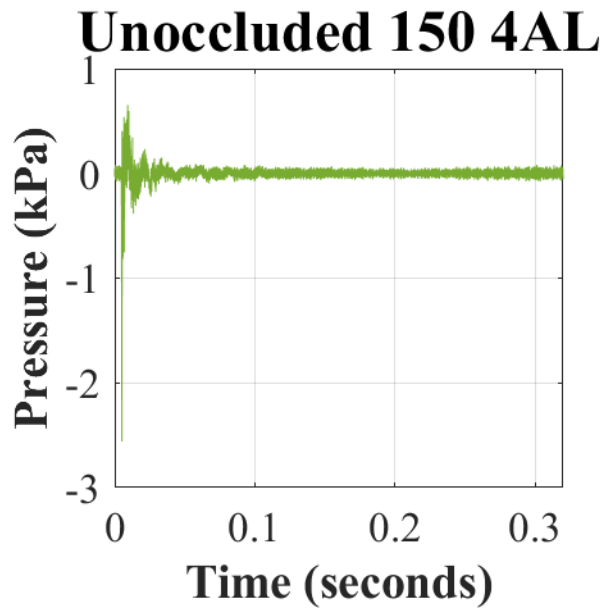
Note. The naming convention for all occluded waveforms is “Occluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Occluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD donned), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dBp), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

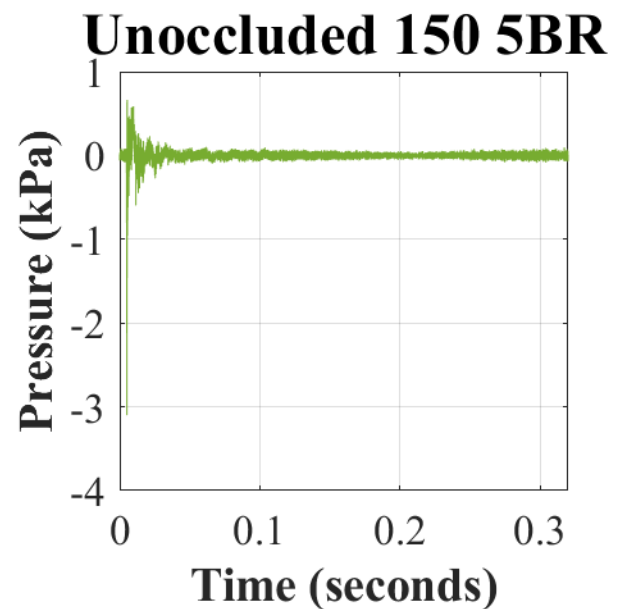
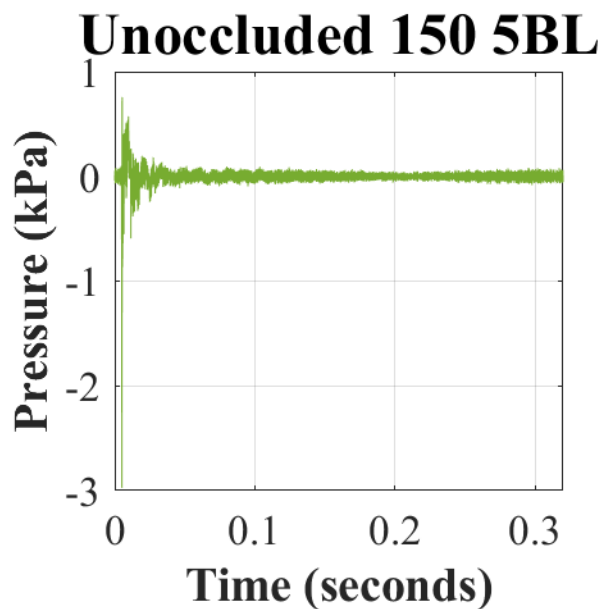
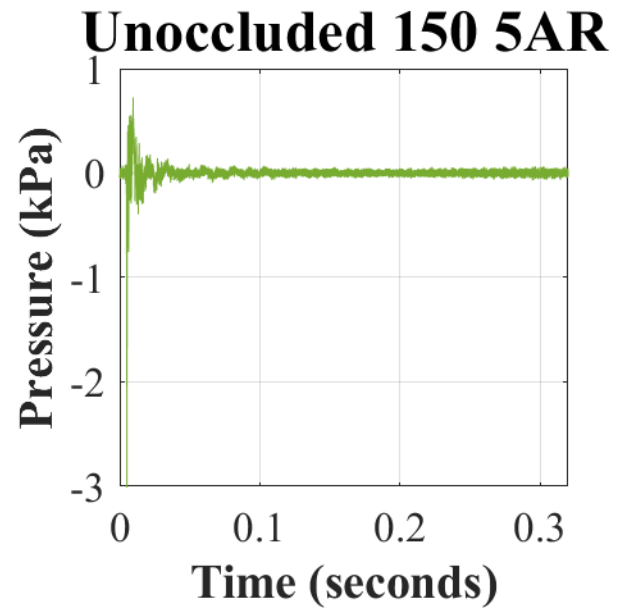
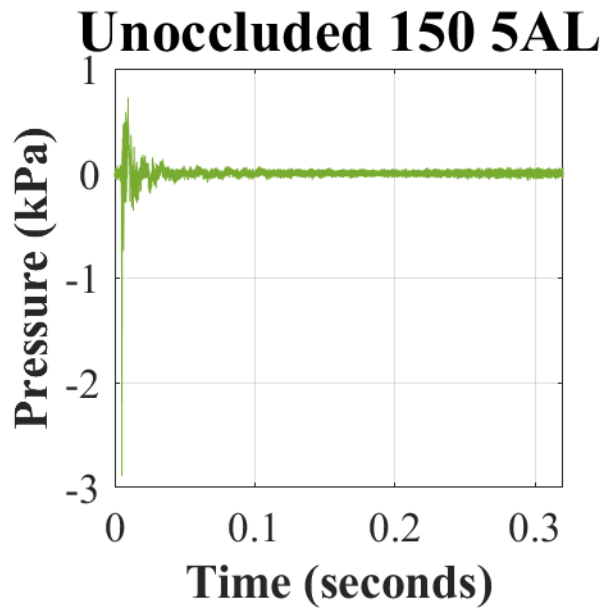
Appendix B. Estimated unoccluded (open-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 150 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the open mode.





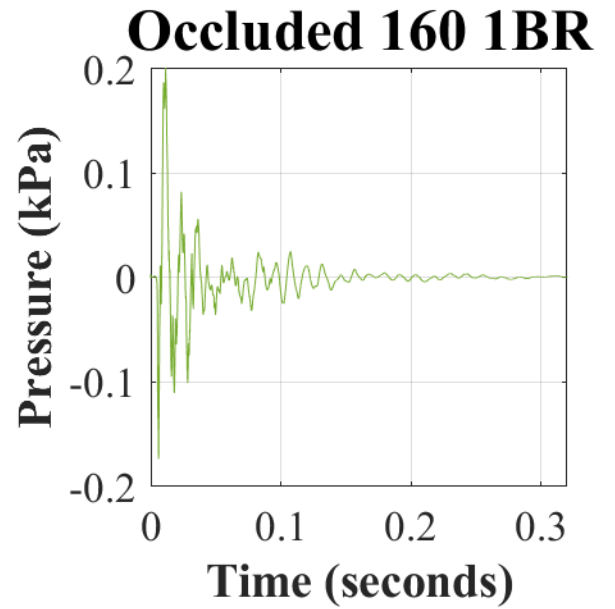
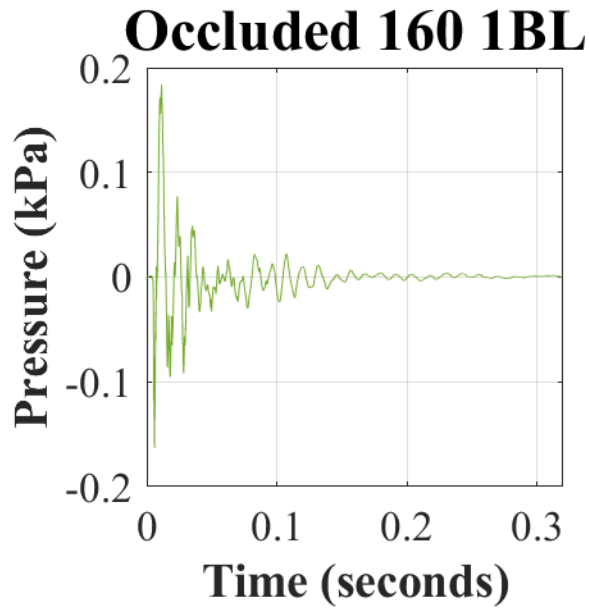
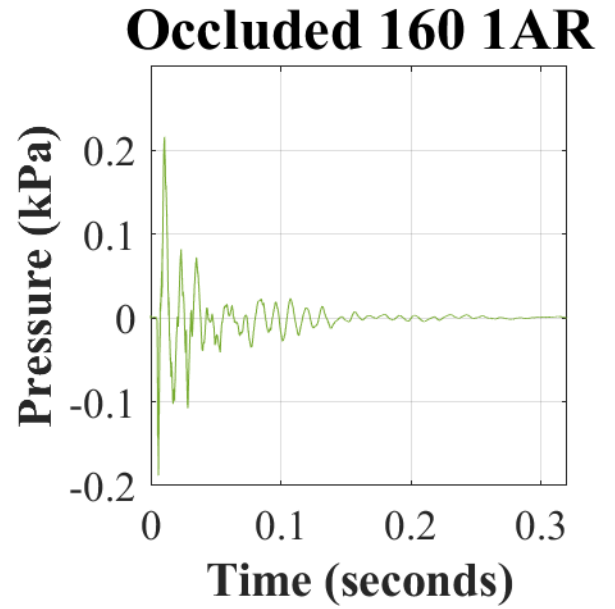
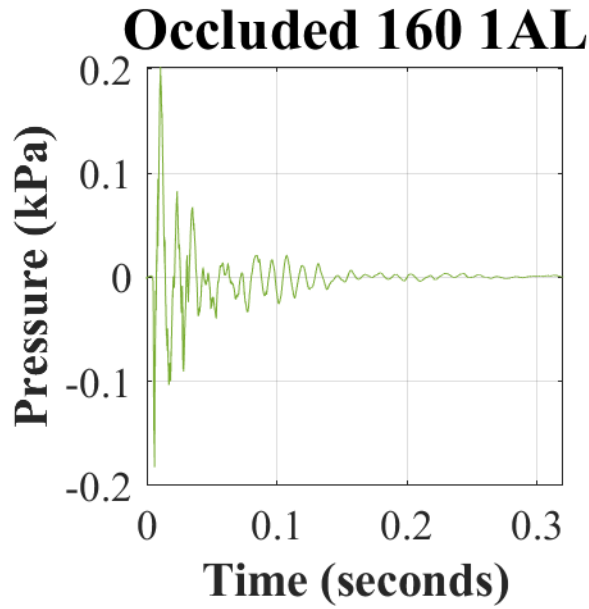


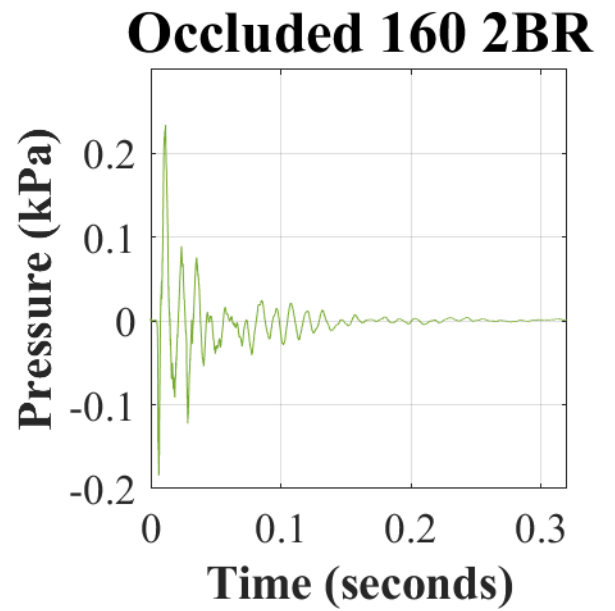
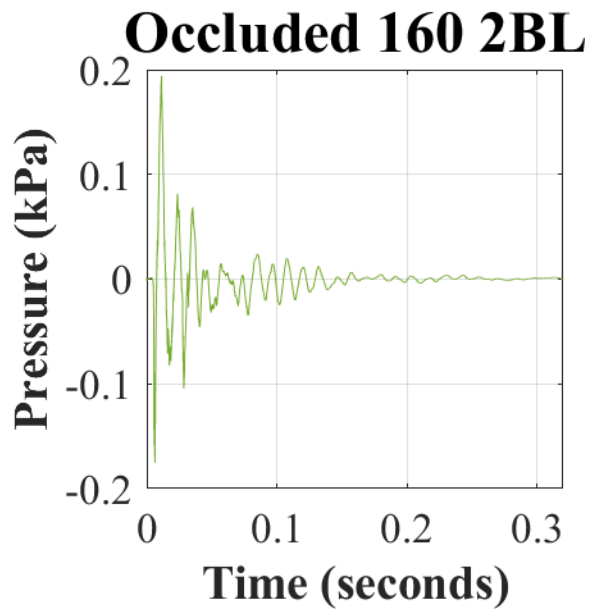
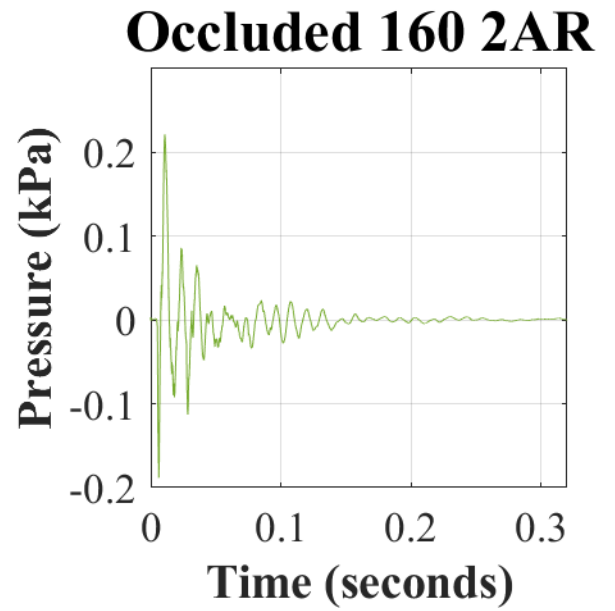
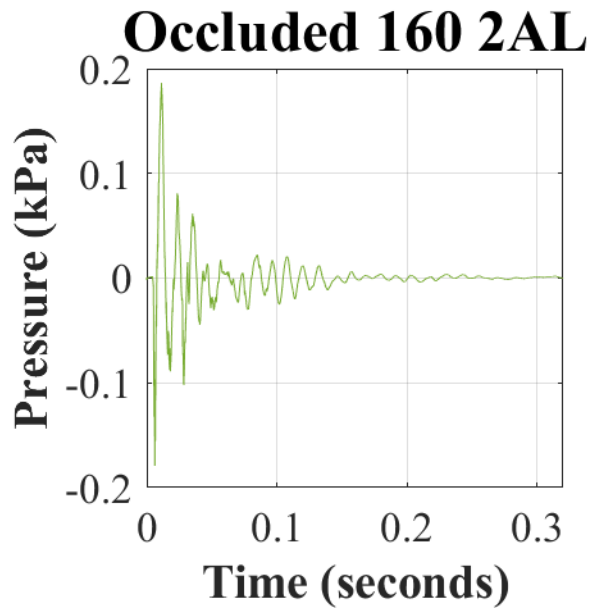


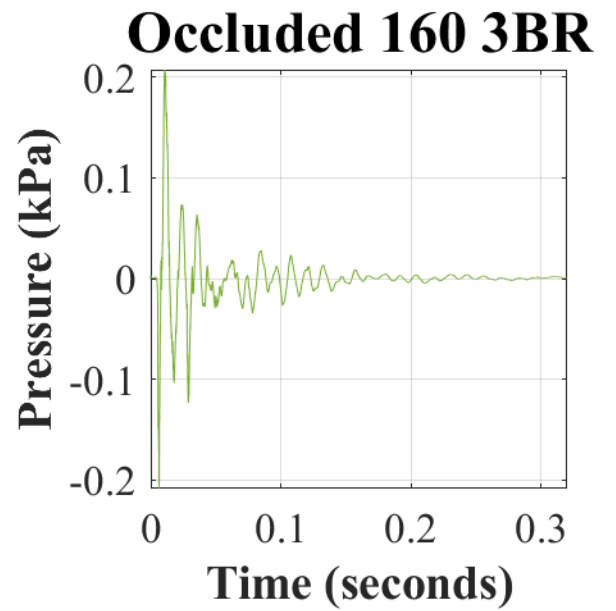
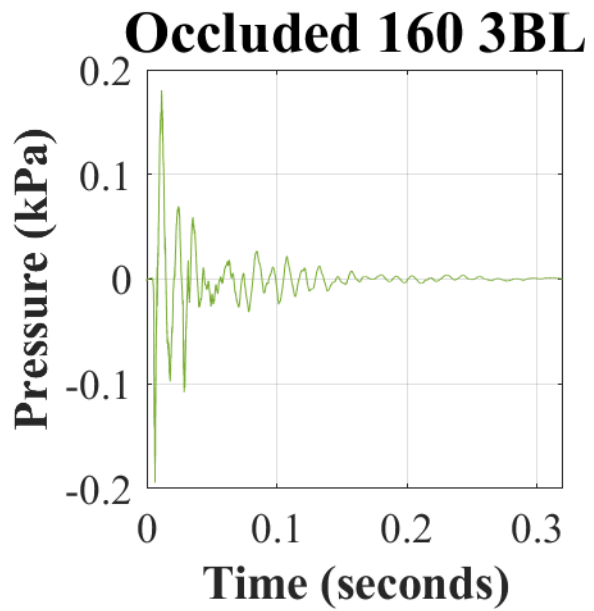
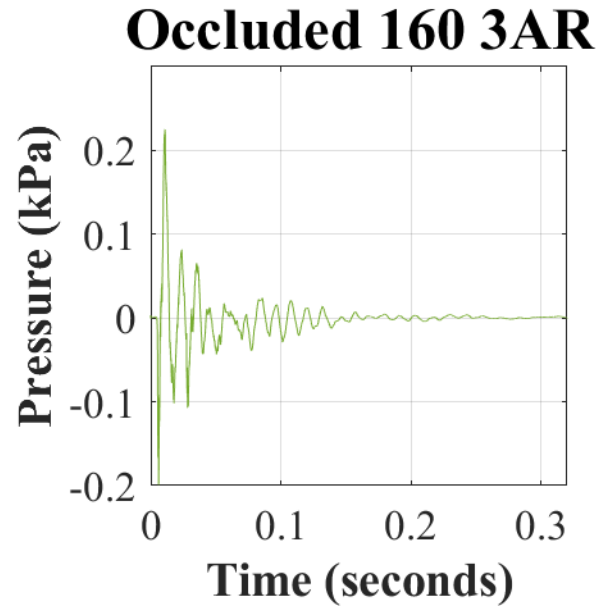
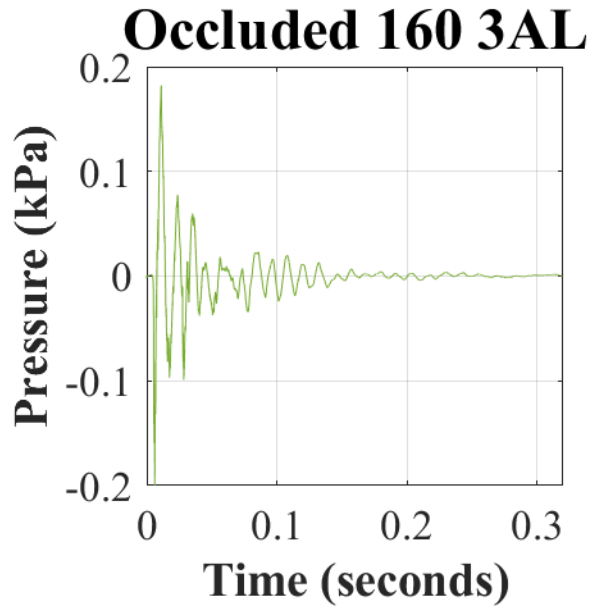


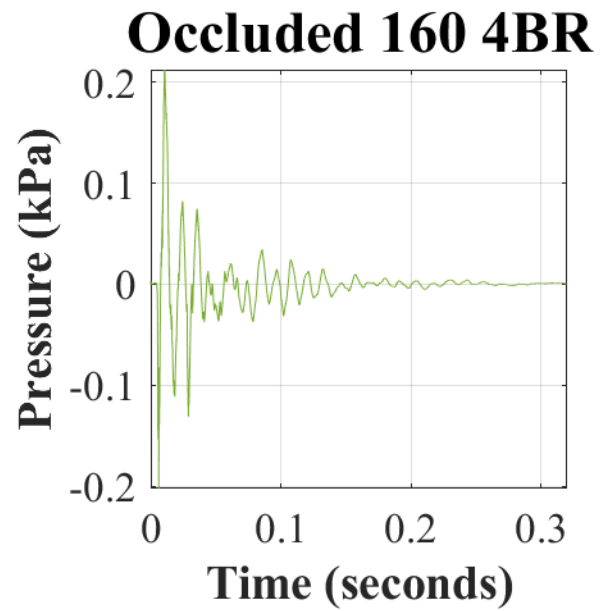
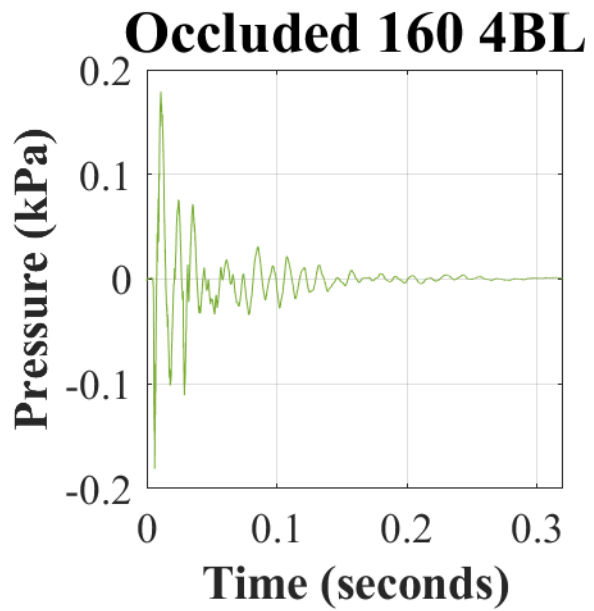
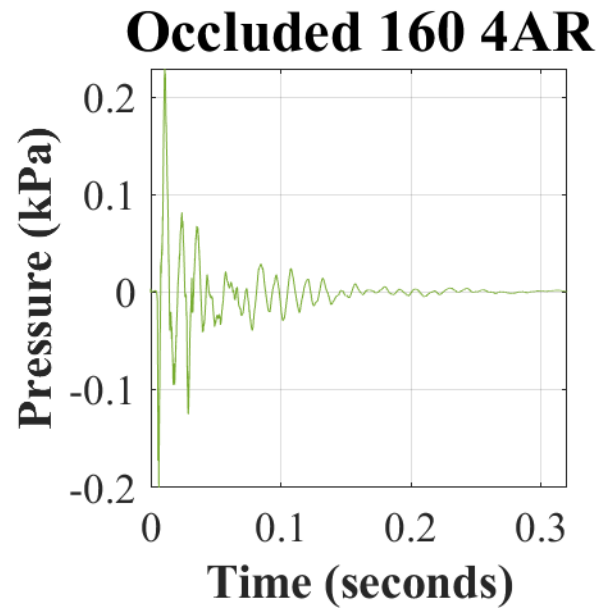
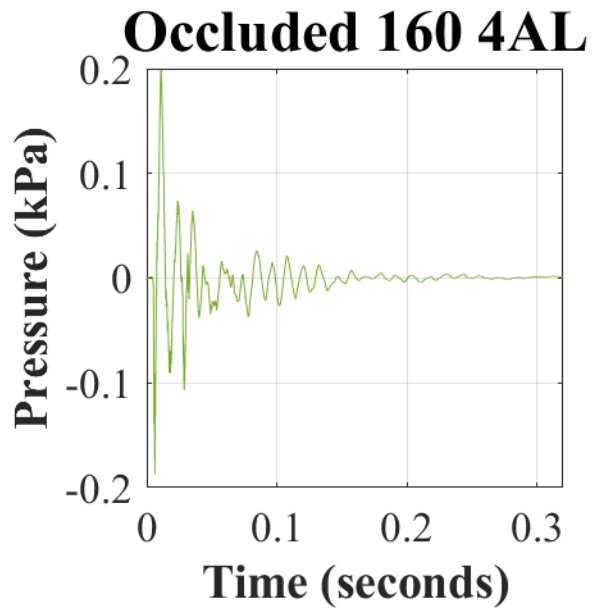
Note. The naming convention for all unoccluded waveforms is “Unoccluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Unoccluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD doffed), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dBp), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

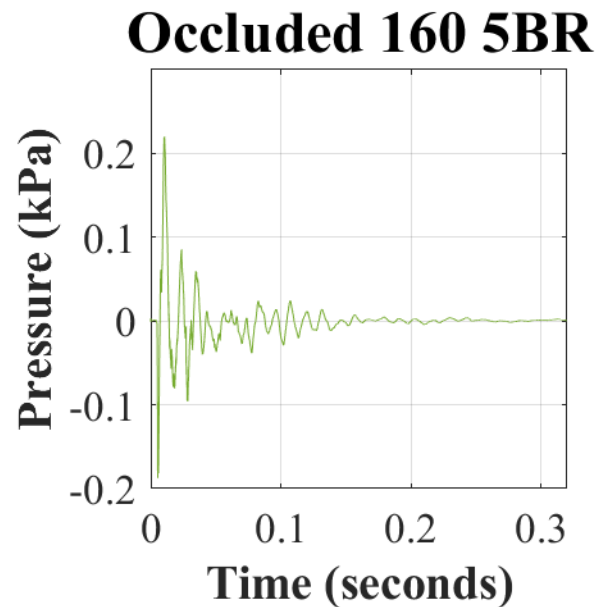
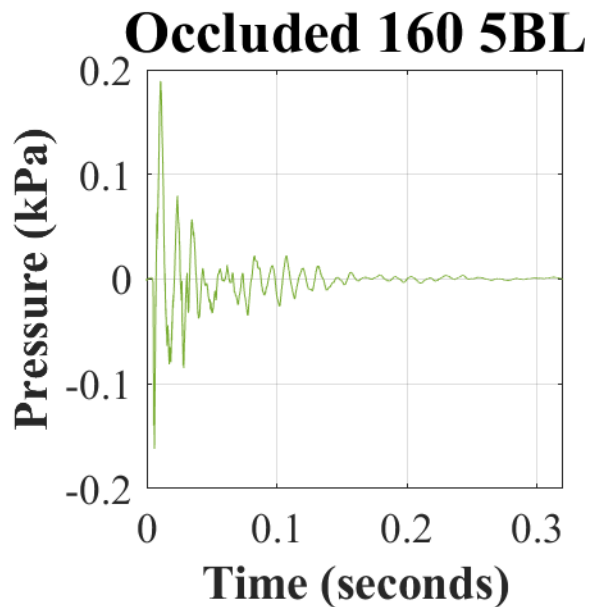
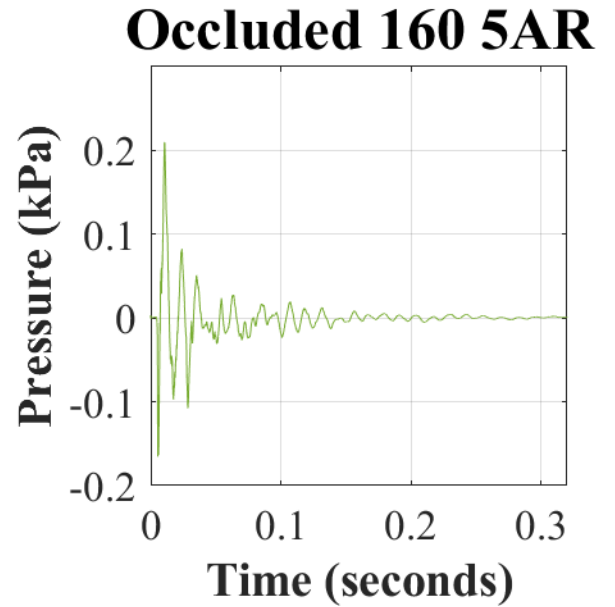
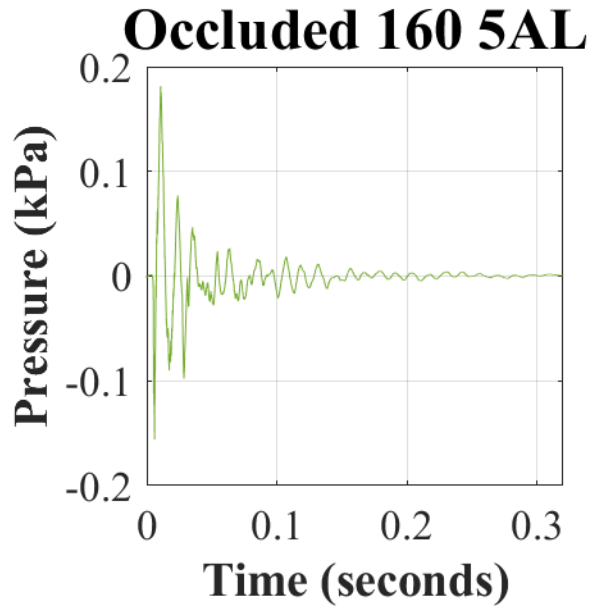
Appendix C. Recorded occluded (closed-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 160 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the open mode.





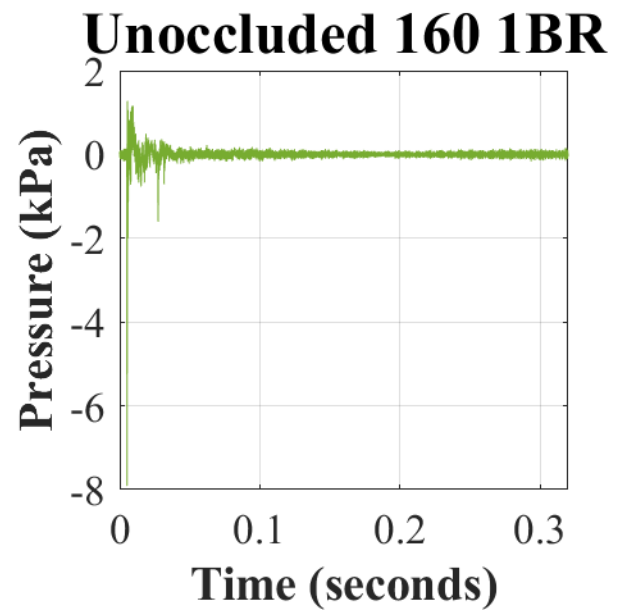
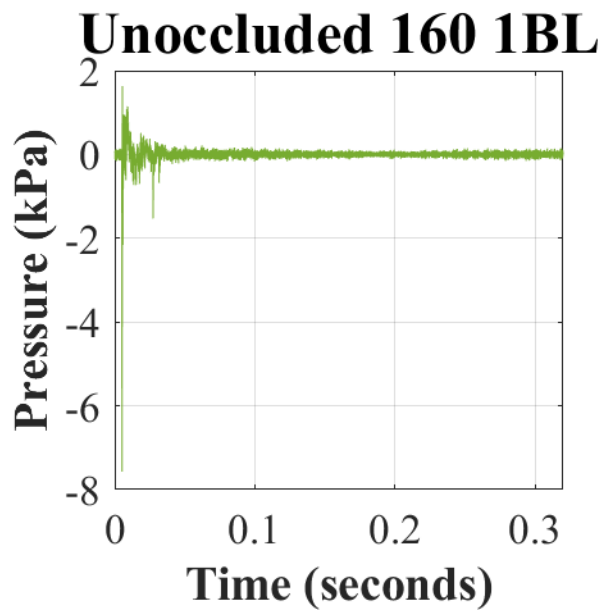
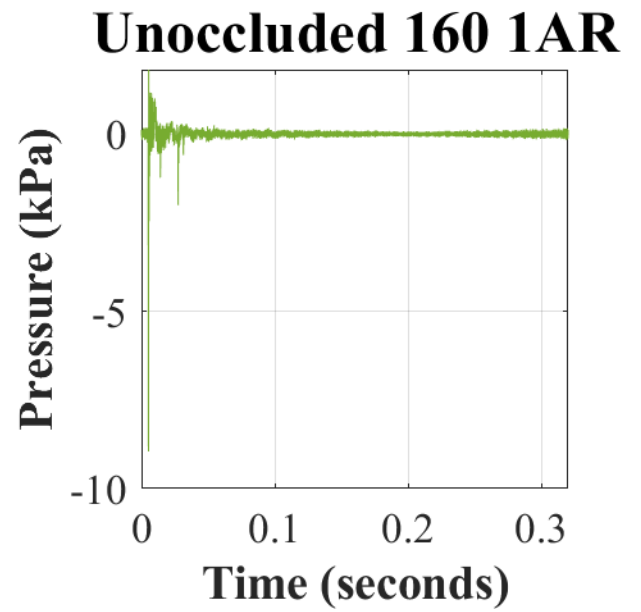
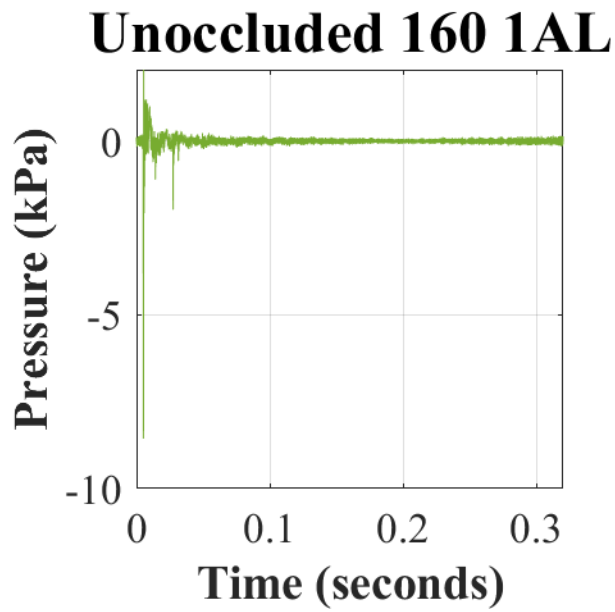


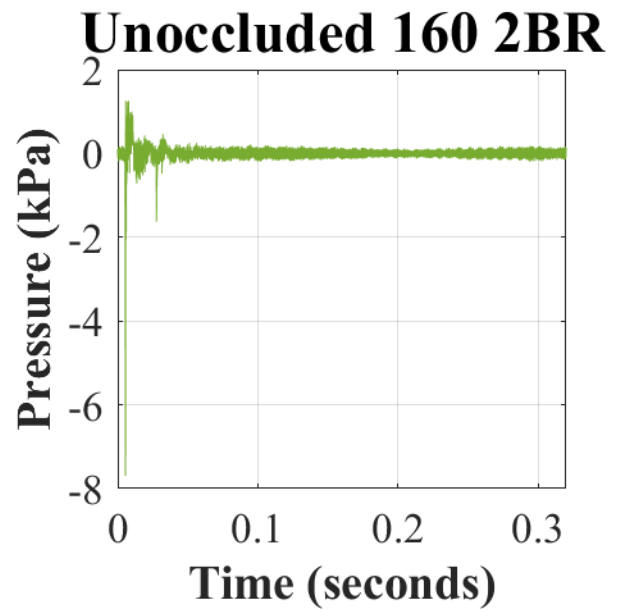
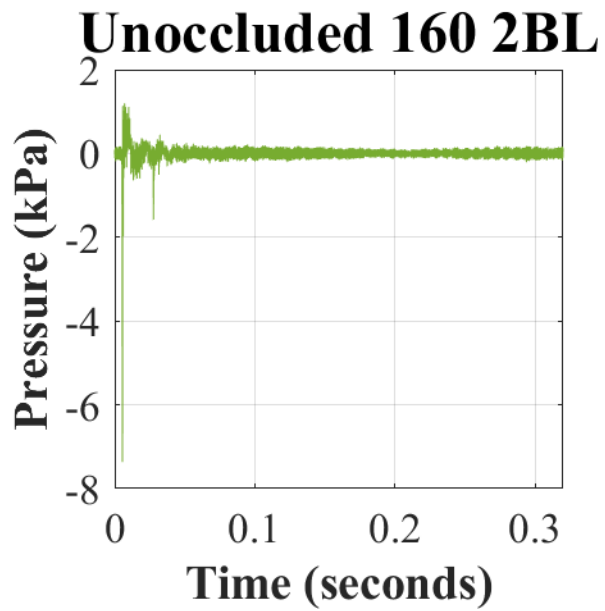
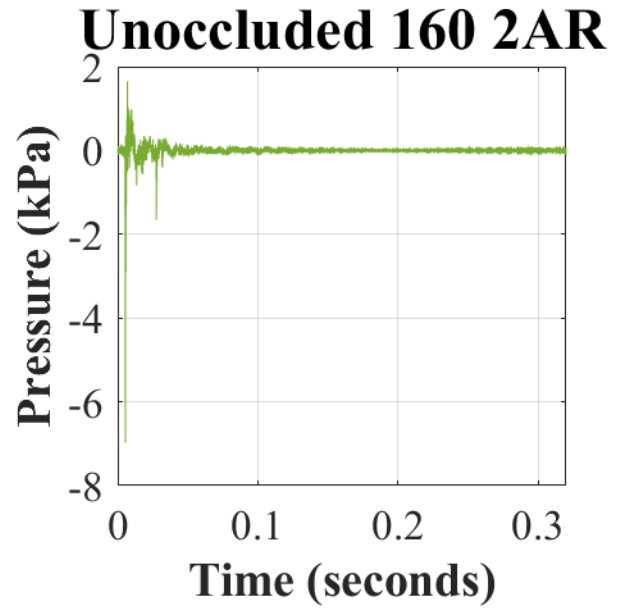
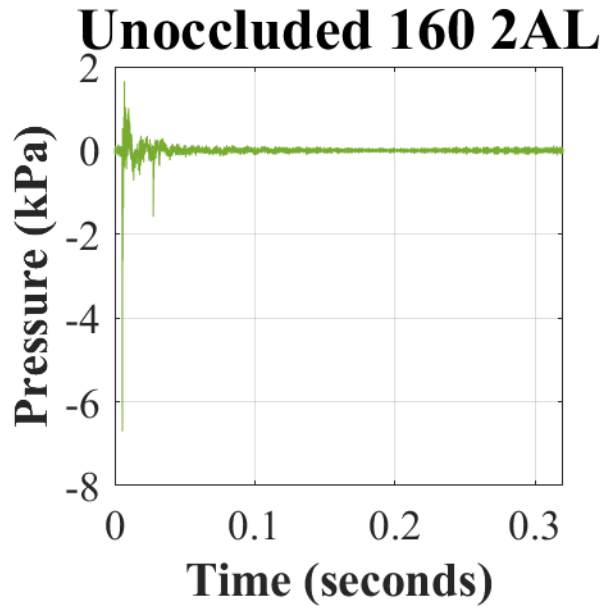


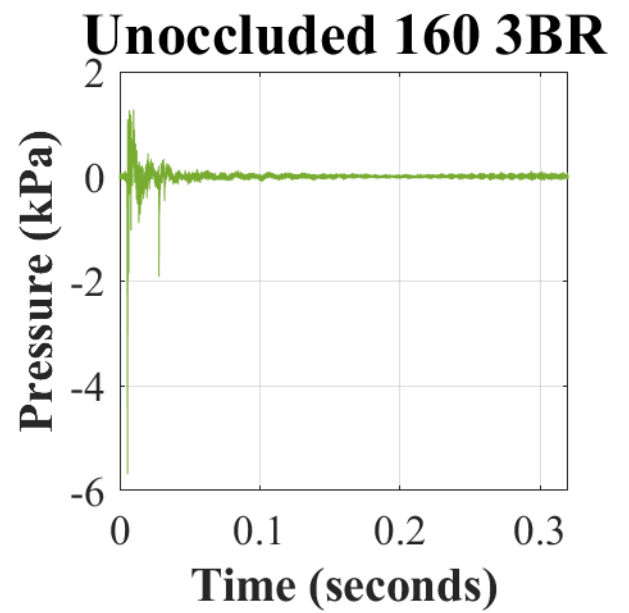
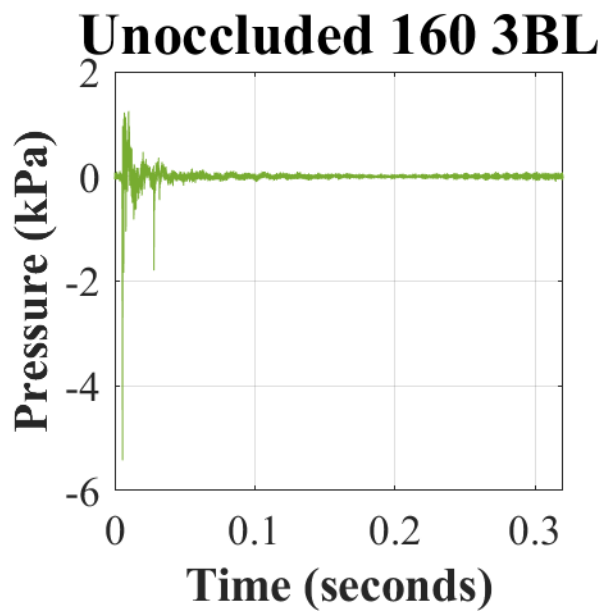
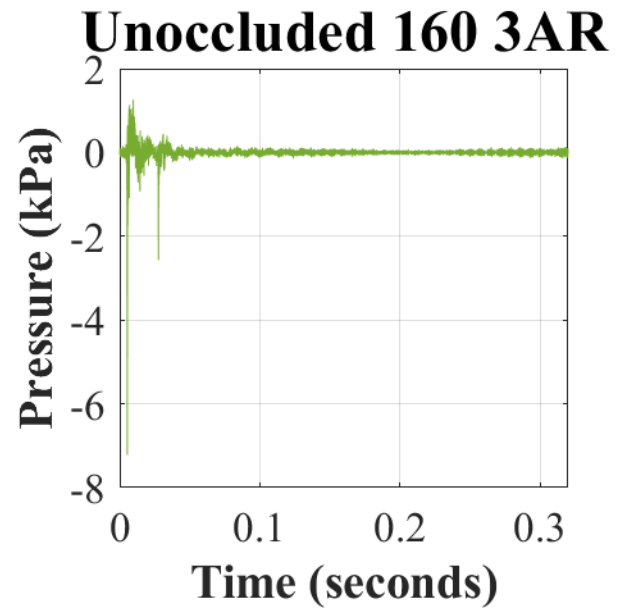
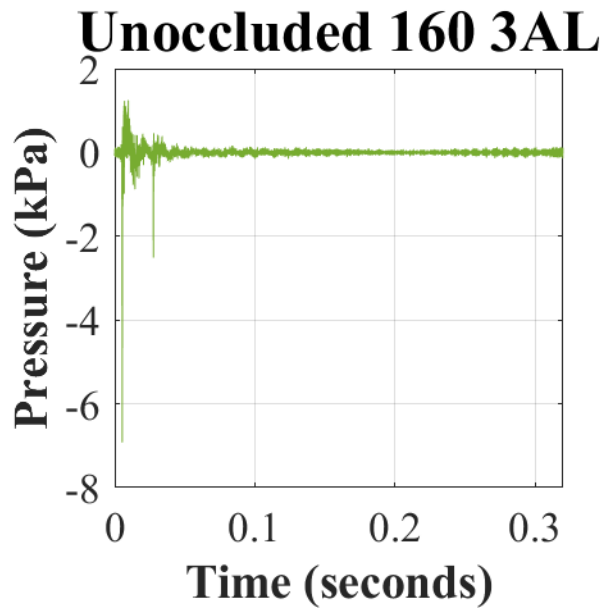


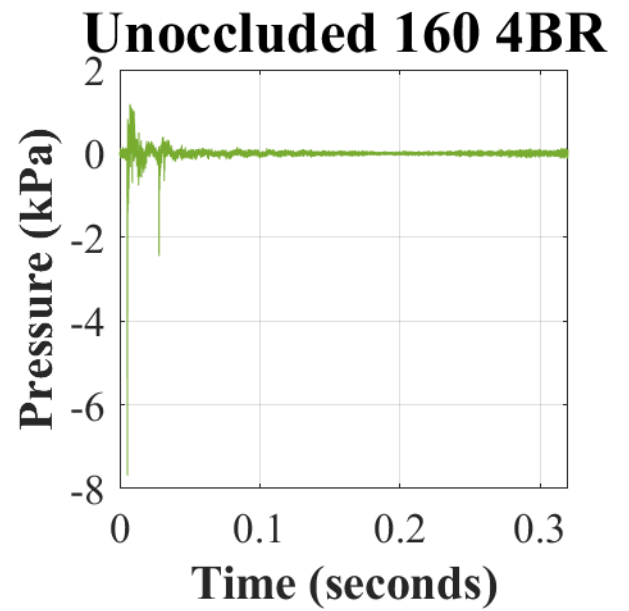
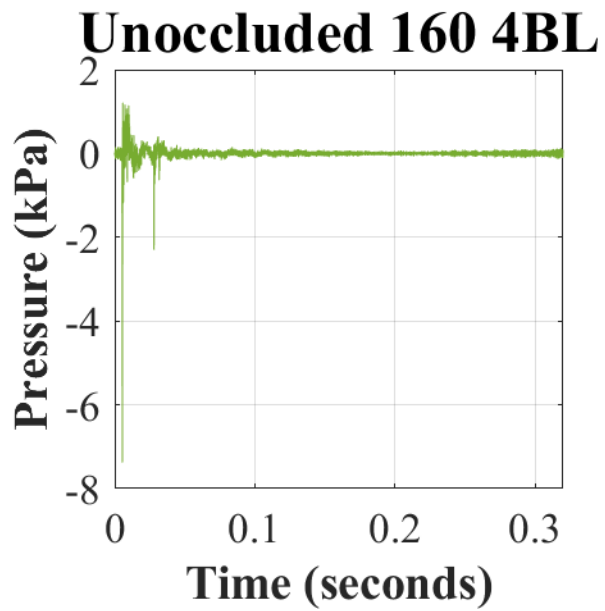
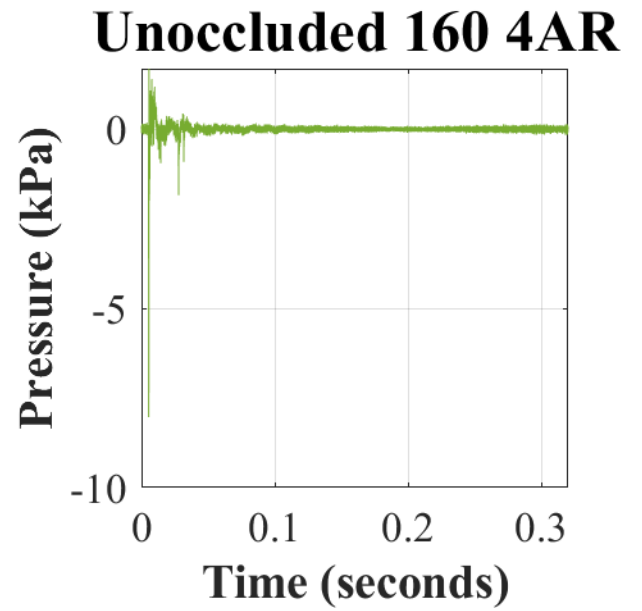
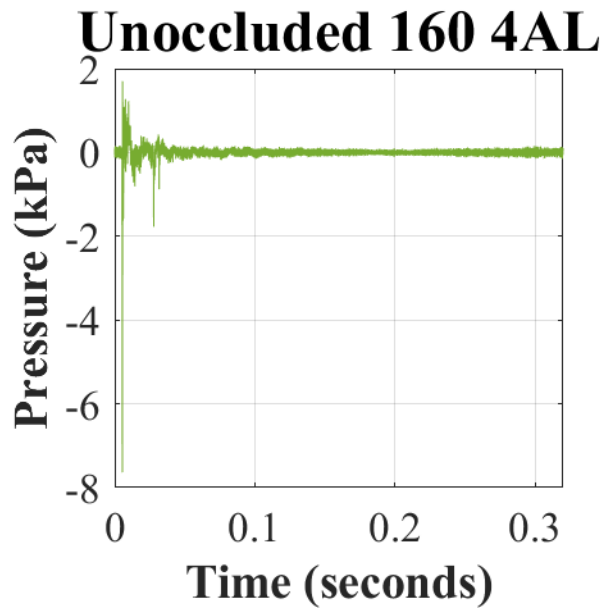
Note. The naming convention for all occluded waveforms is “Occluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Occluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD donned), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dBp), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

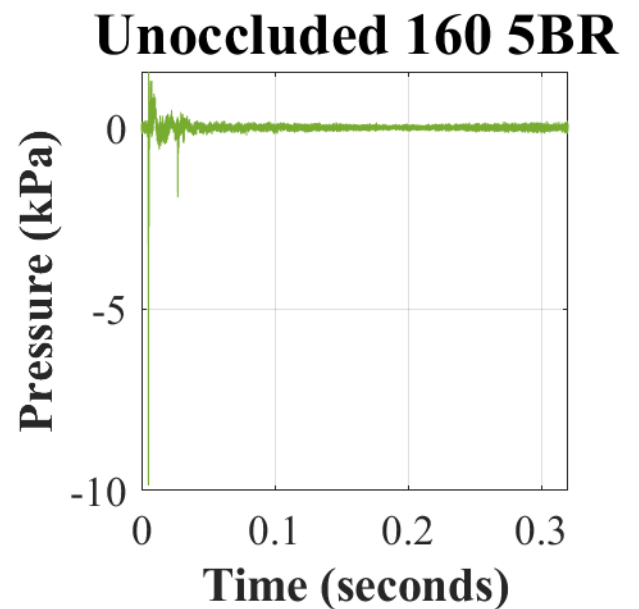
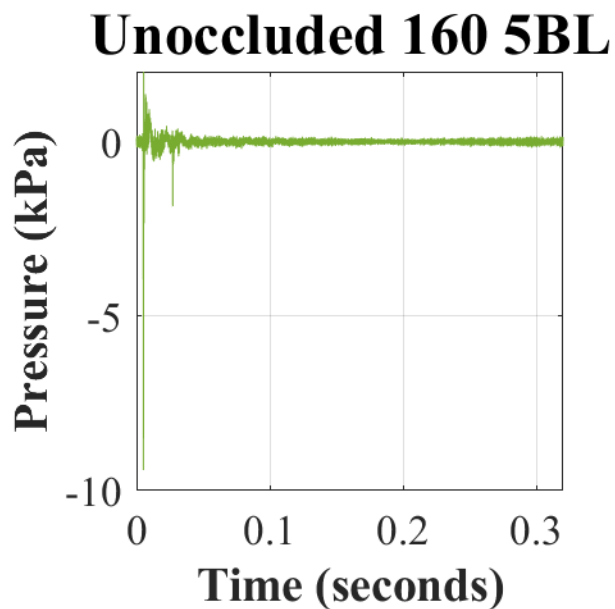
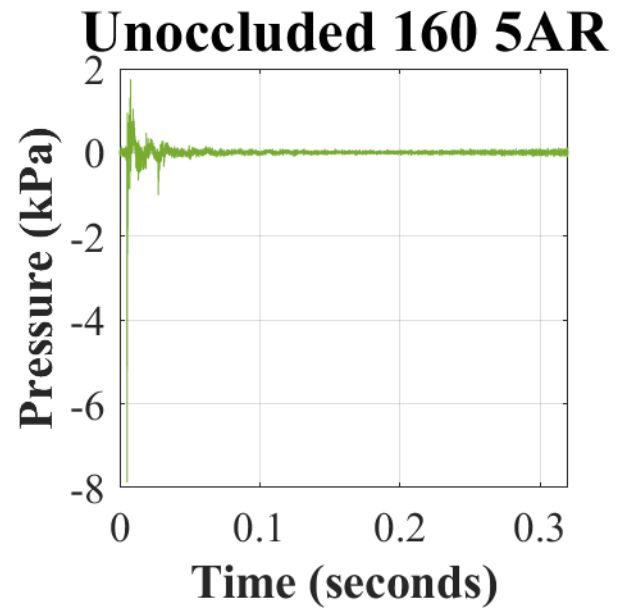
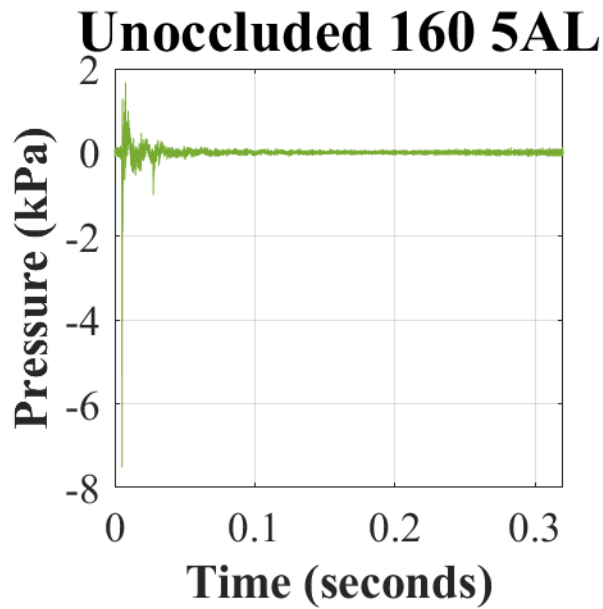
Appendix D. Estimated unoccluded (open-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 160 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the open mode.





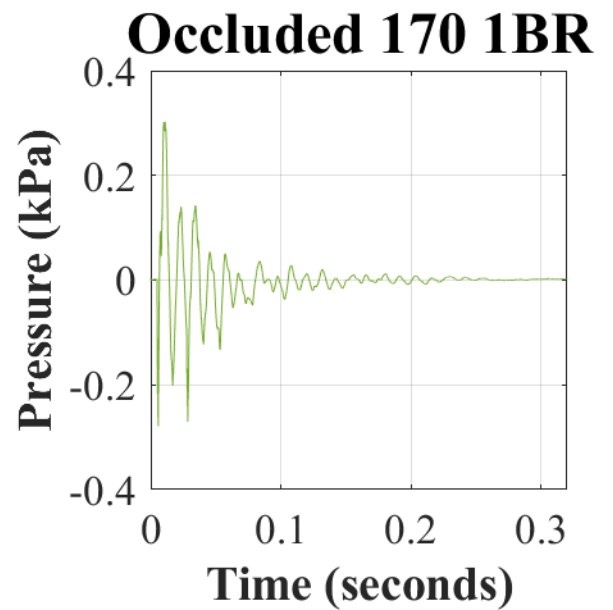
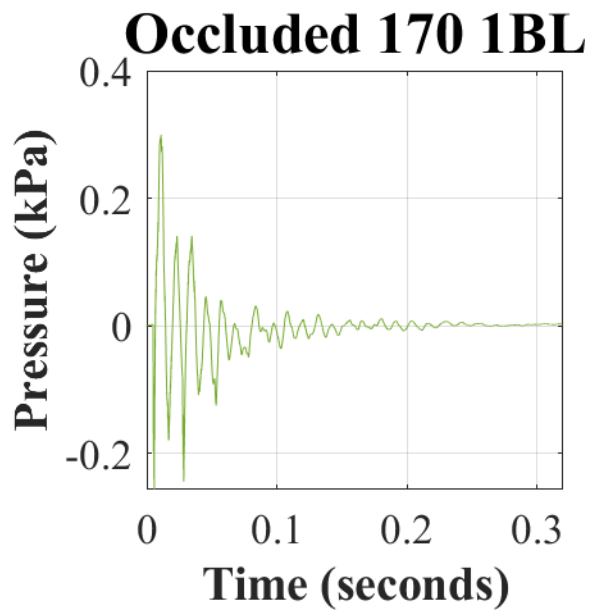
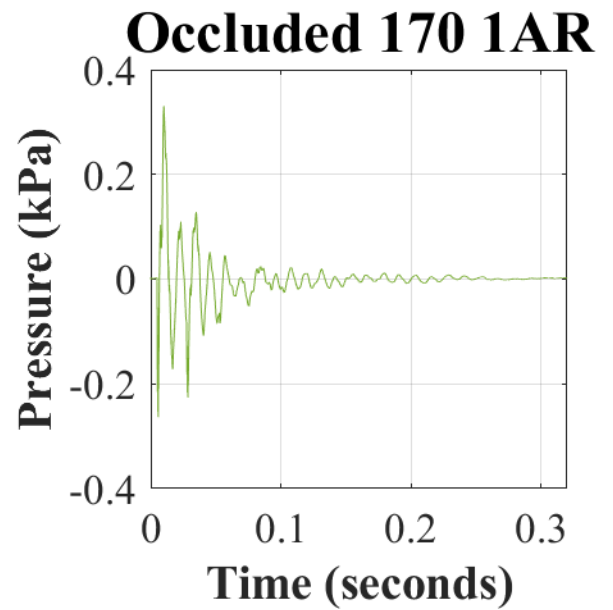
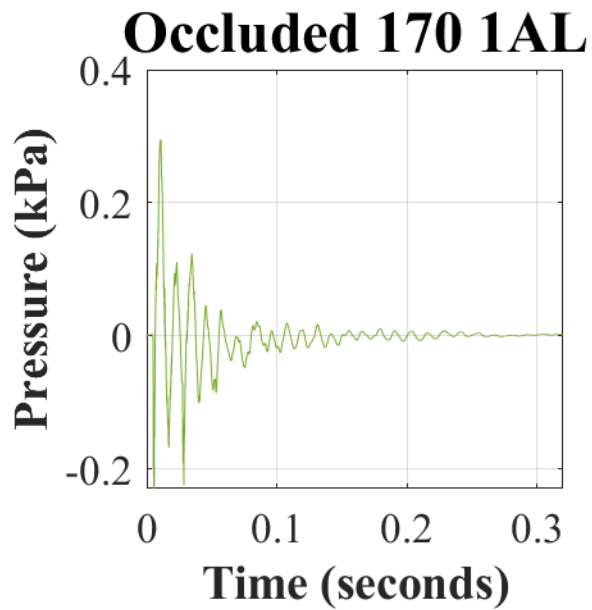


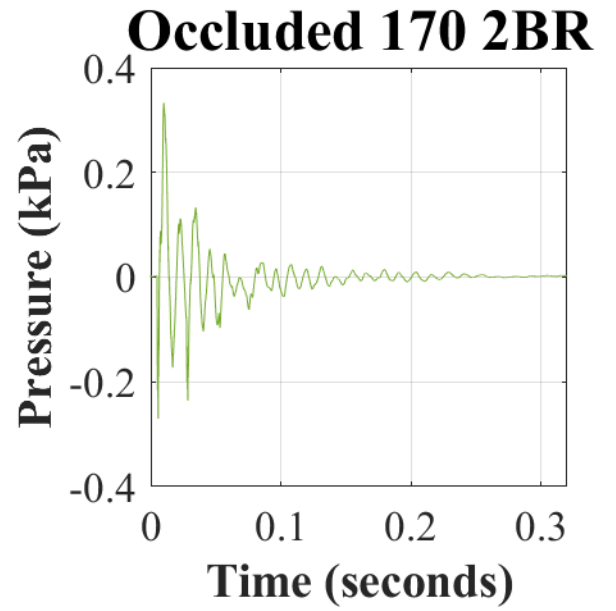
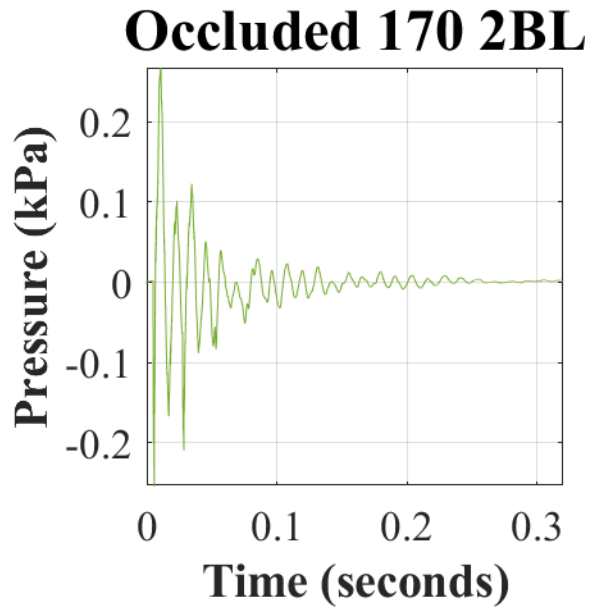
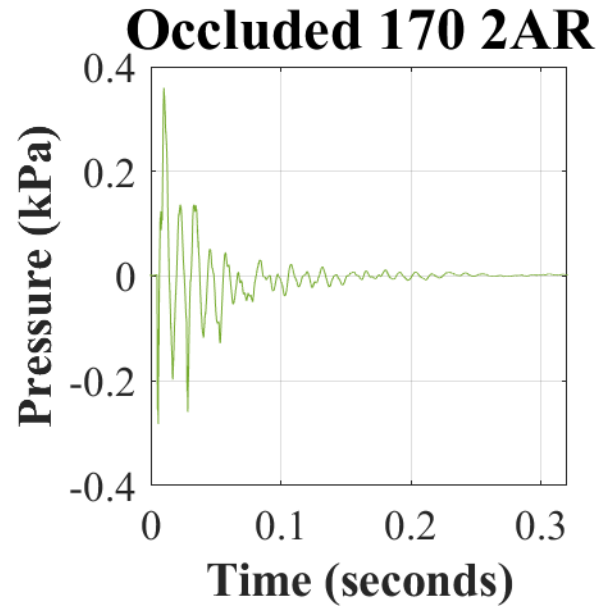
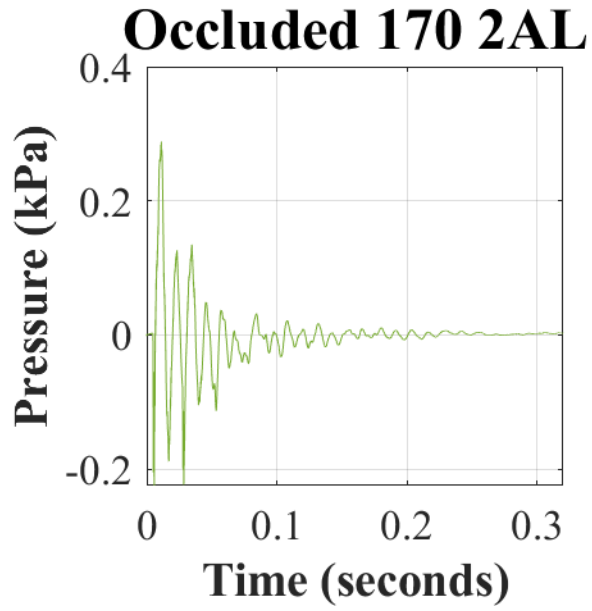


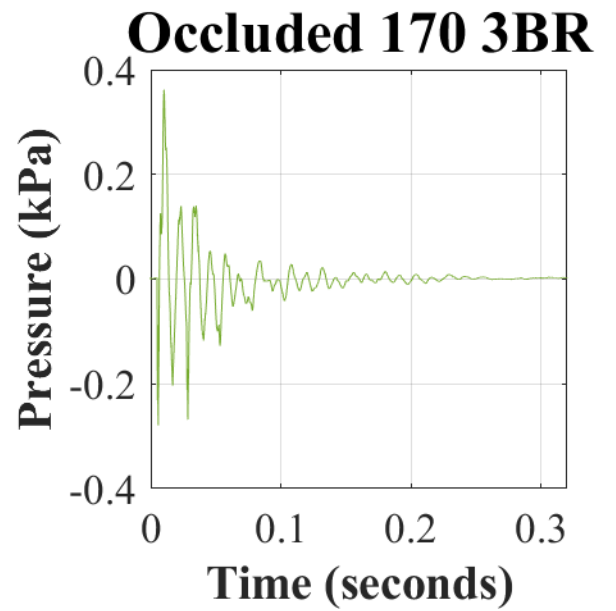
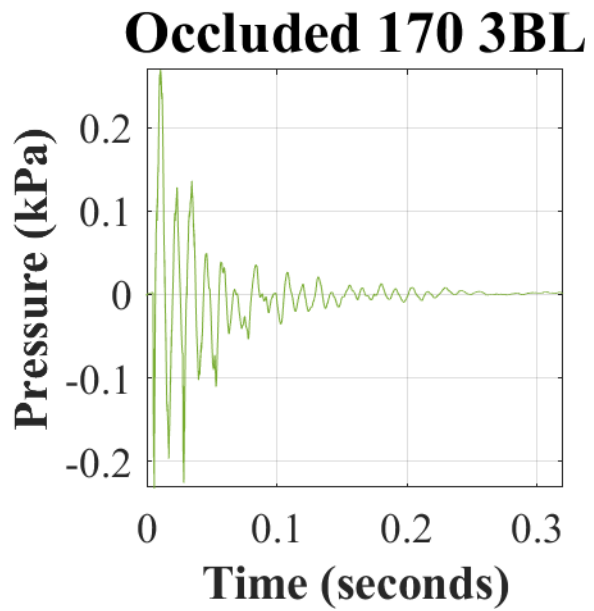
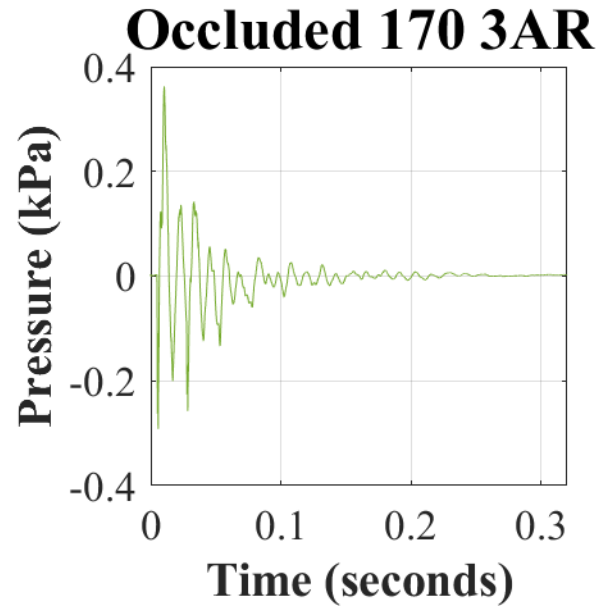
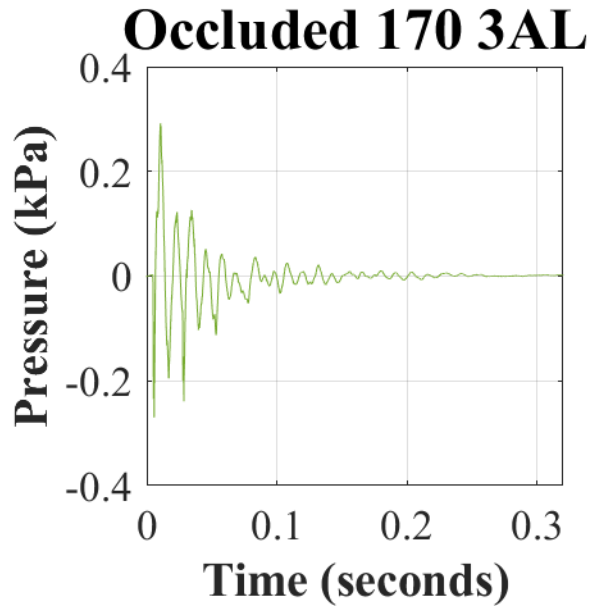


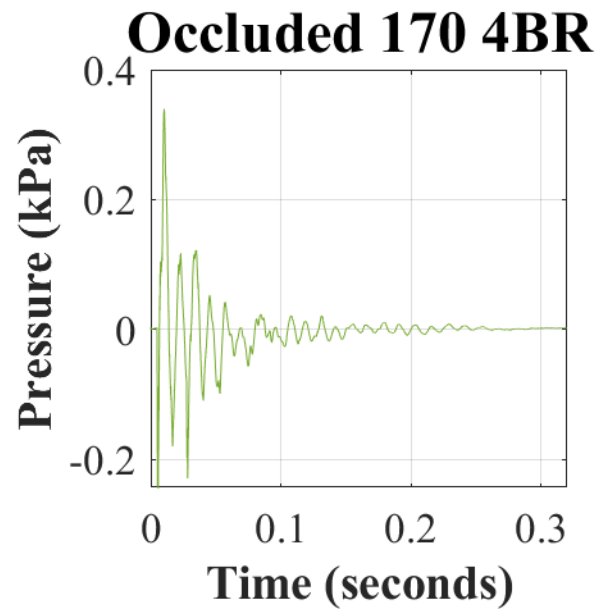
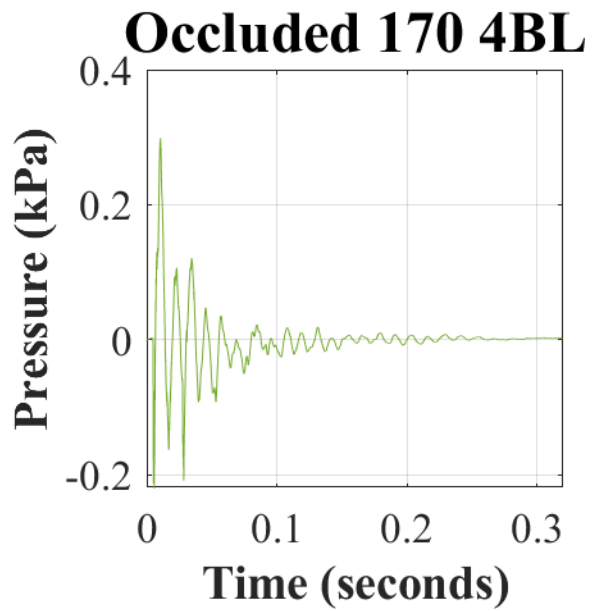
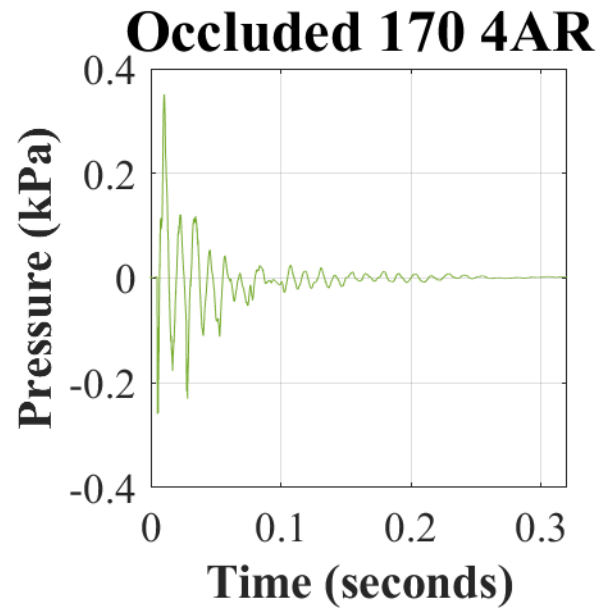
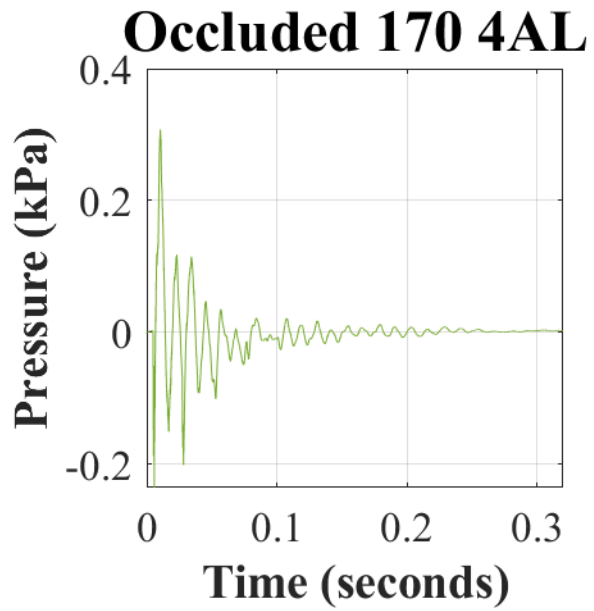
Note. The naming convention for all unoccluded waveforms is “Unoccluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Unoccluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD doffed), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dB), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

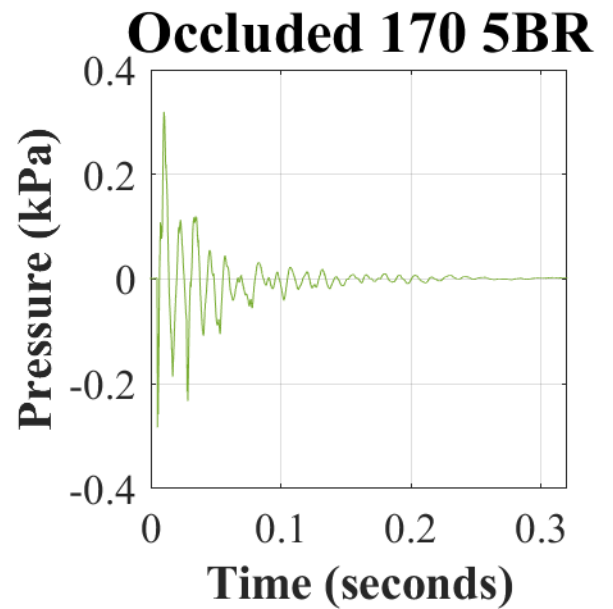
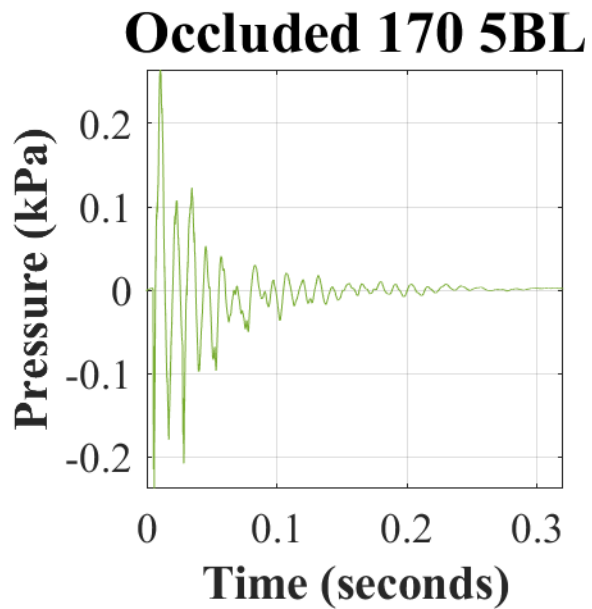
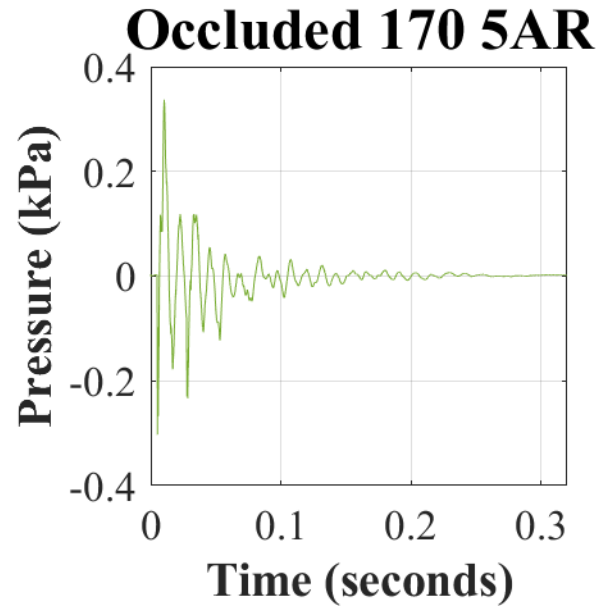
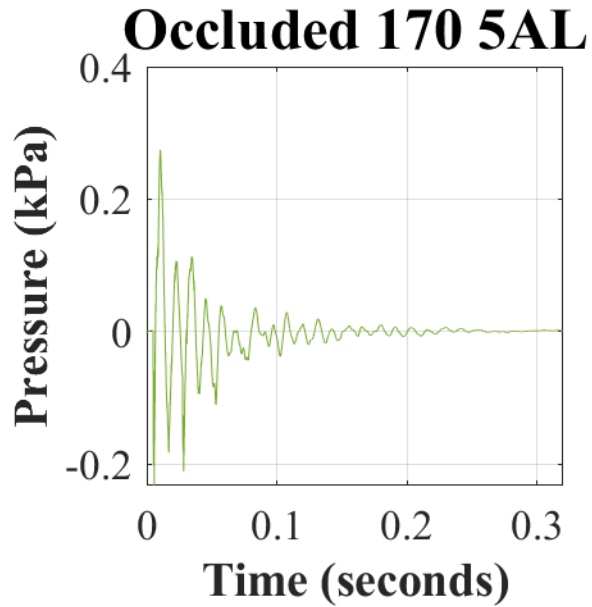
Appendix E. Recorded occluded (closed-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 170 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the open mode.





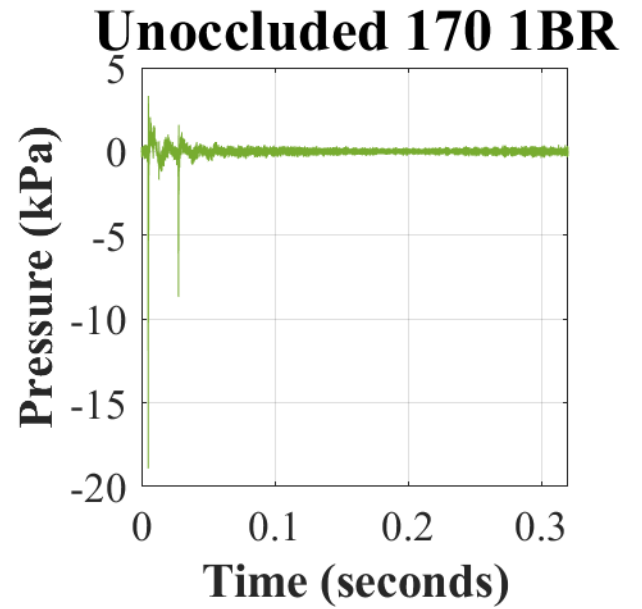
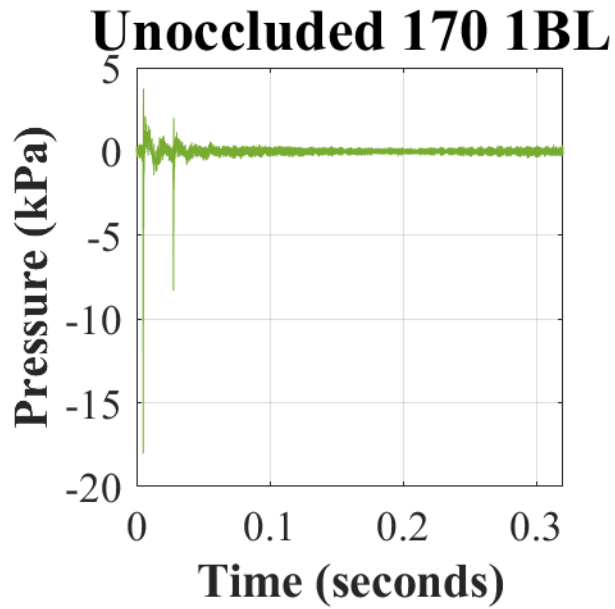
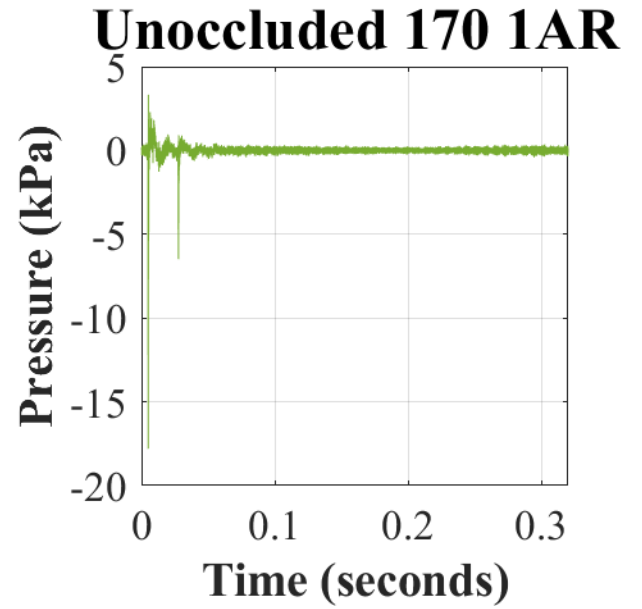
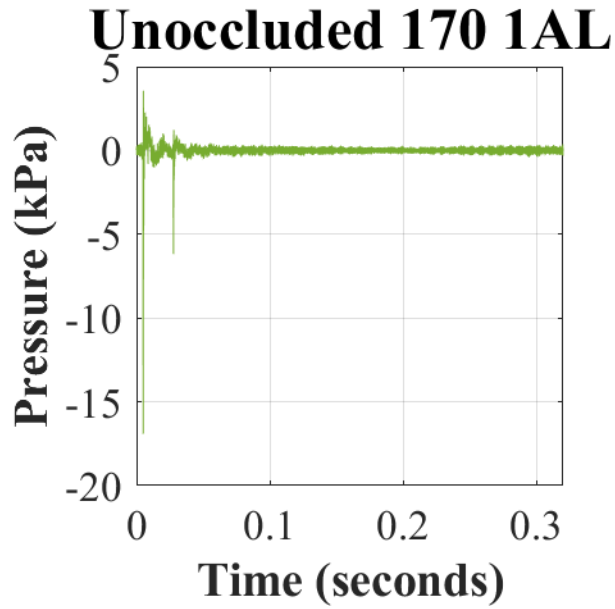


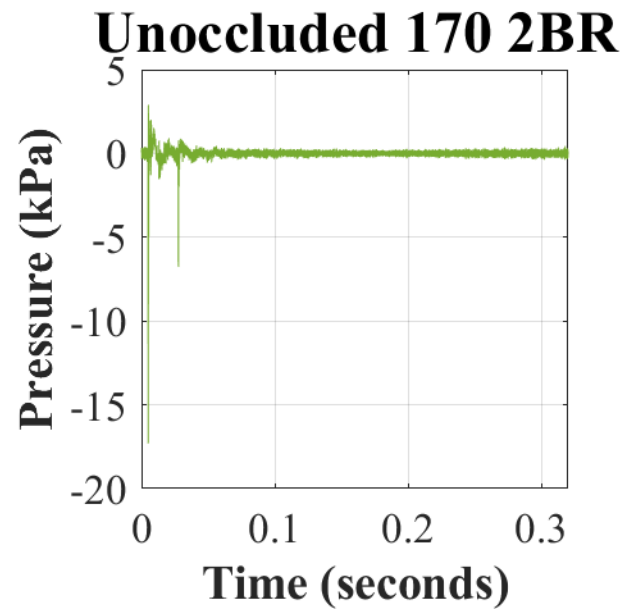
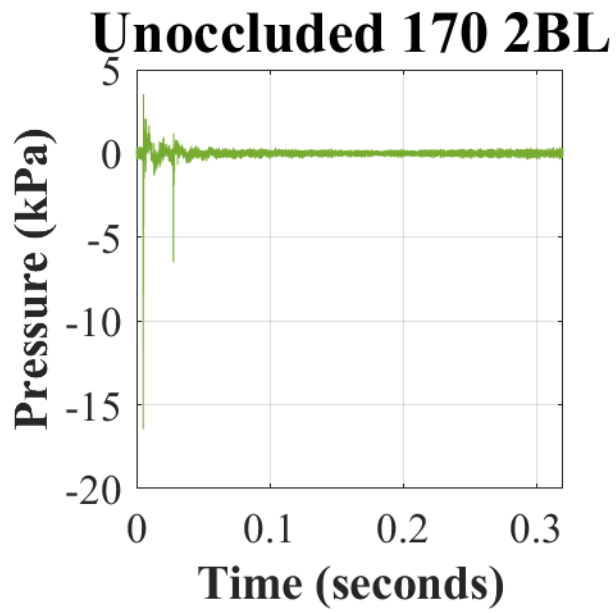
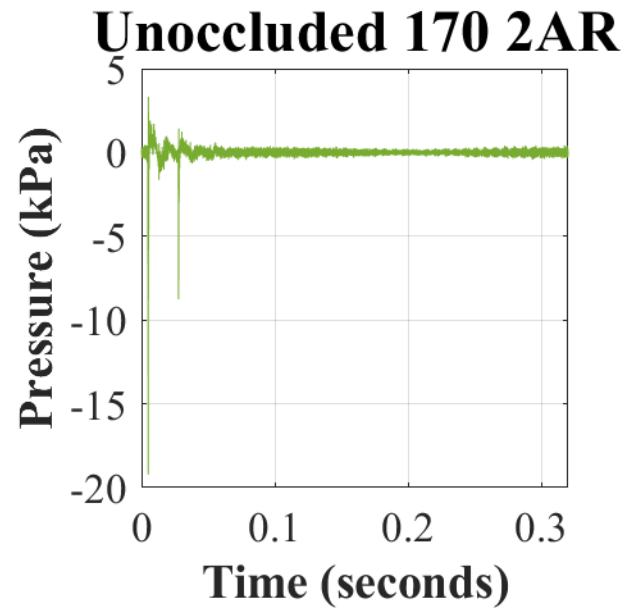
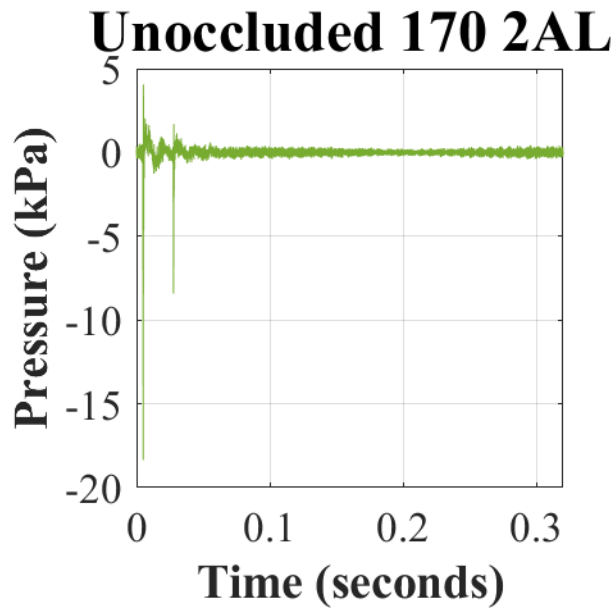


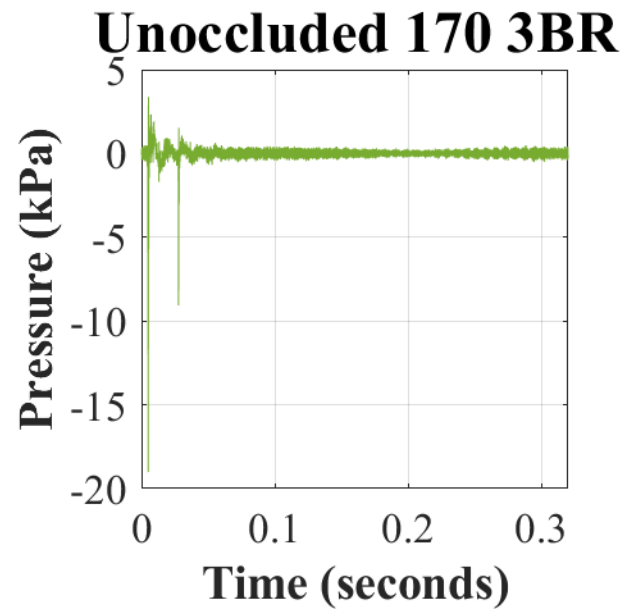
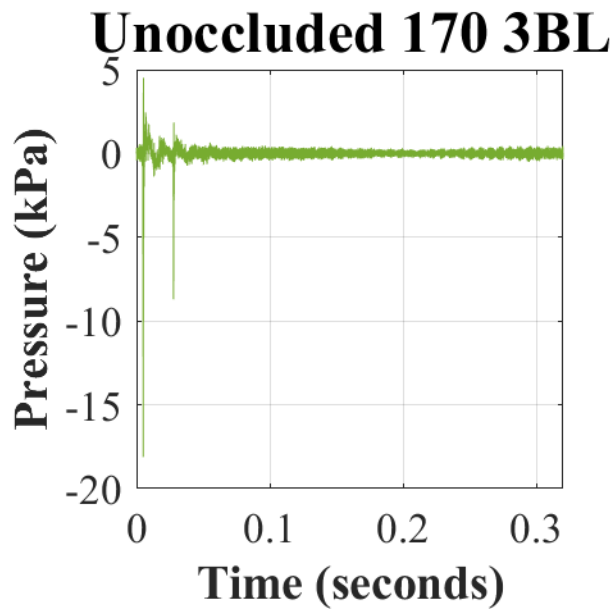
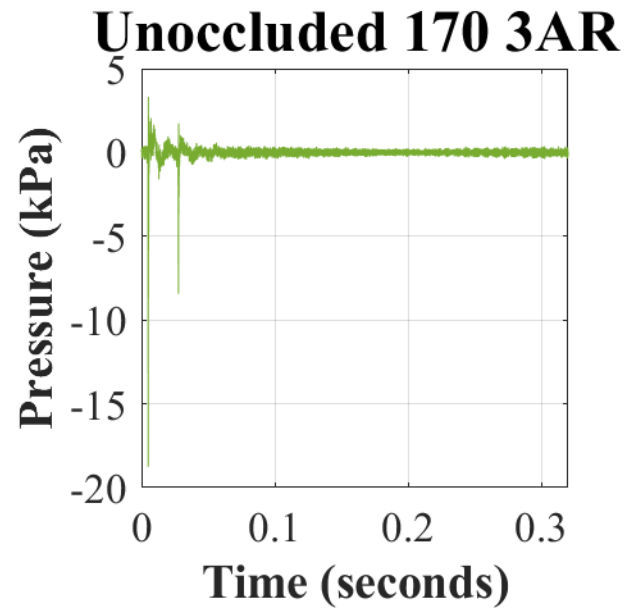
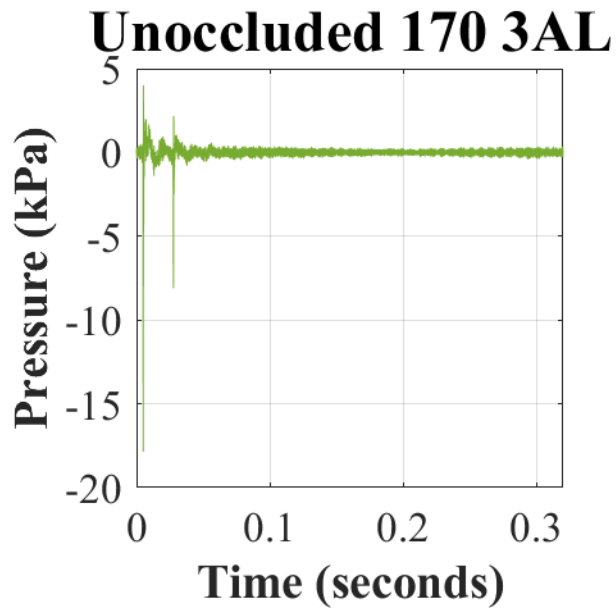


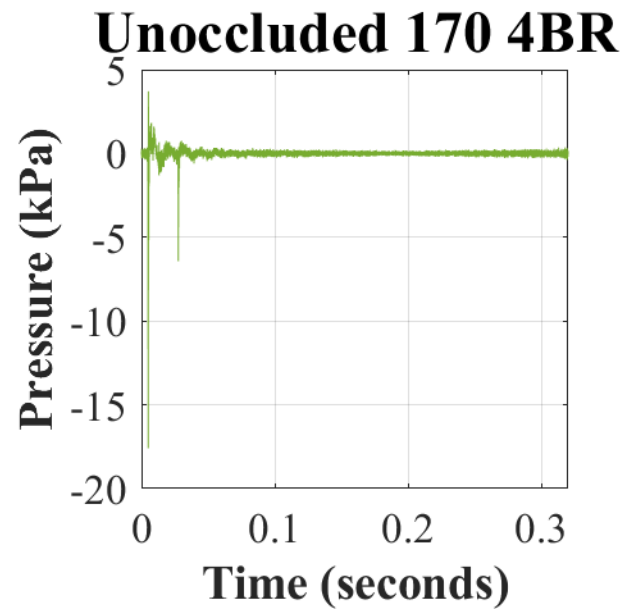
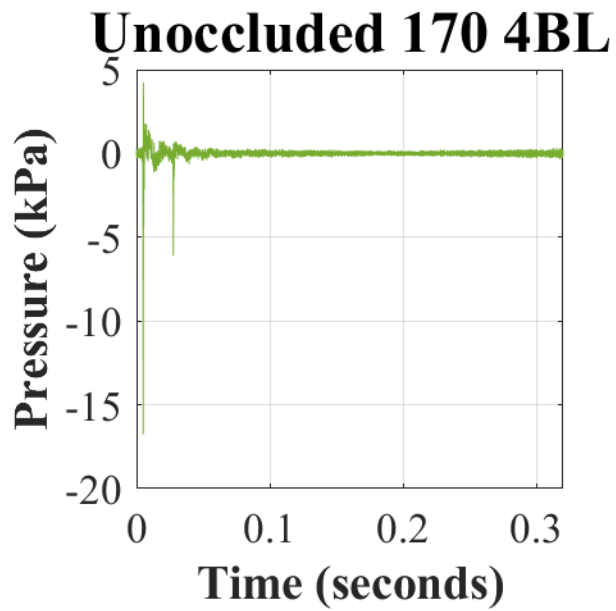
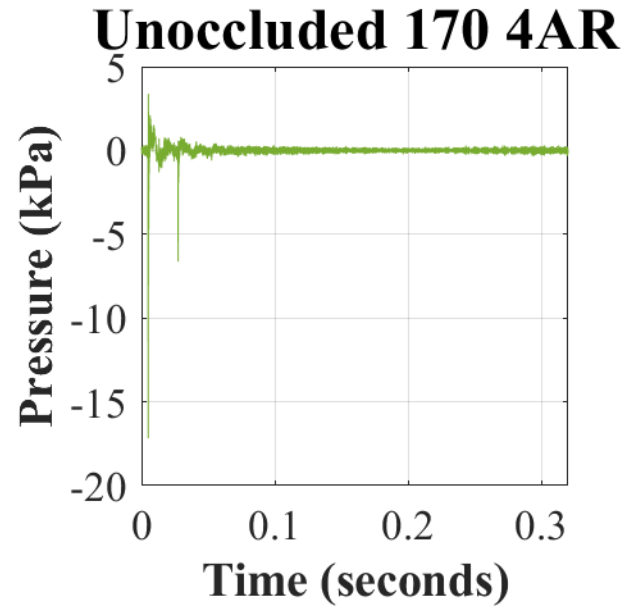
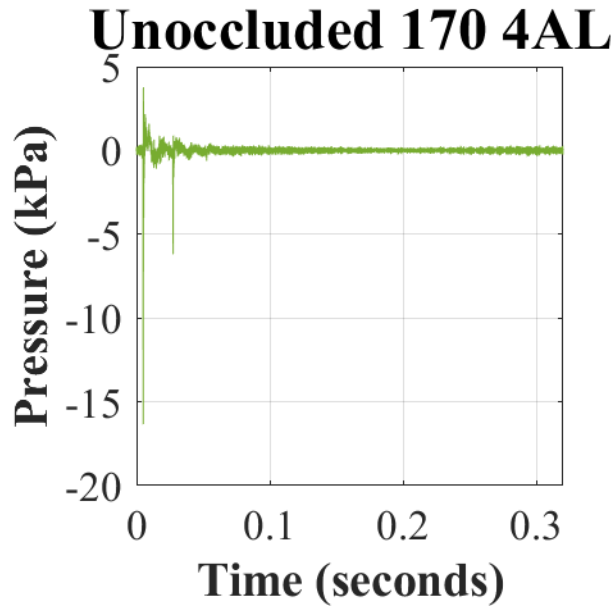
Note. The naming convention for all occluded waveforms is “Occluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Occluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD donned), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dBp), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

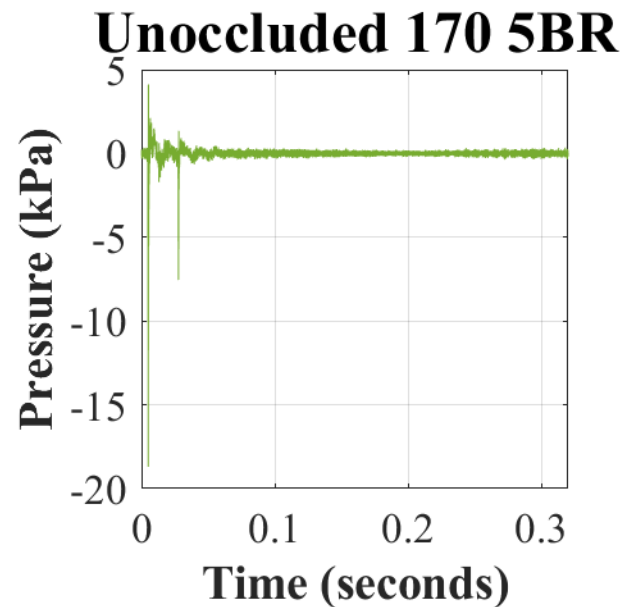
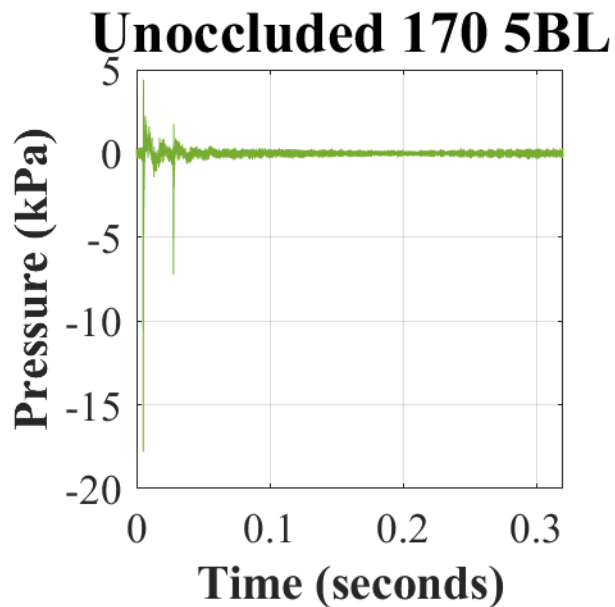
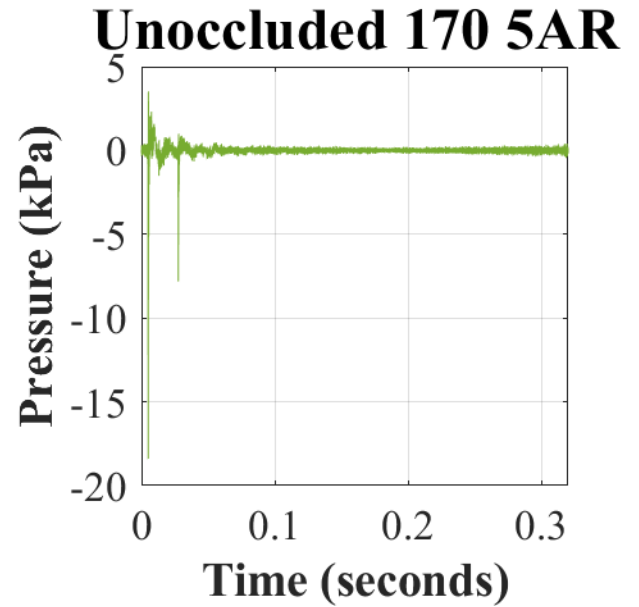
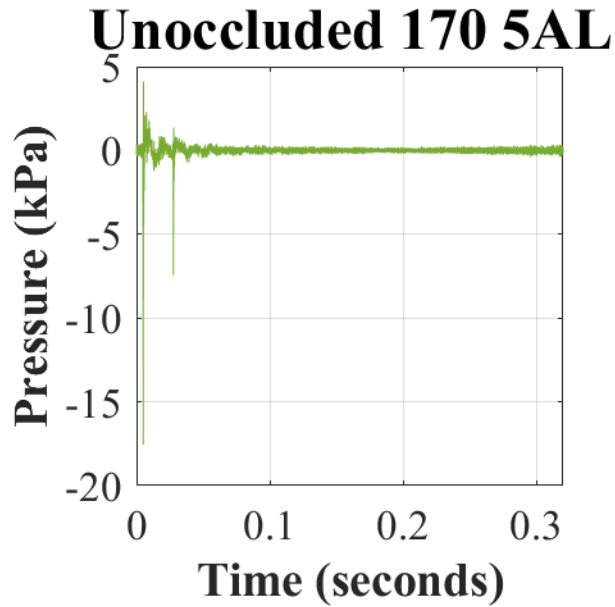
Appendix F. Estimated unoccluded (open-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 170 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the open mode.







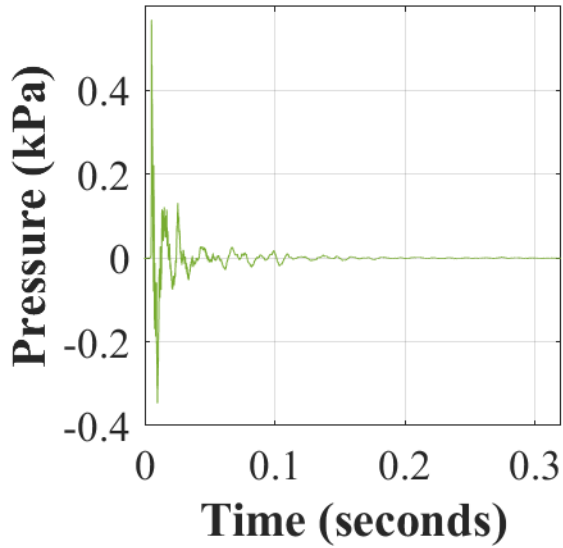




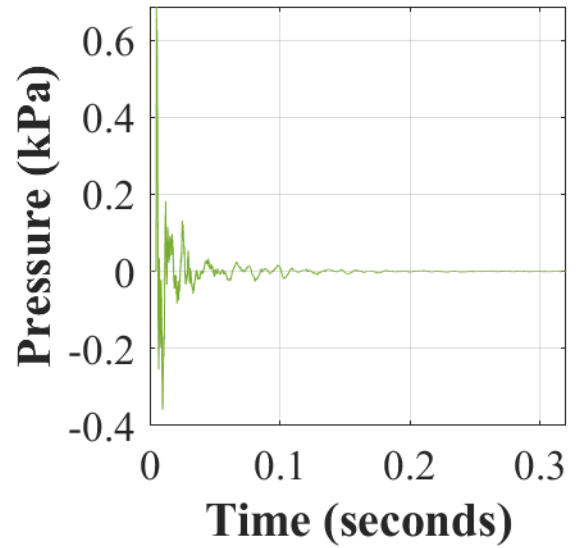
Note. The naming convention for all unoccluded waveforms is “Unoccluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Unoccluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD doffed), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dB), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

Appendix G. Recorded waveform (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) of the impulse measured with the free-field probe at 150 dBp and the CAE Gen. 4.0 donned in the open mode.

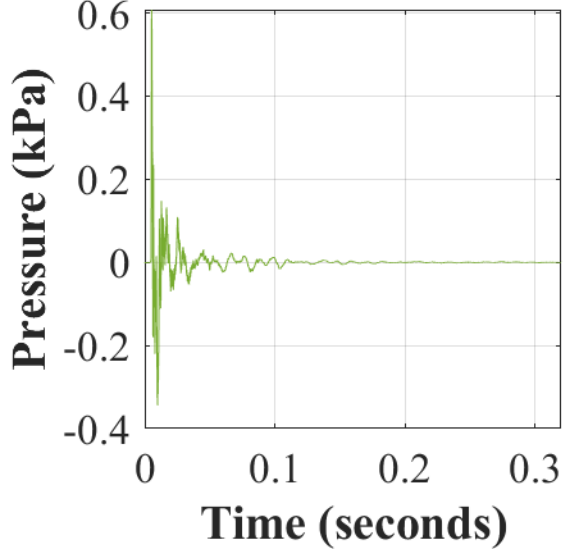
Free Field 150 1A



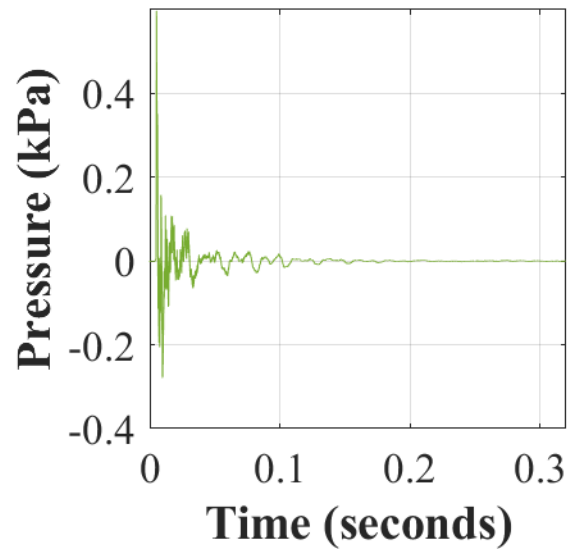
Free Field 150 1B



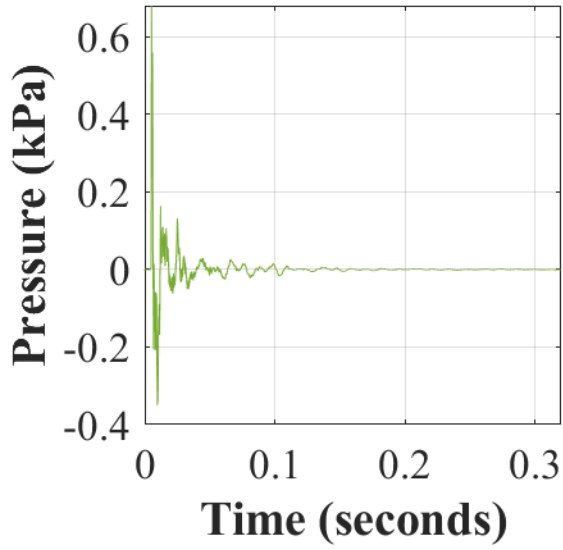
Free Field 150 2A



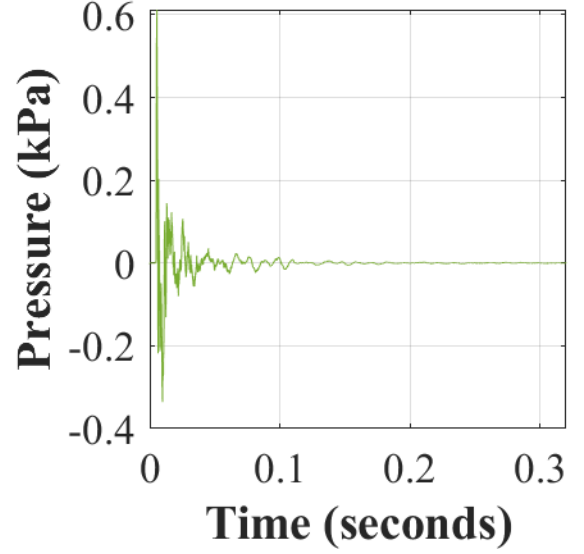
Free Field 150 2B



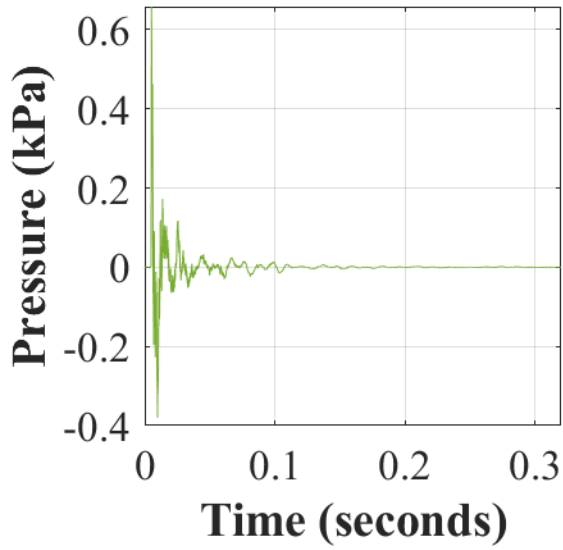
Free Field 150 3A



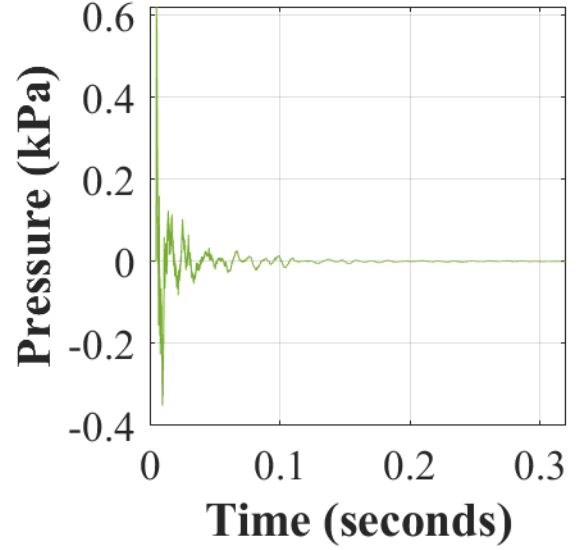
Free Field 150 3B

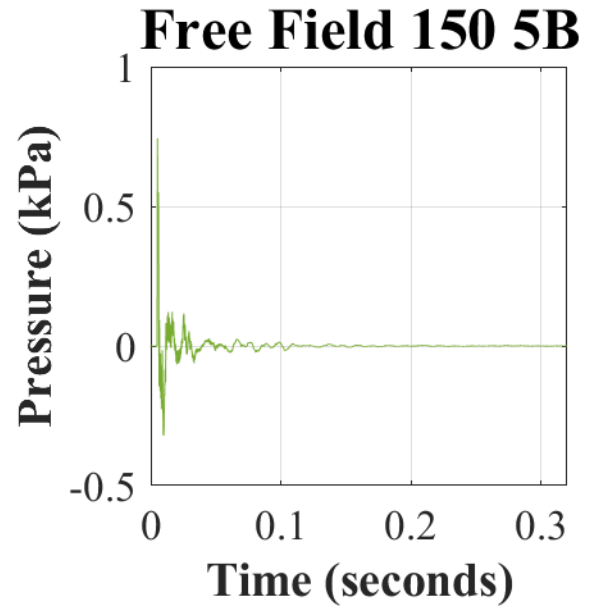
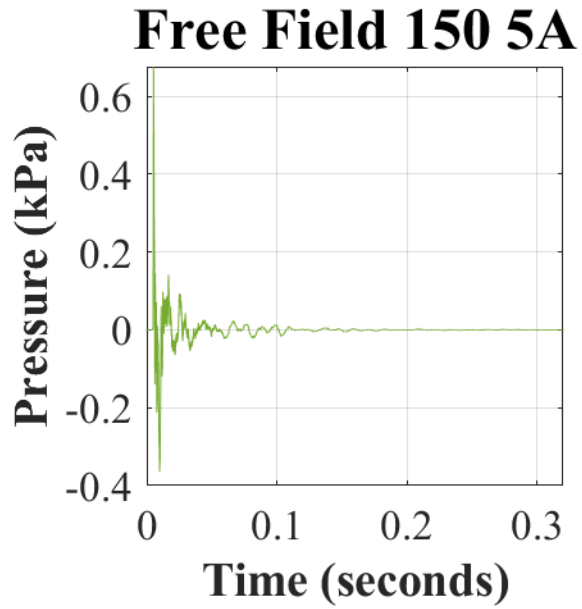


Free Field 150 4A



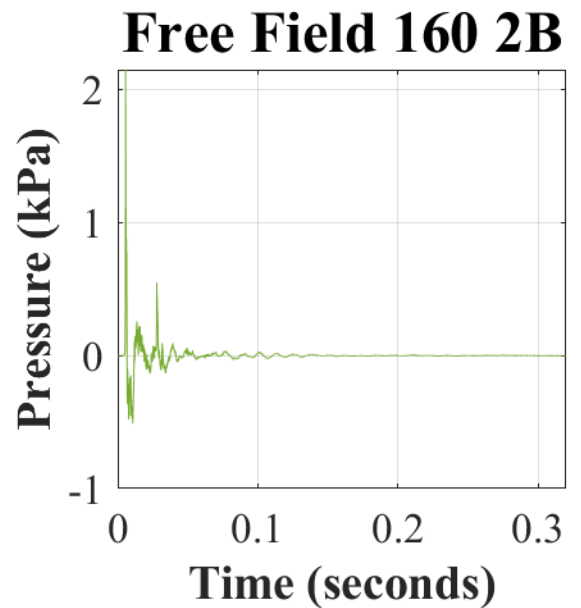
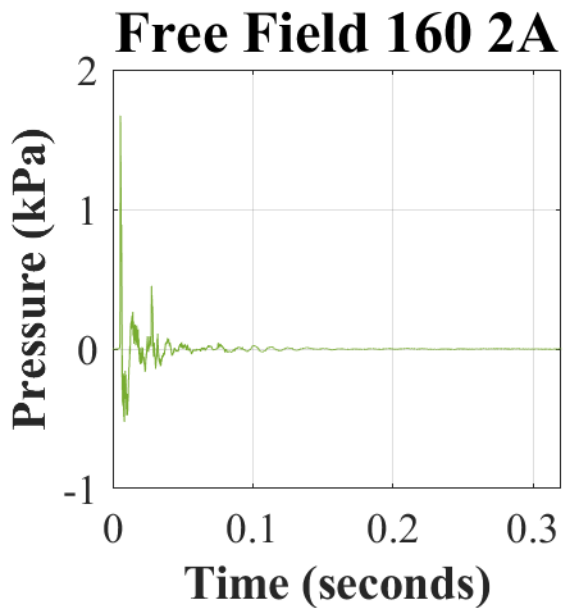
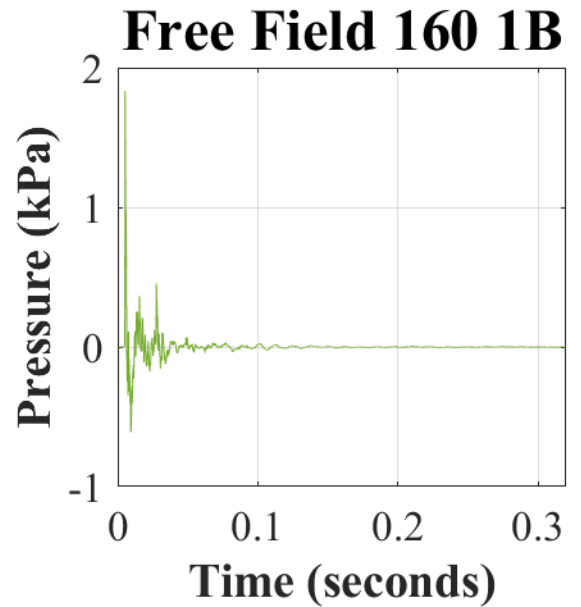
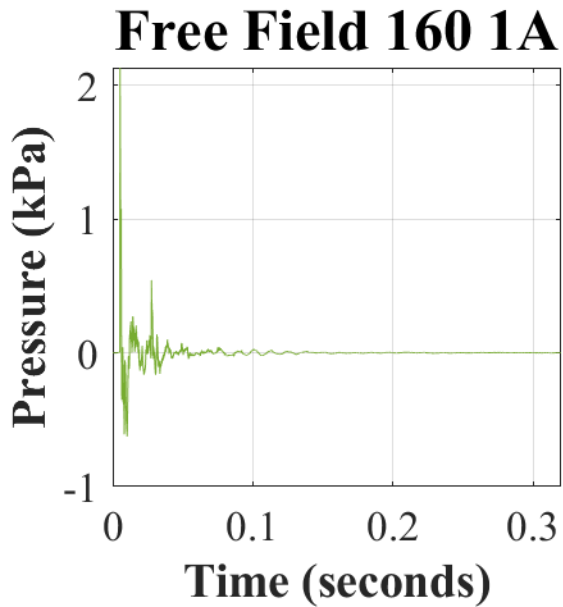
Free Field 150 4B

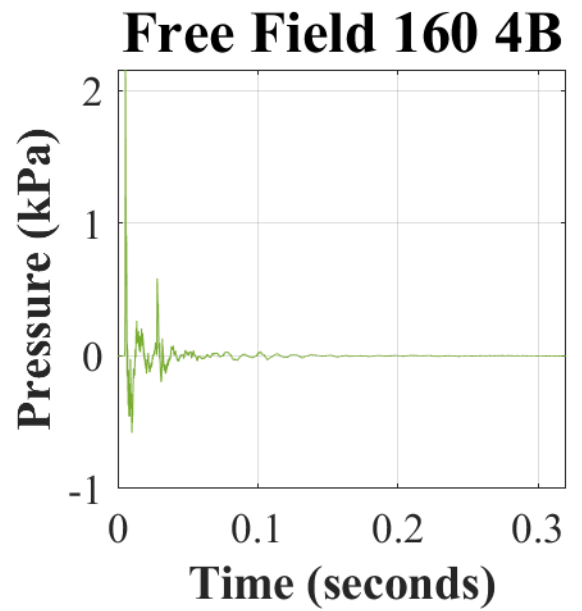
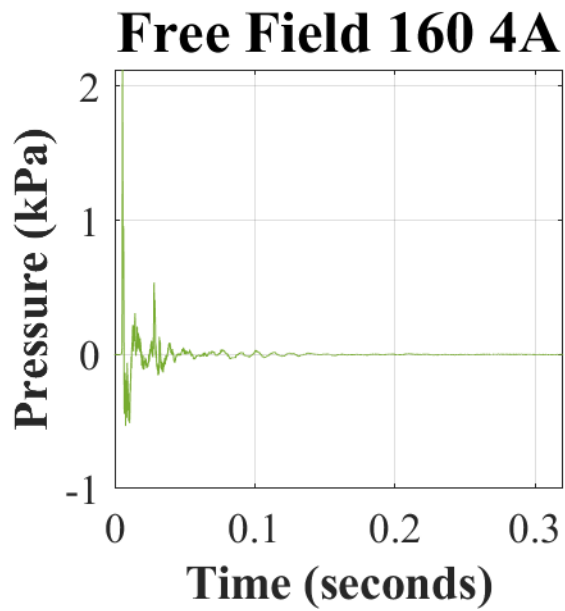
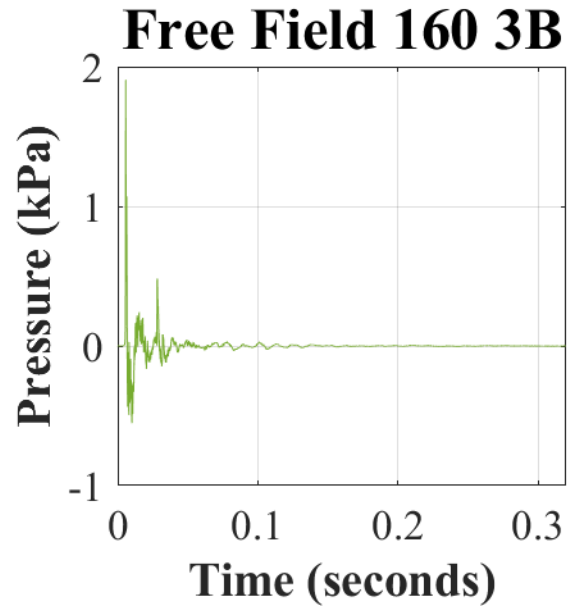
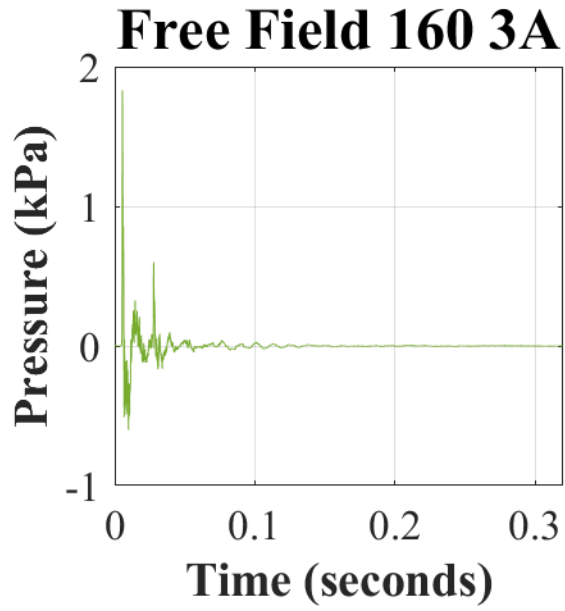


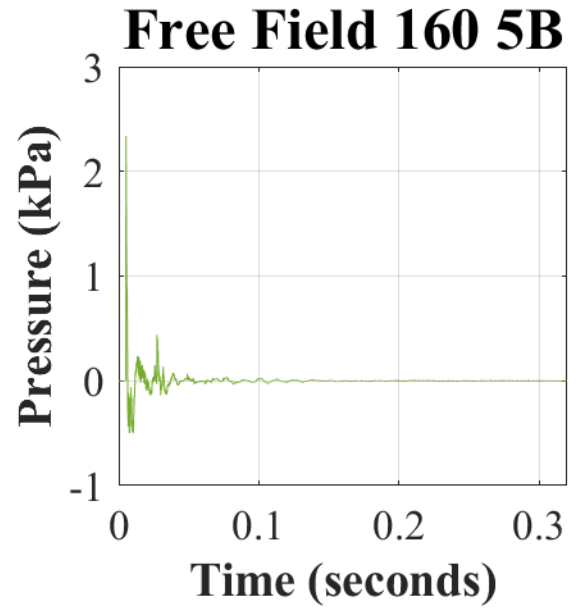
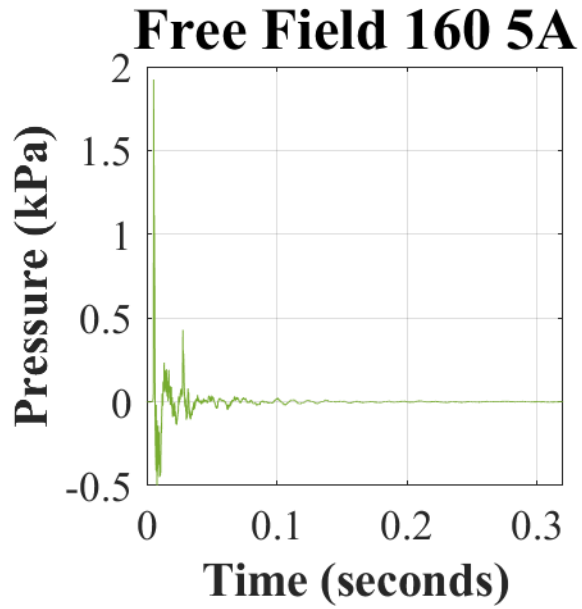


Note. The naming convention for all free-field waveforms is “Free Field LvL Nn”, where ‘Free Field’ indicates that the recording was obtained using the PCB reference microphone, ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (150 dBp), ‘N’ is the device sample number (1 to 5), and ‘n’ is the device trial (i.e., A or B).

Appendix H. Recorded waveform (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) of the impulse measured with the free-field probe at 160 dBp and the CAE Gen. 4.0 donned in the open mode.

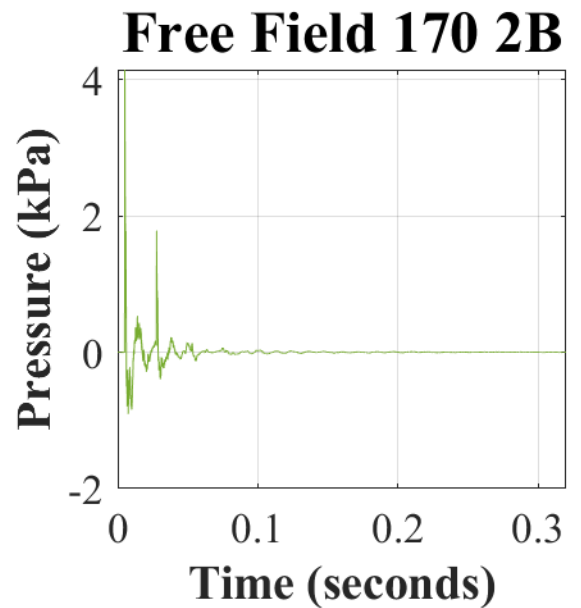
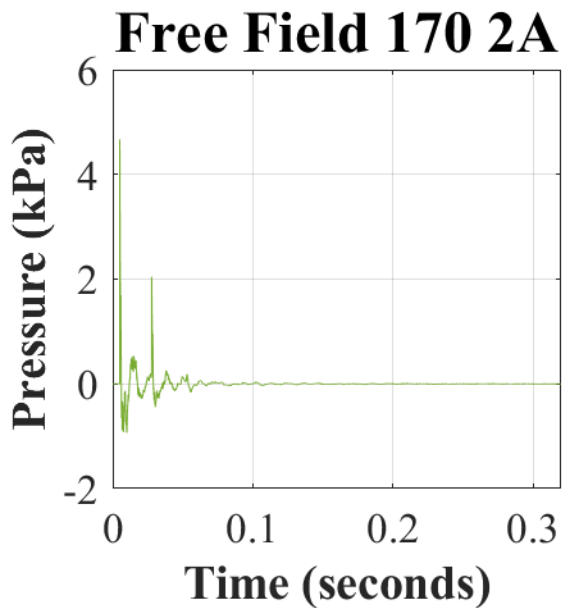
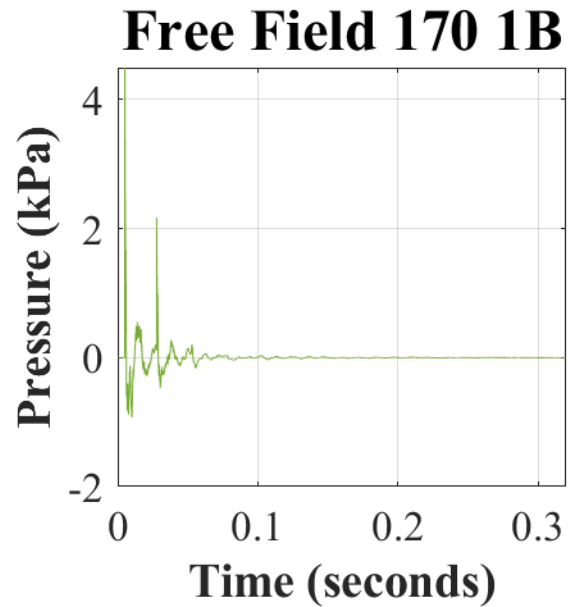
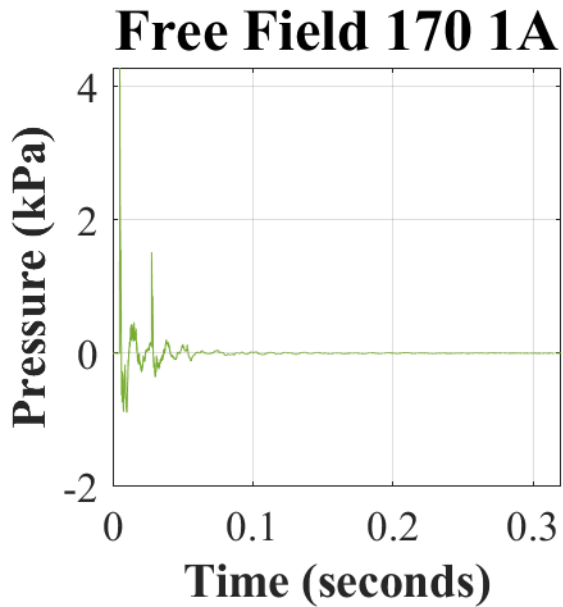




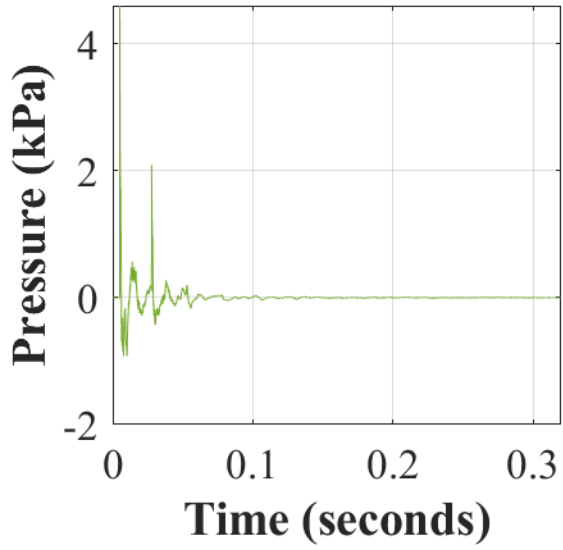


Note. The naming convention for all free-field waveforms is “Free Field LvL Nn”, where ‘Free Field’ indicates that the recording was obtained using the PCB reference microphone, ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (160 dB), ‘N’ is the device sample number (1 to 5), and ‘n’ is the device trial (i.e., A or B).

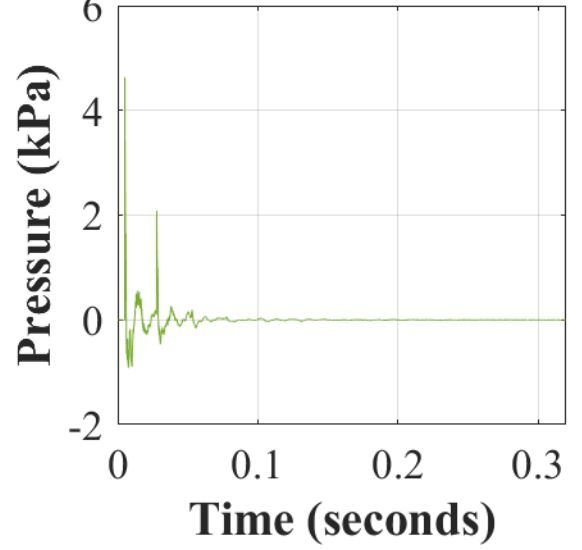
Appendix I. Recorded waveform (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) of the impulse measured with the free-field probe at 170 dBp and the CAE Gen. 4.0 donned in the open mode.



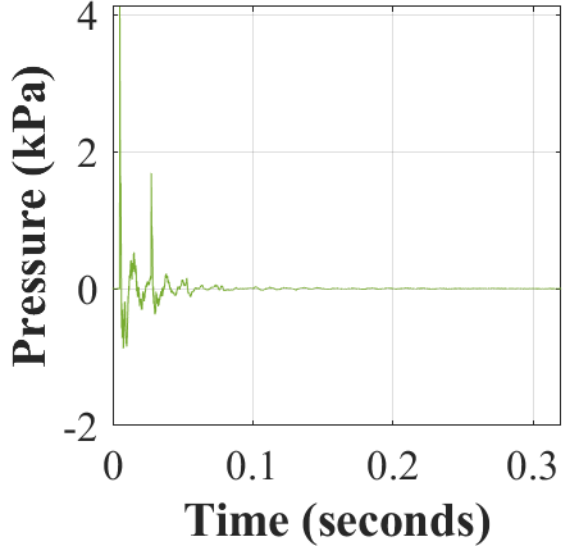
Free Field 170 3A



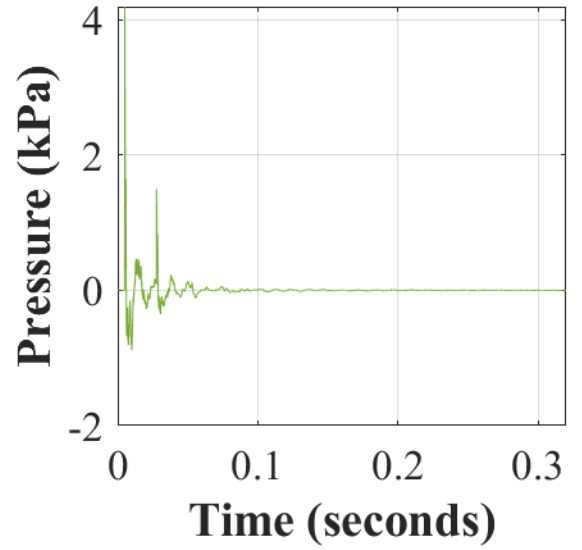
Free Field 170 3B

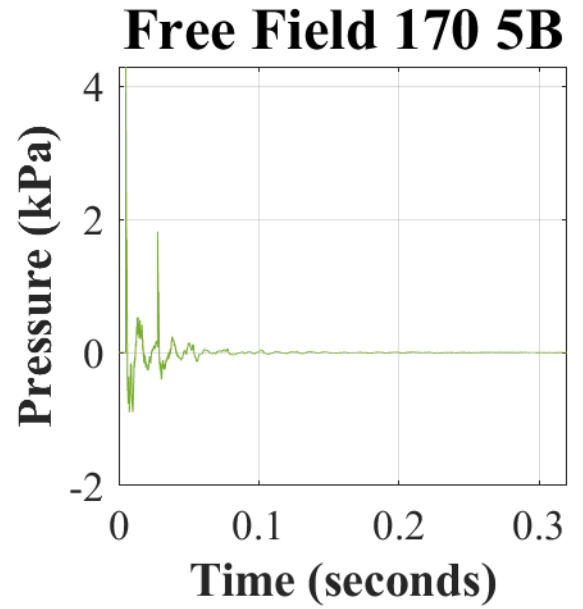
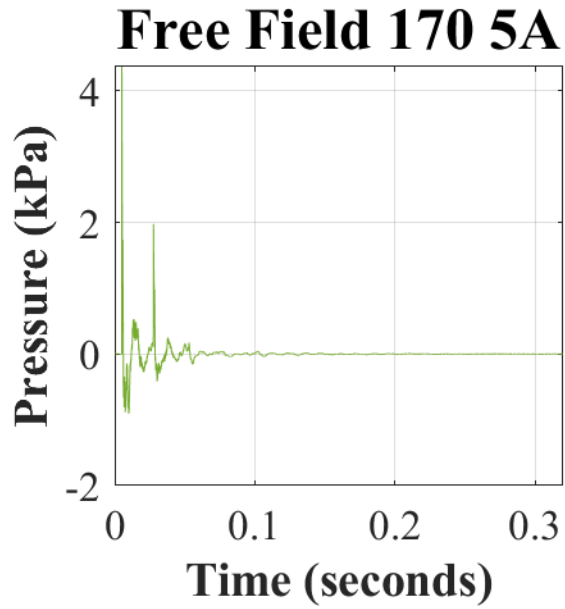


Free Field 170 4A



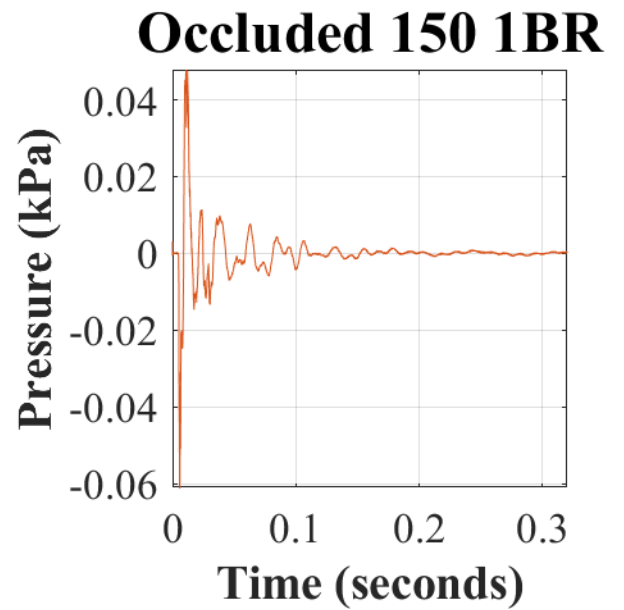
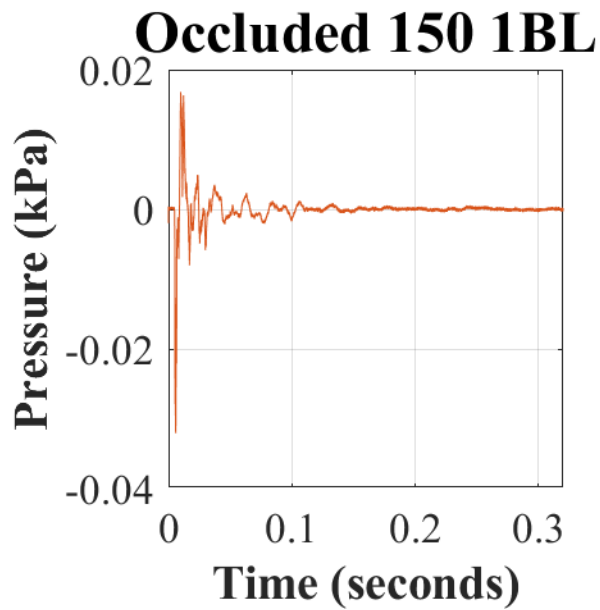
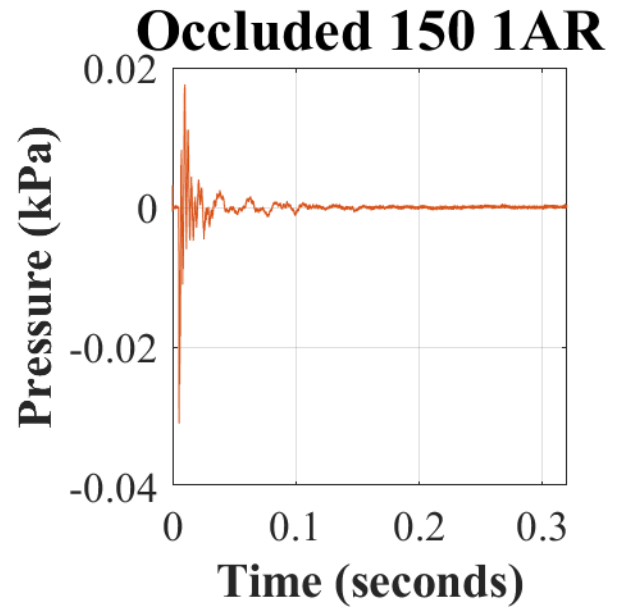
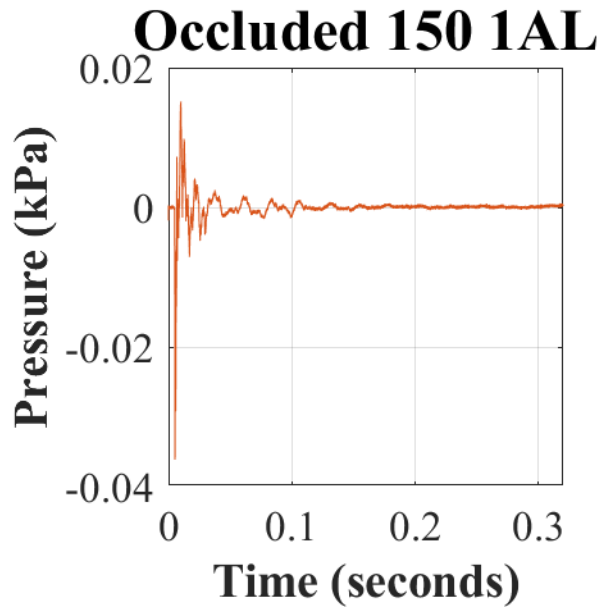
Free Field 170 4B

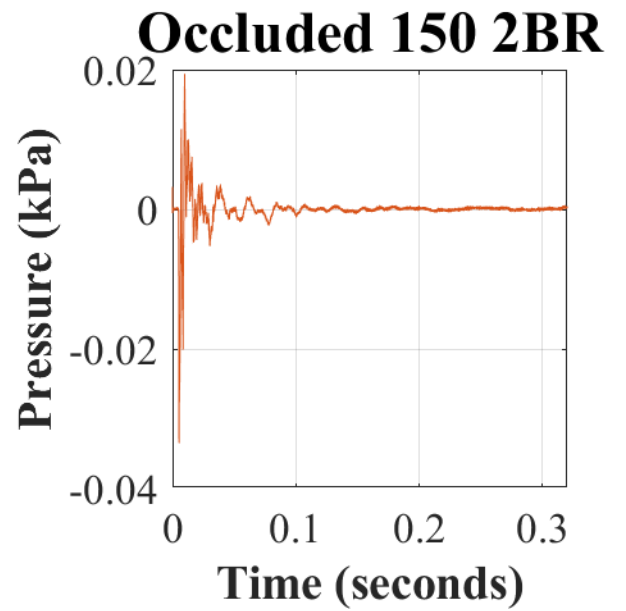
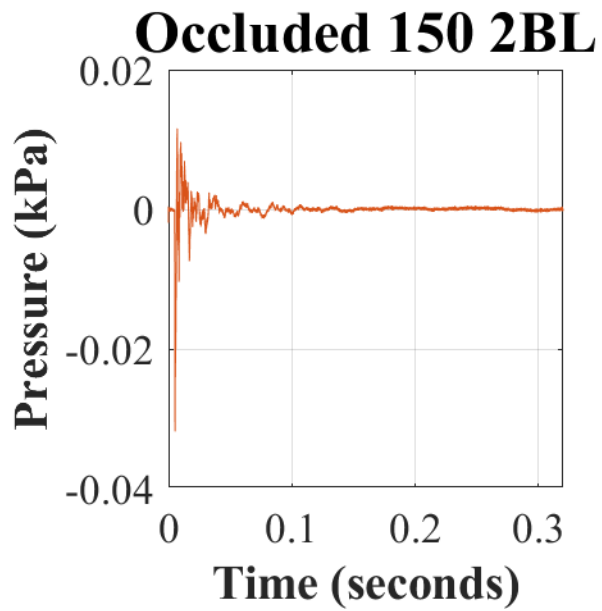
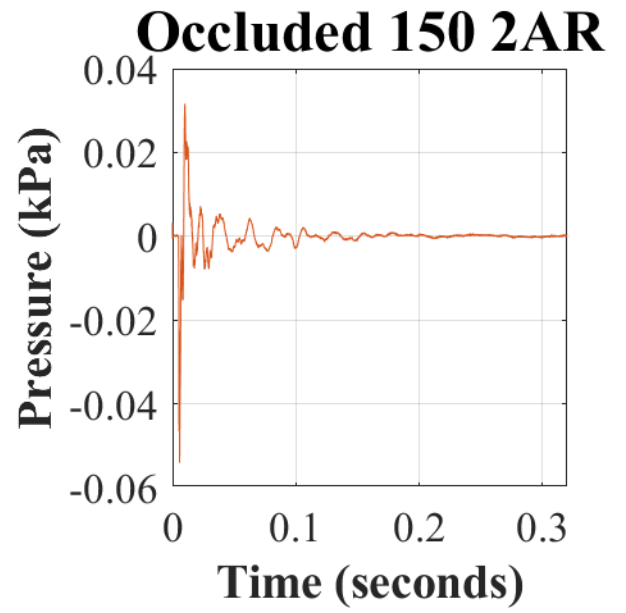
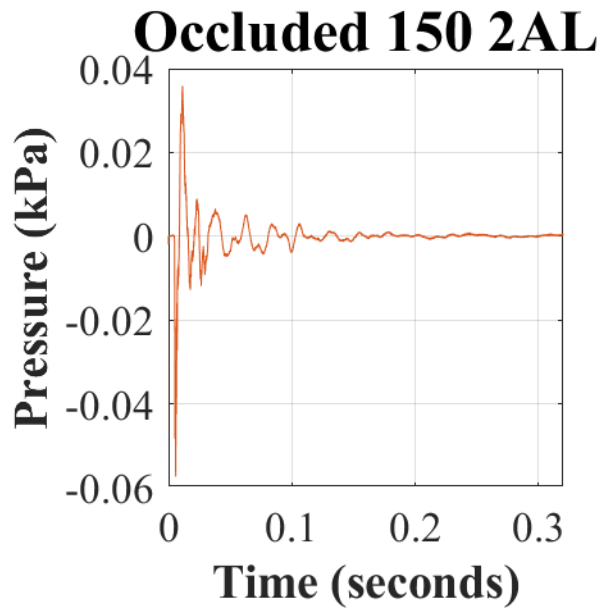


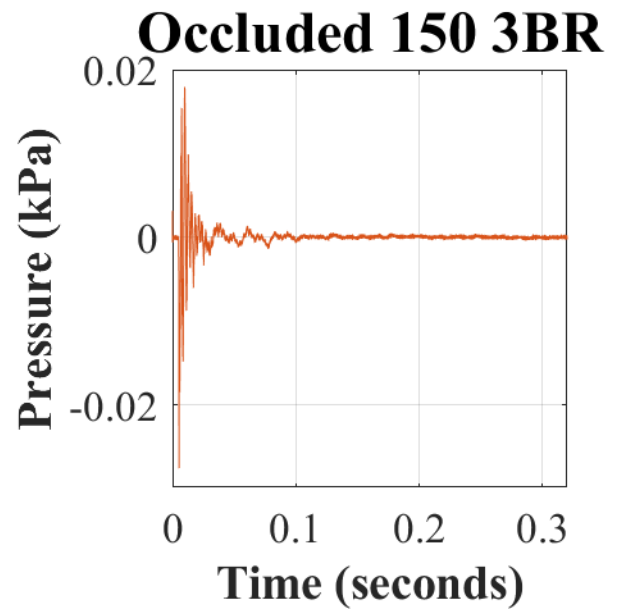
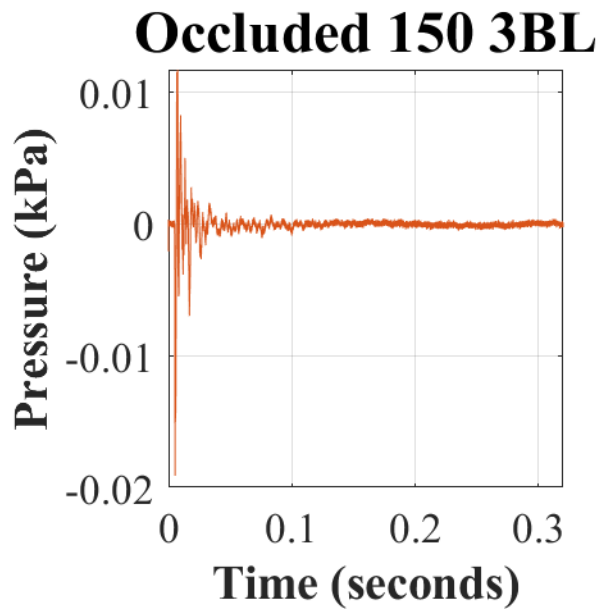
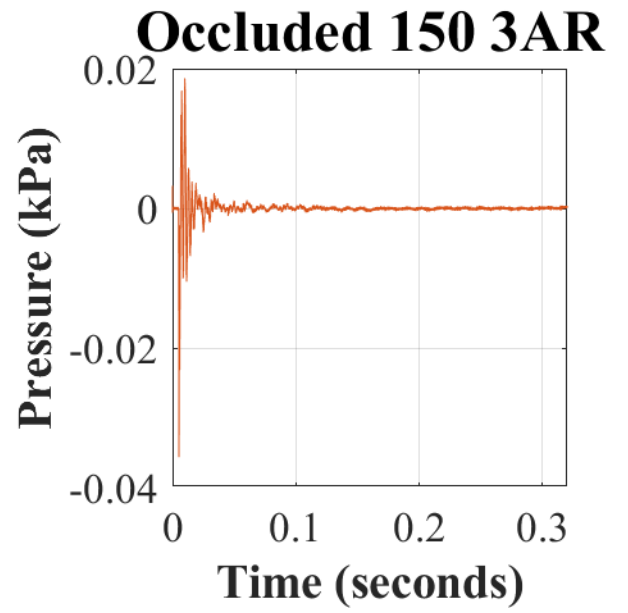
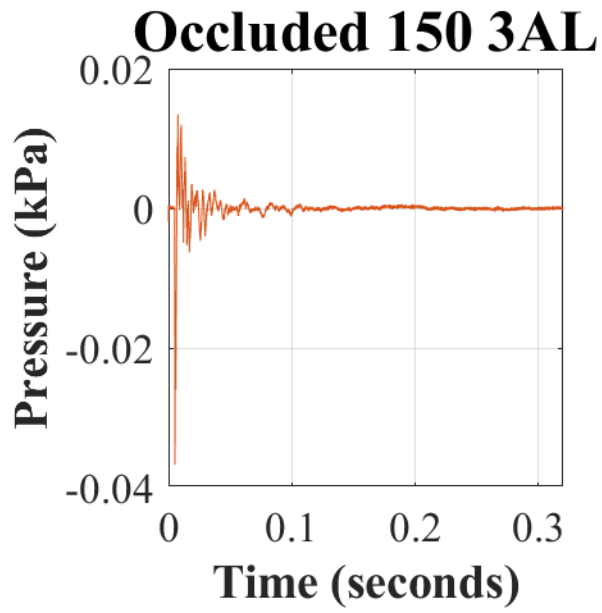


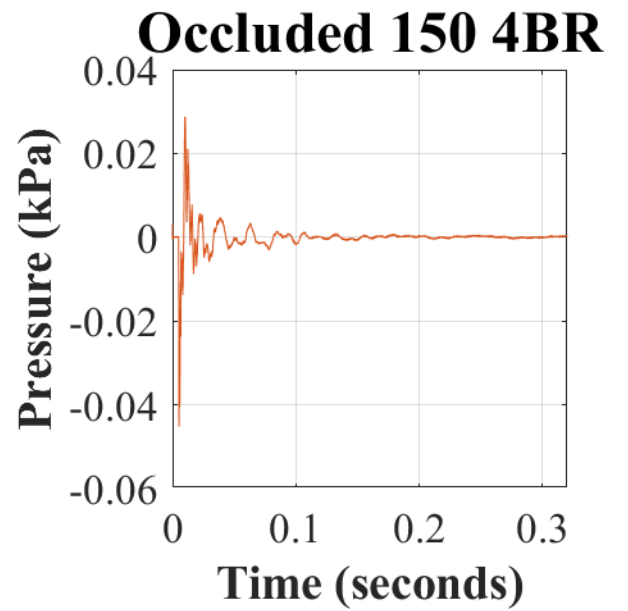
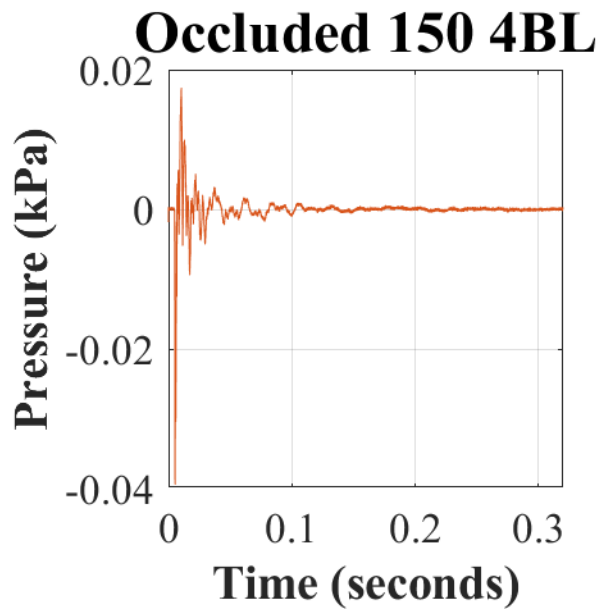
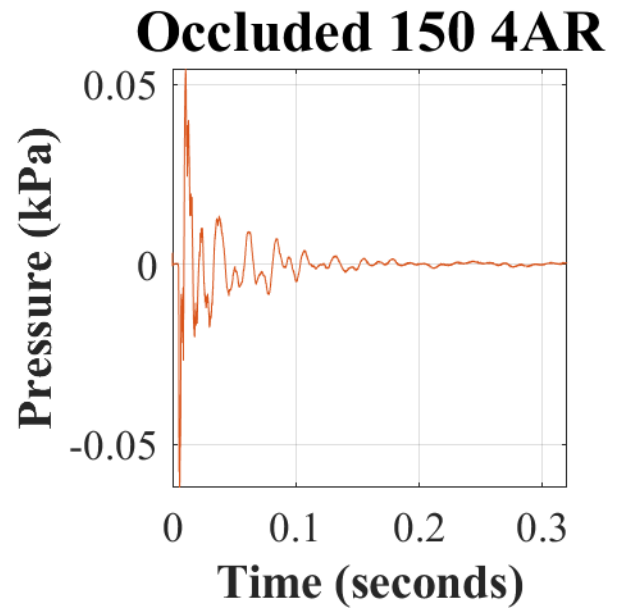
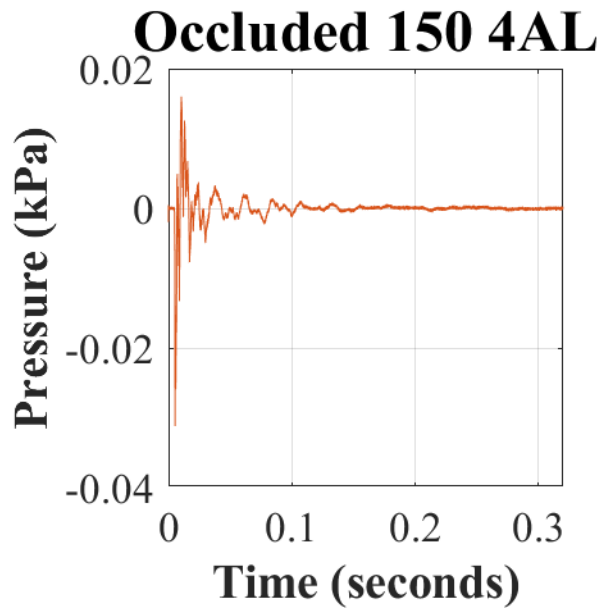
Note. The naming convention for all free-field waveforms is “Free Field LvL Nn”, where ‘Free Field’ indicates that the recording was obtained using the PCB reference microphone, ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (170 dB), ‘N’ is the device sample number (1 to 5), and ‘n’ is the device trial (i.e., A or B).

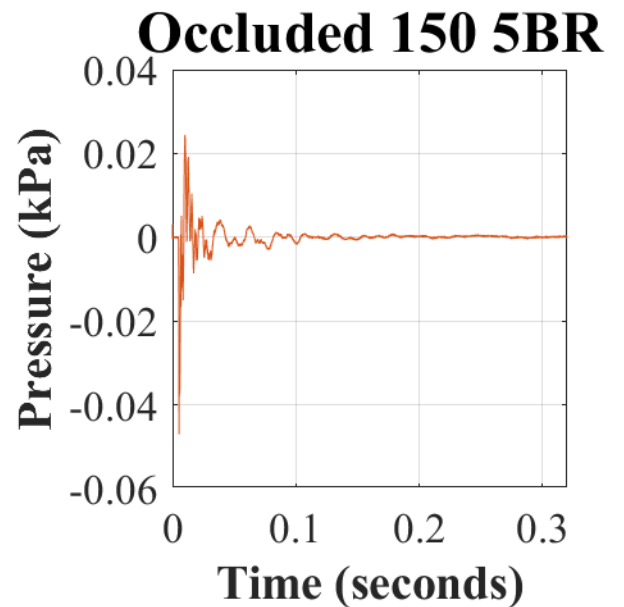
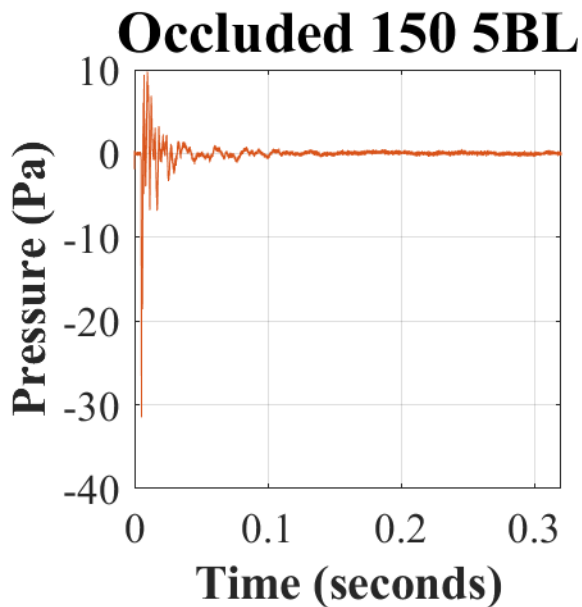
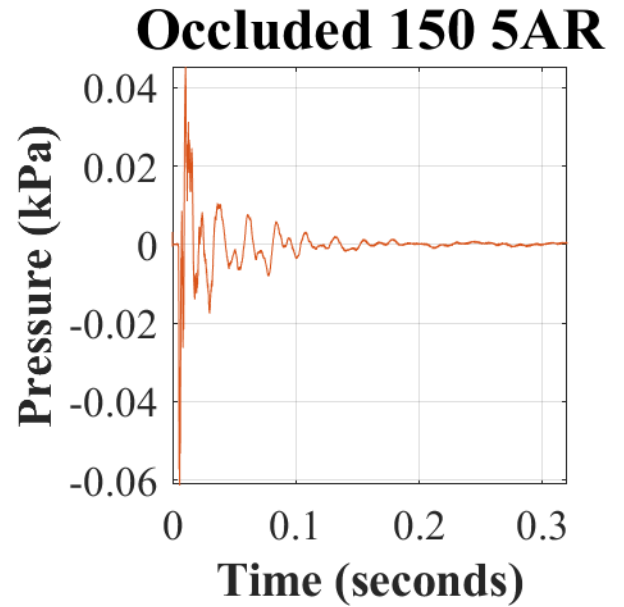
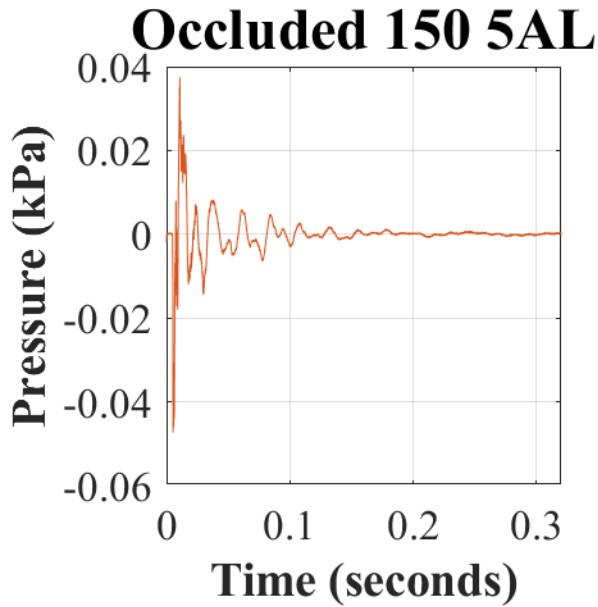
Appendix J. Recorded occluded (closed-ear) waveforms (in pascals [Pa] or kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 150 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the closed mode.





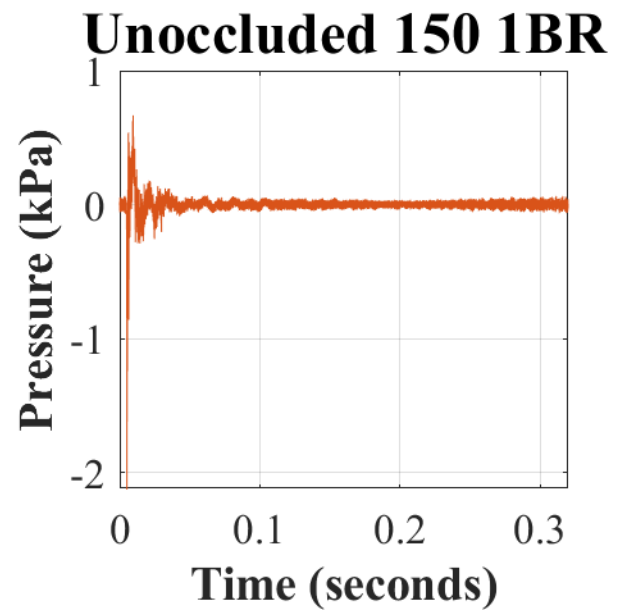
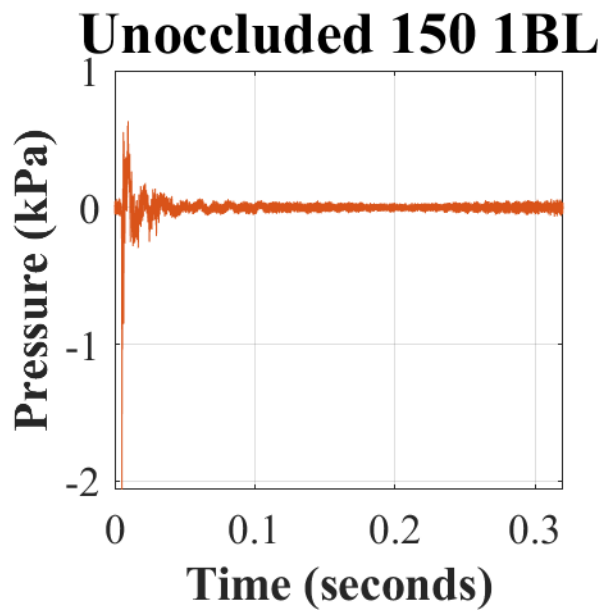
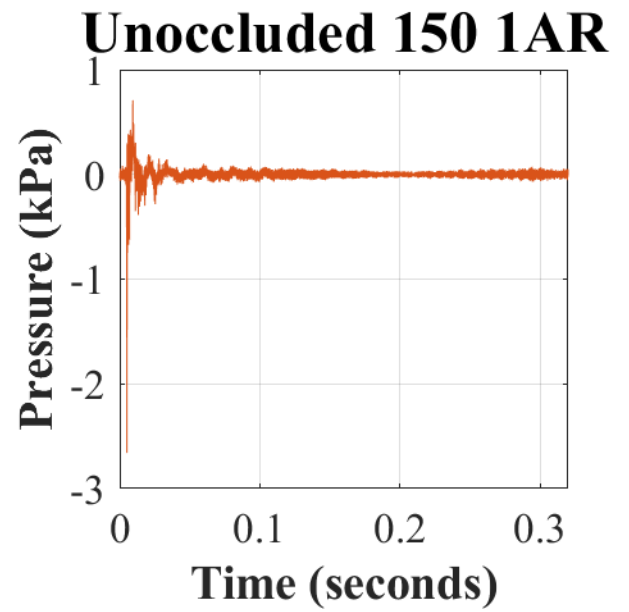
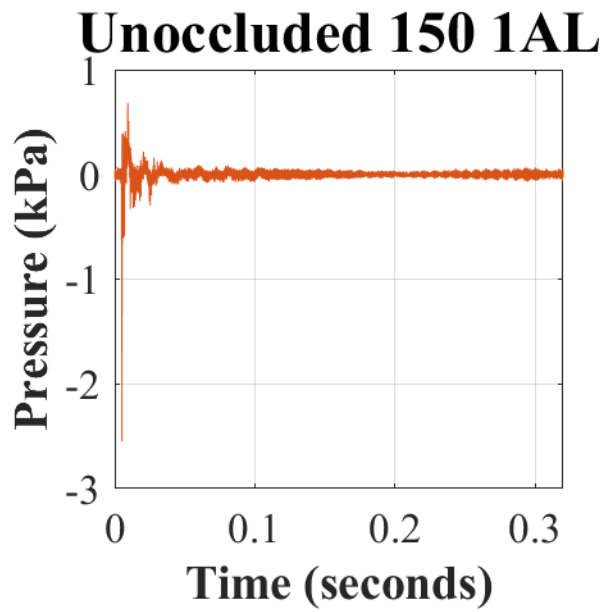


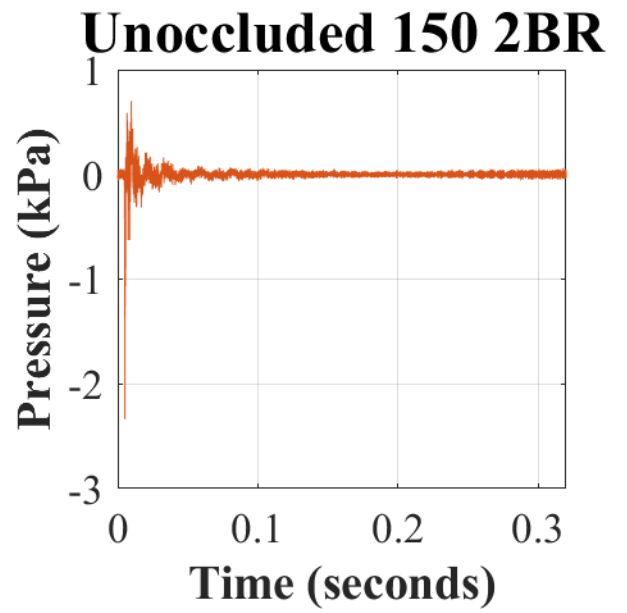
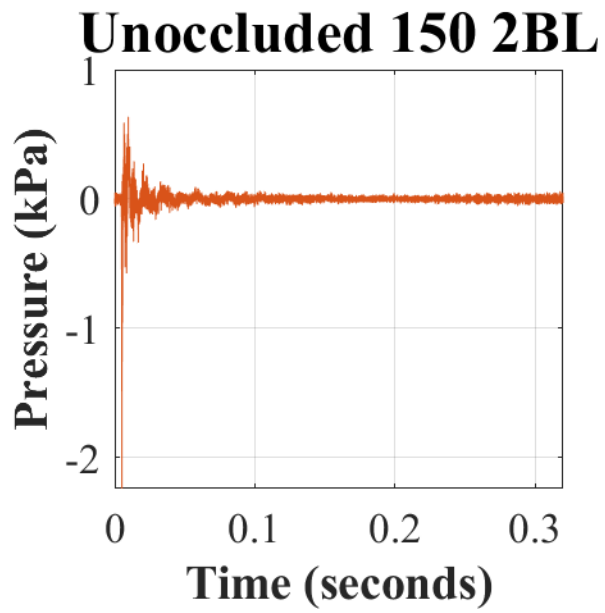
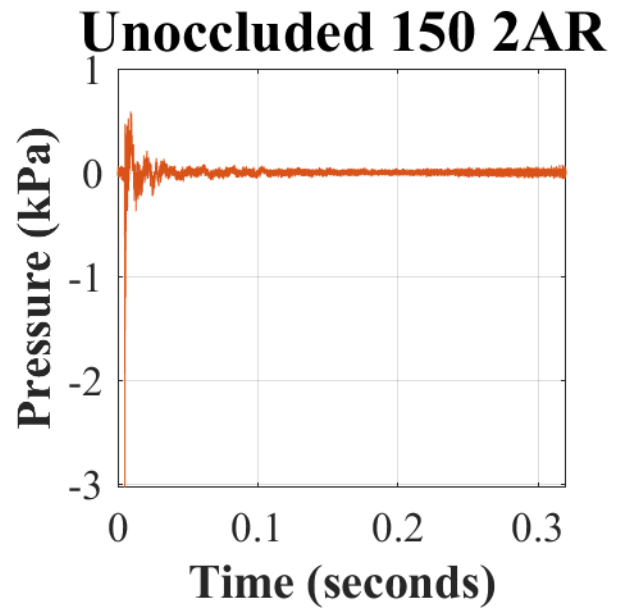
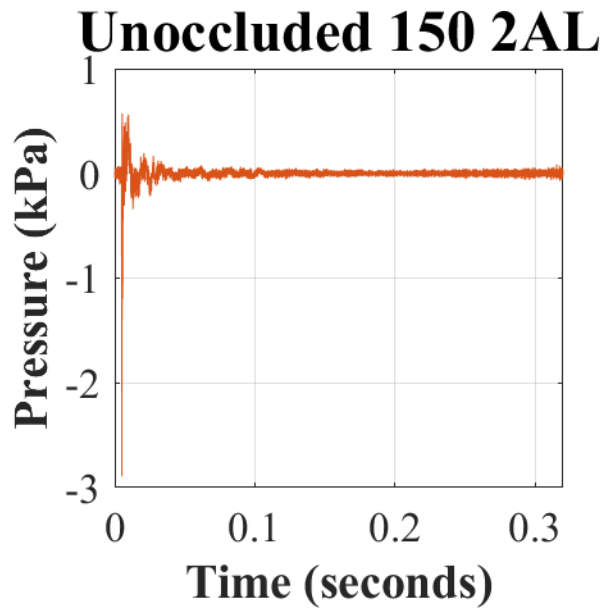


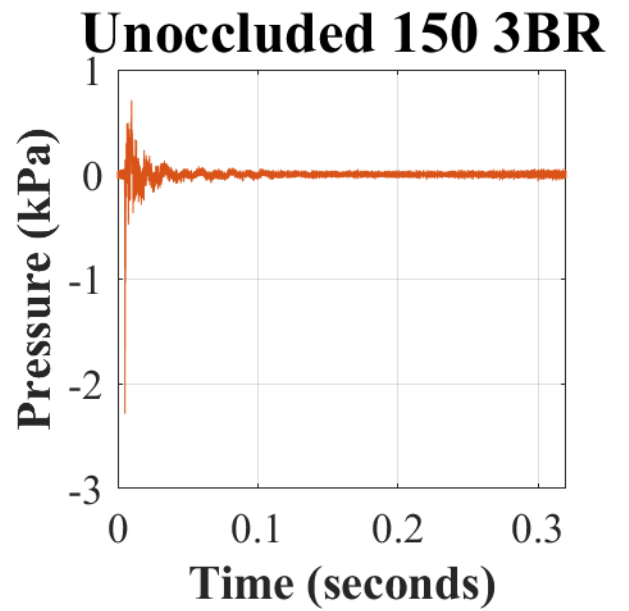
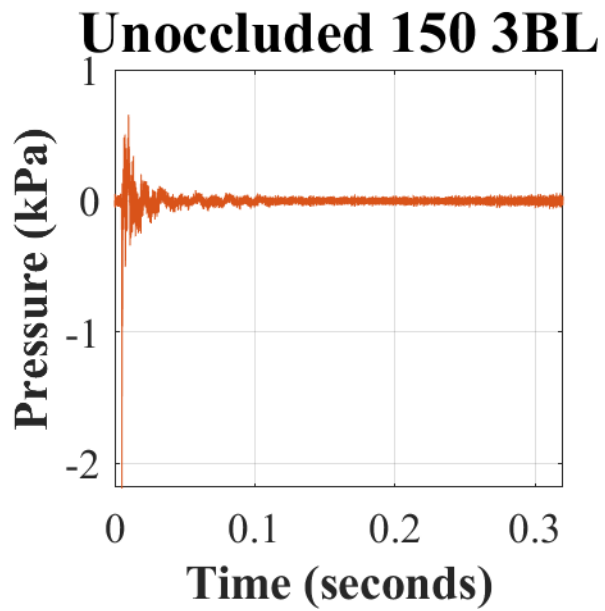
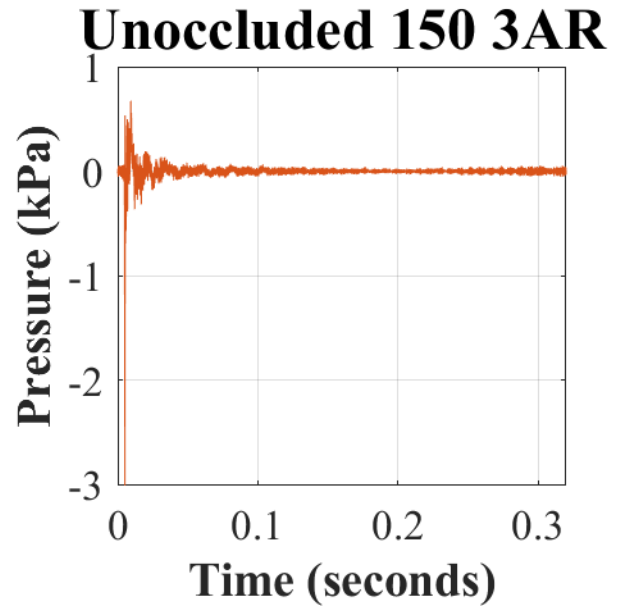
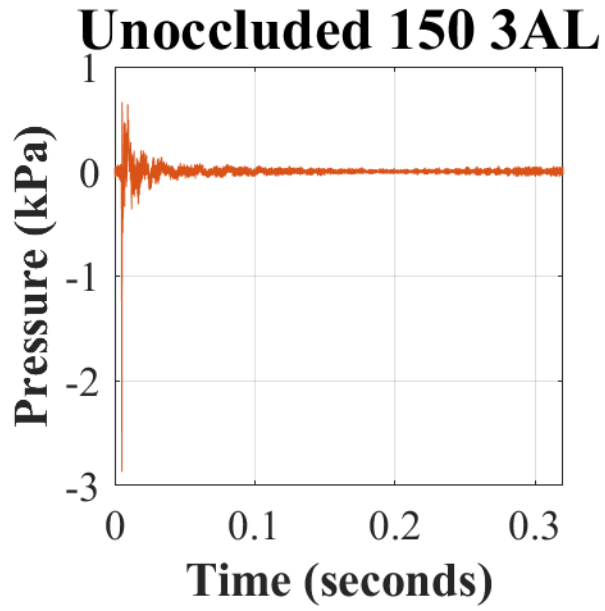


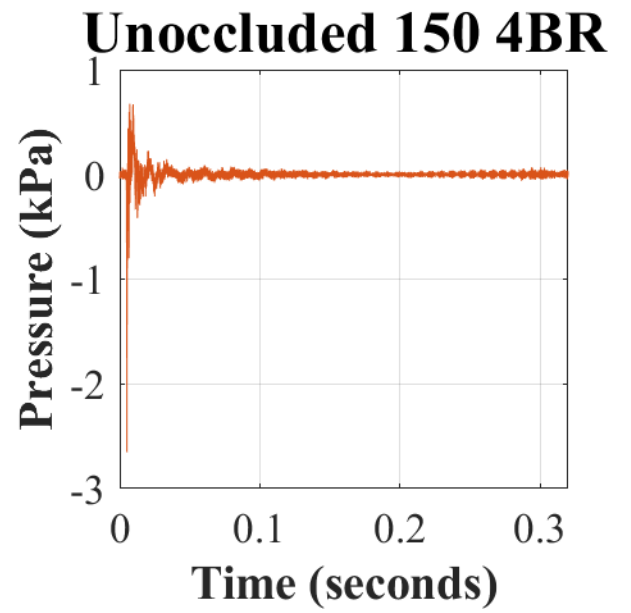
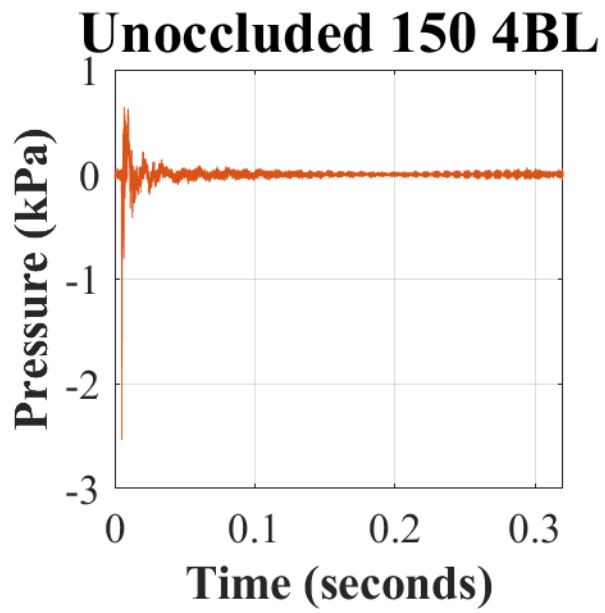
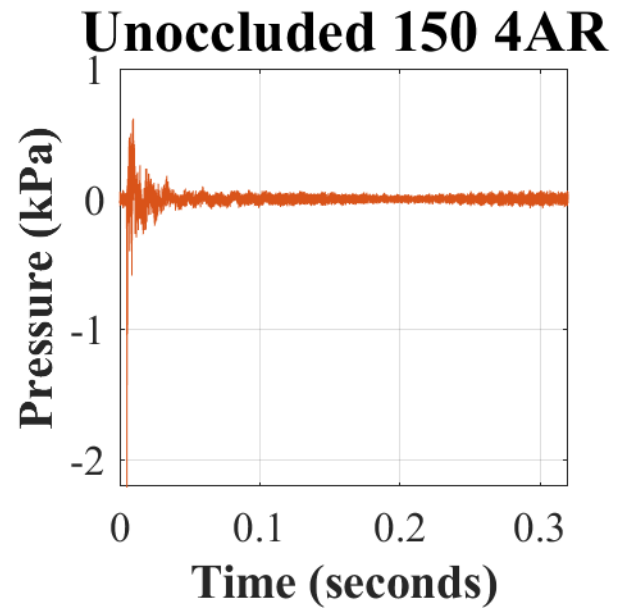
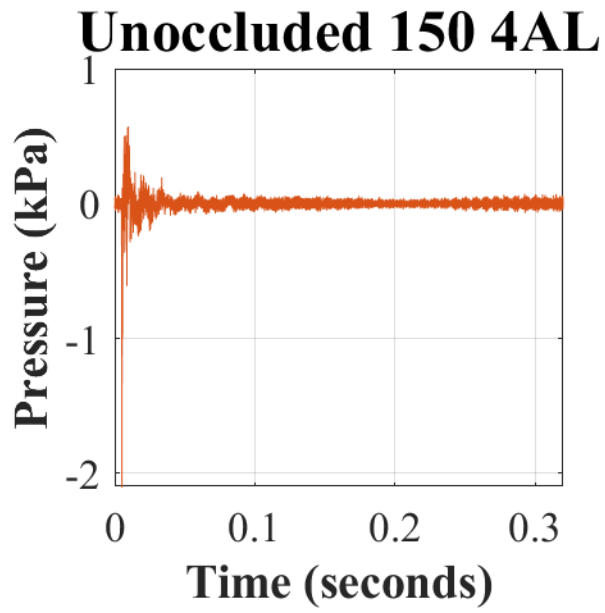
Note. The naming convention for all occluded waveforms is “Occluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Occluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD donned), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dBp), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

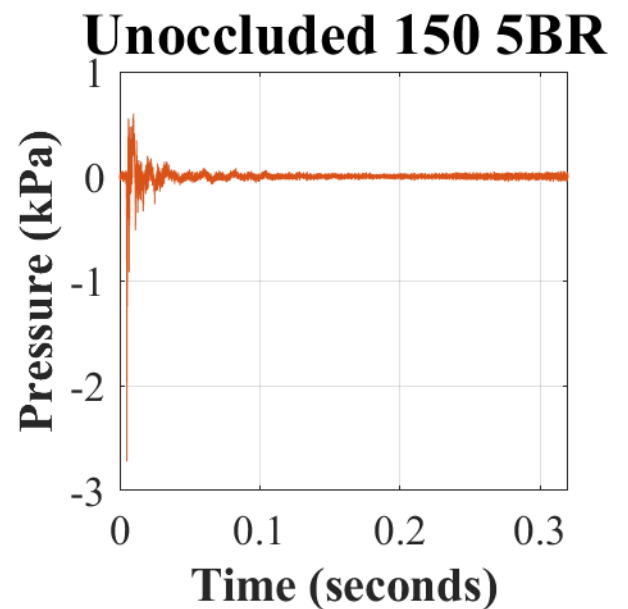
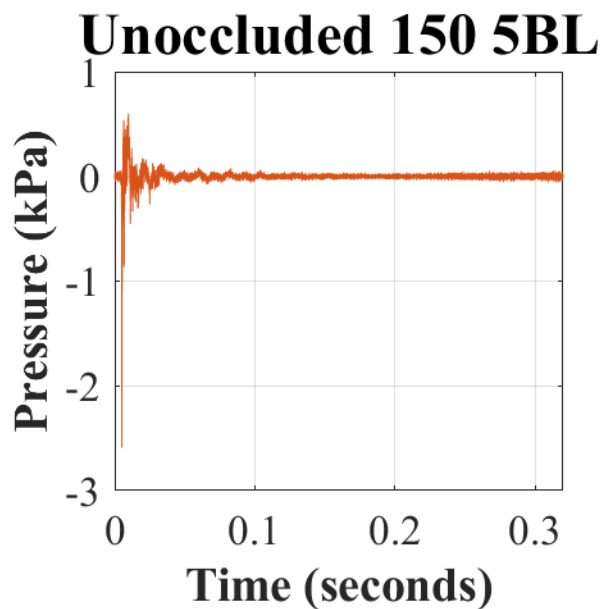
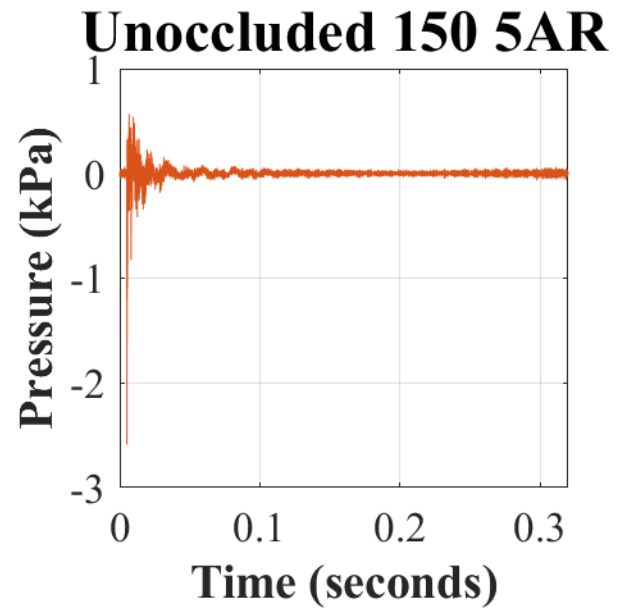
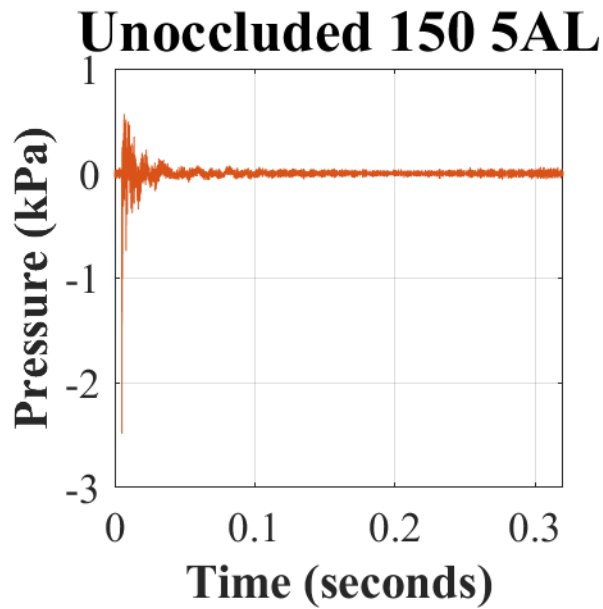
Appendix K. Estimated unoccluded (open-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 150 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the closed mode.





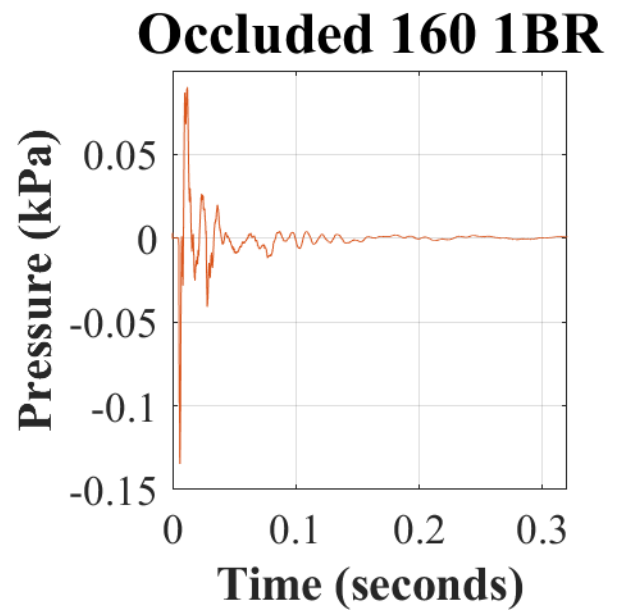
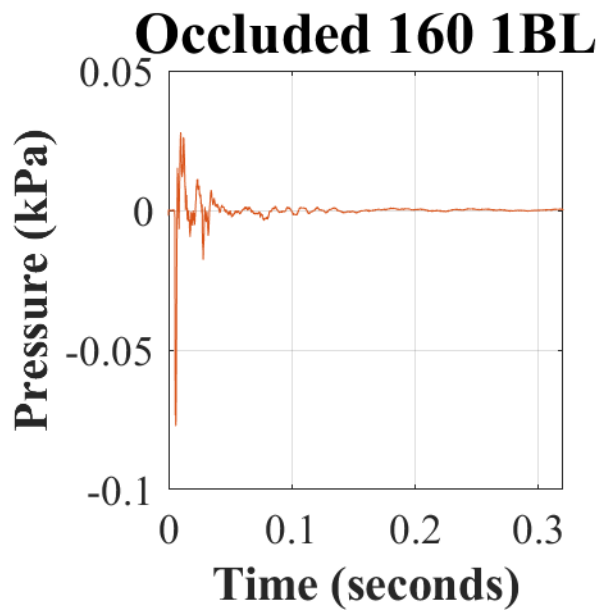
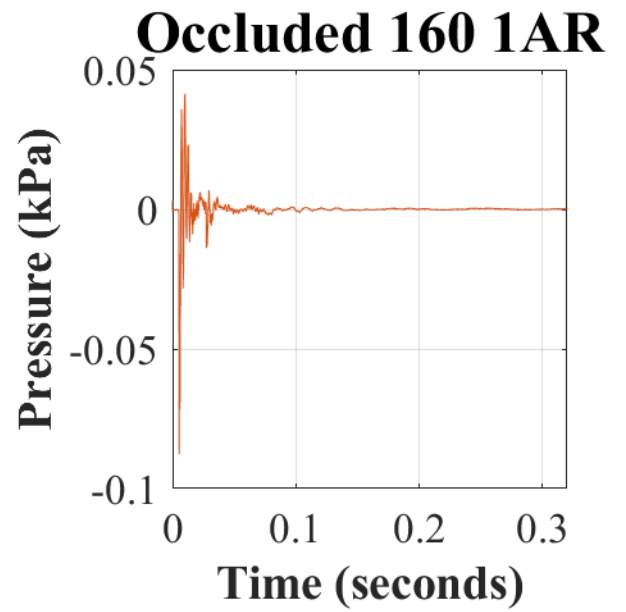
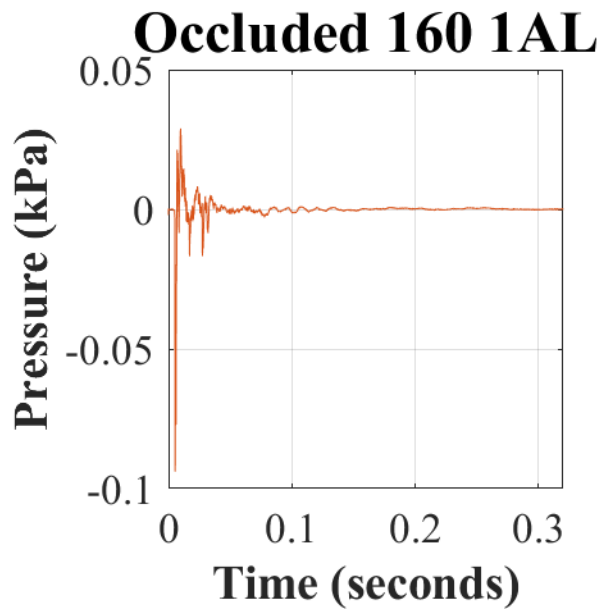




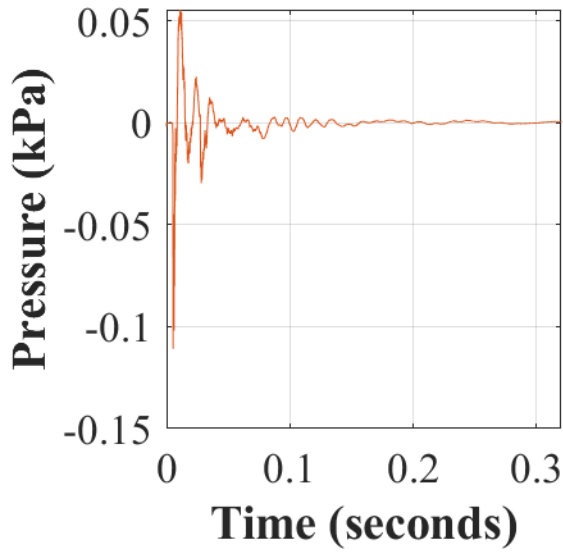


Note. The naming convention for all unoccluded waveforms is “Unoccluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Unoccluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD doffed), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dB), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

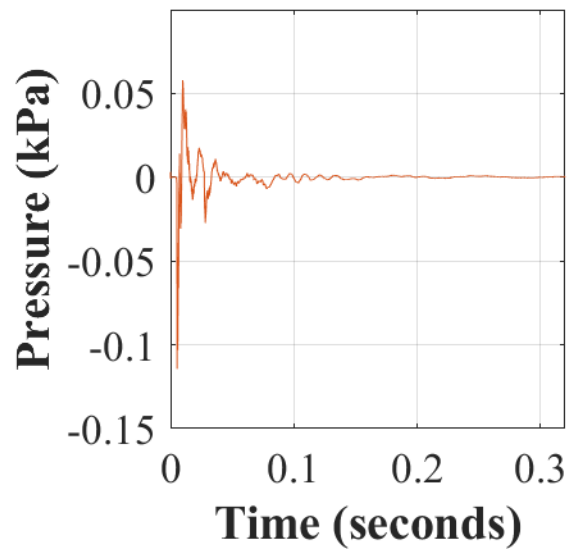
Appendix L. Recorded occluded (closed-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 160 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the closed mode.



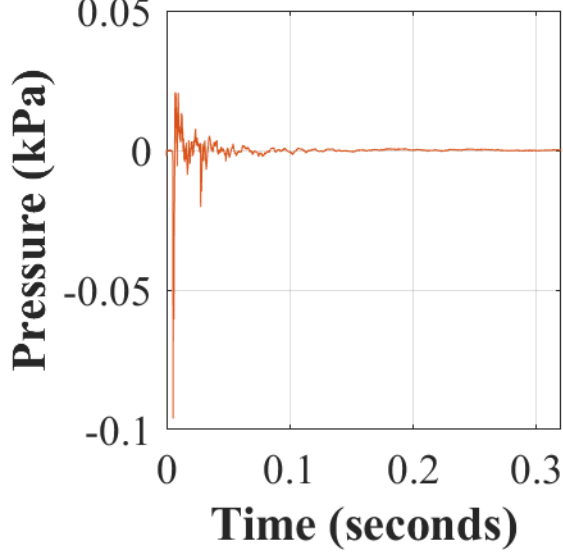
Occluded 160 2AL



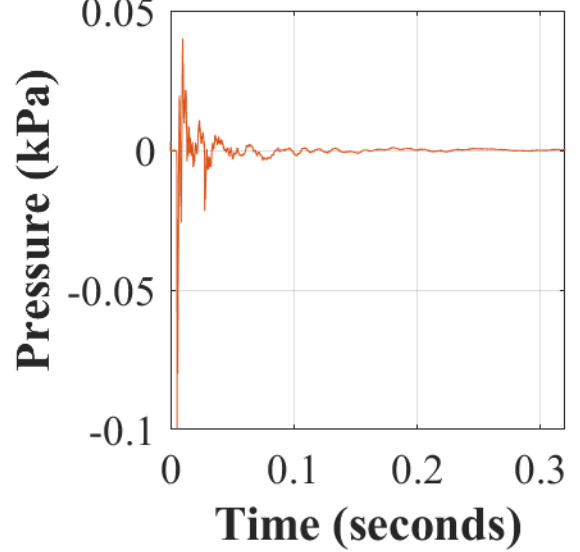
Occluded 160 2AR



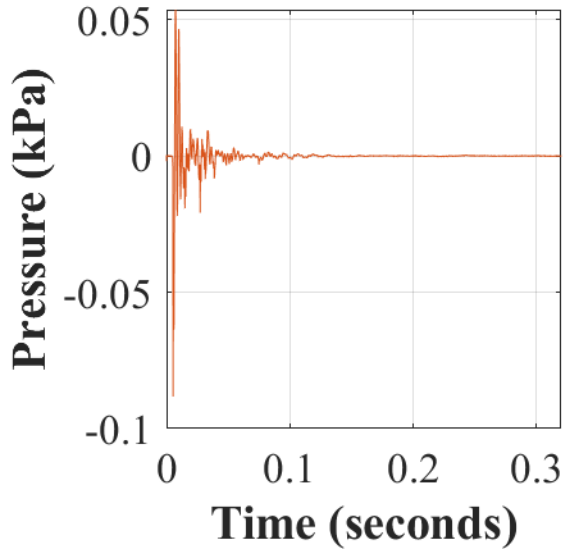
Occluded 160 2BL



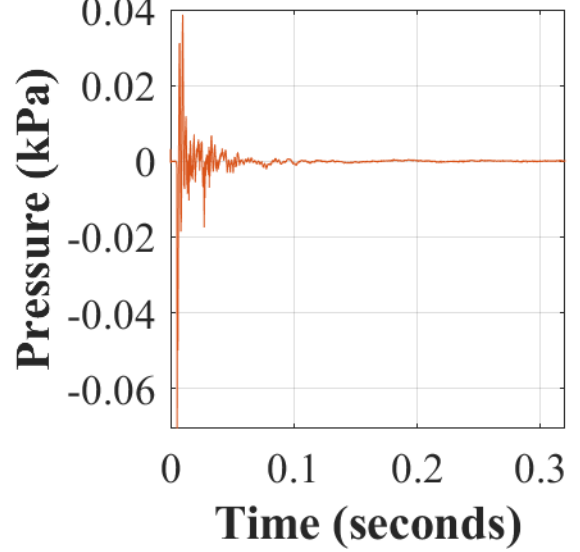
Occluded 160 2BR



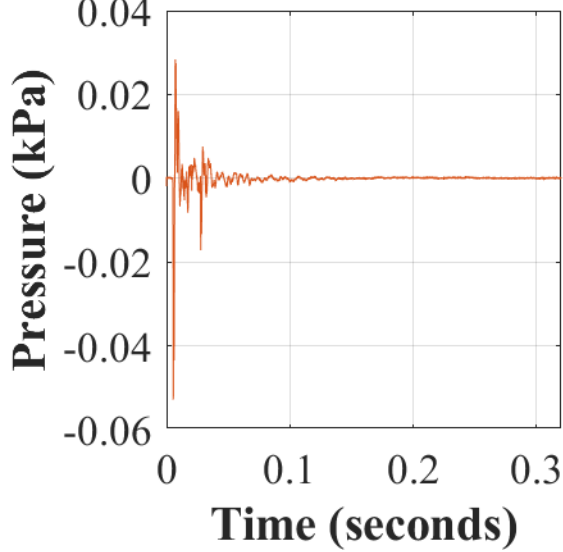
Occluded 160 3AL



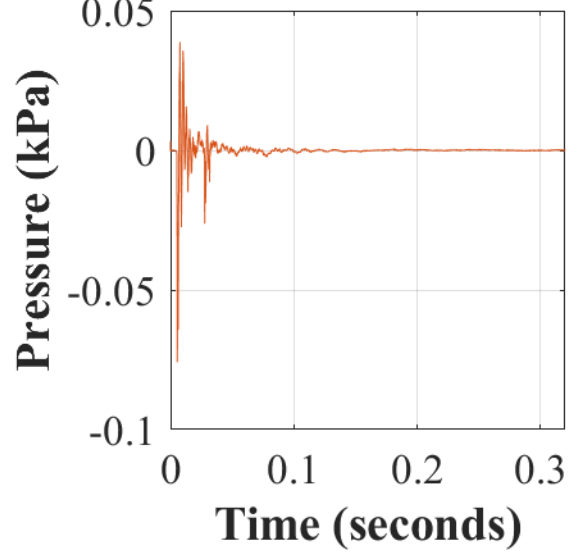
Occluded 160 3AR

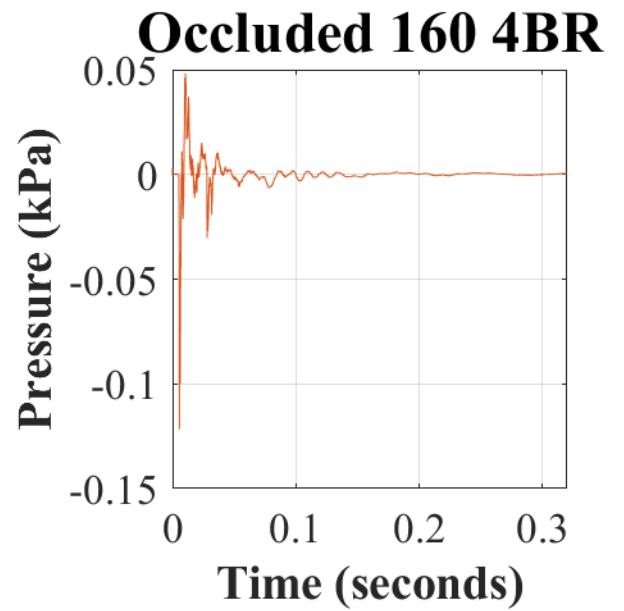
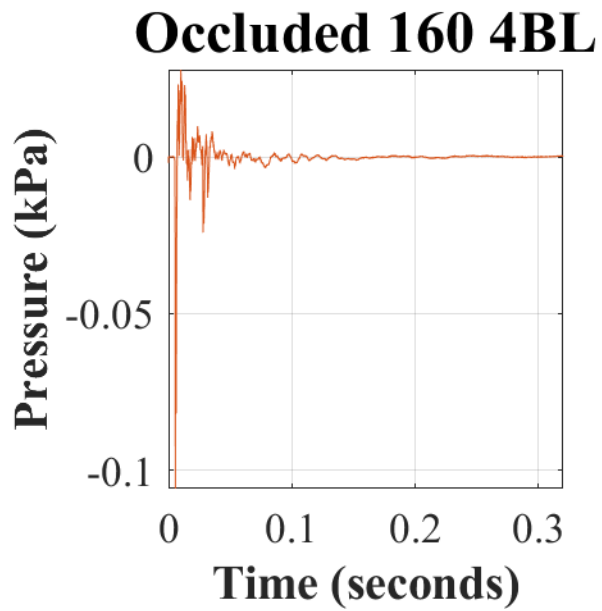
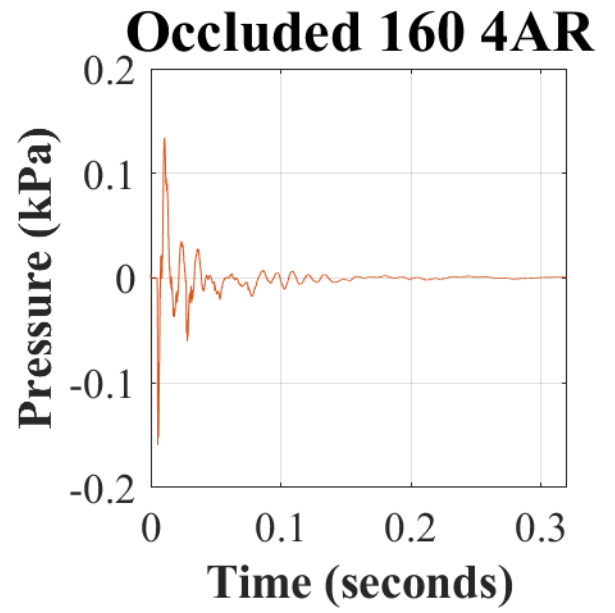
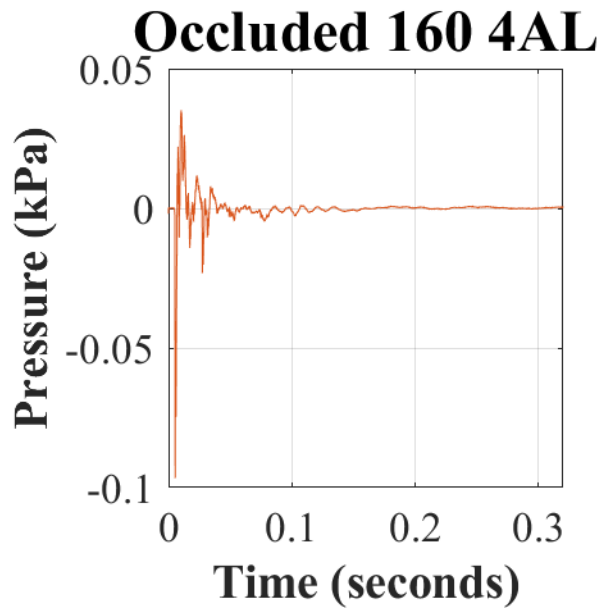


Occluded 160 3BL

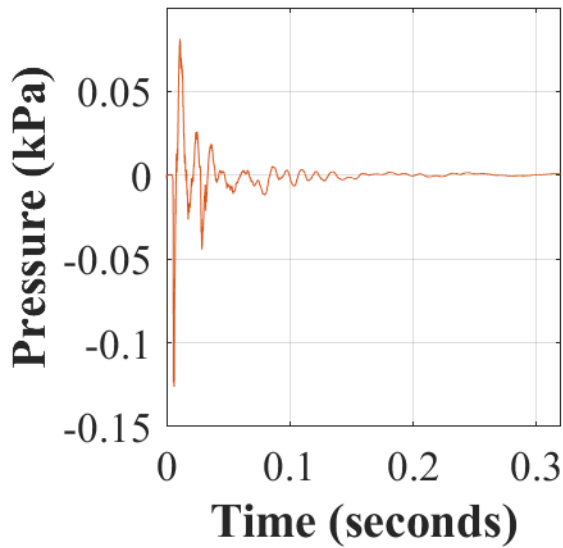


Occluded 160 3BR

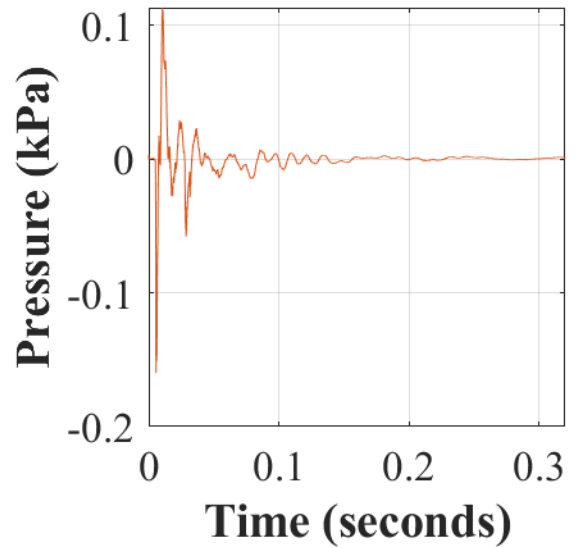




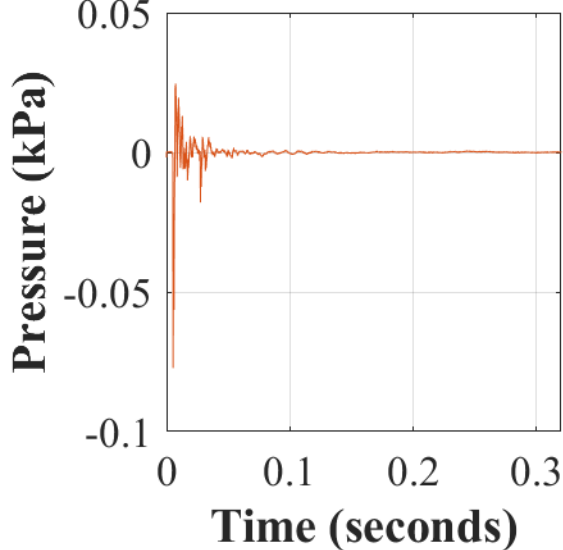
Occluded 160 5AL



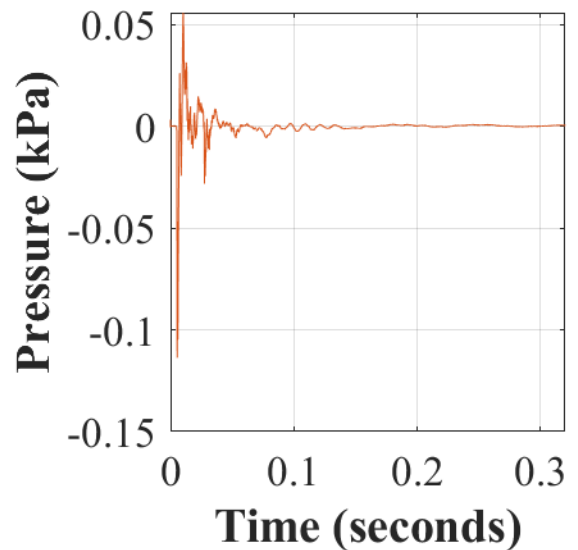
Occluded 160 5AR



Occluded 160 5BL

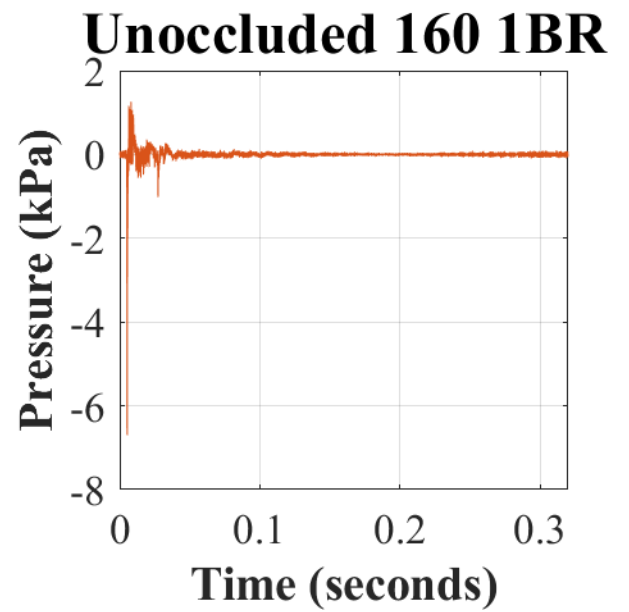
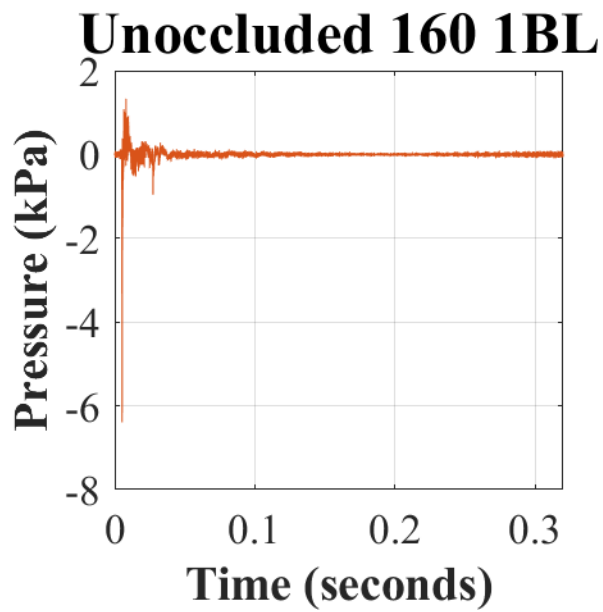
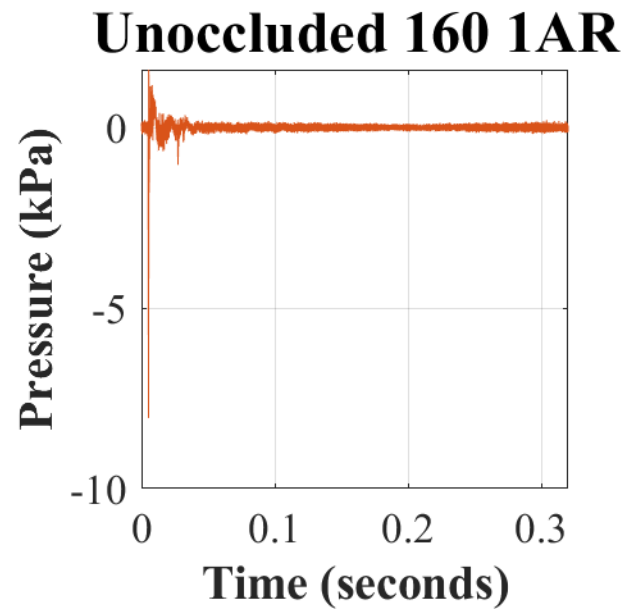
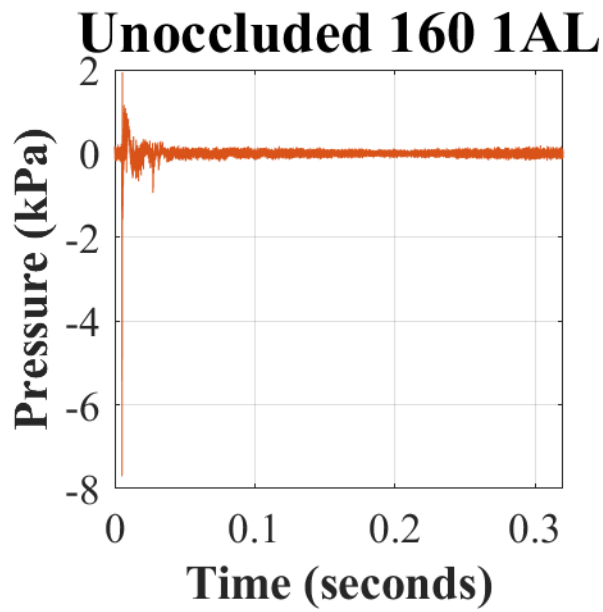


Occluded 160 5BR

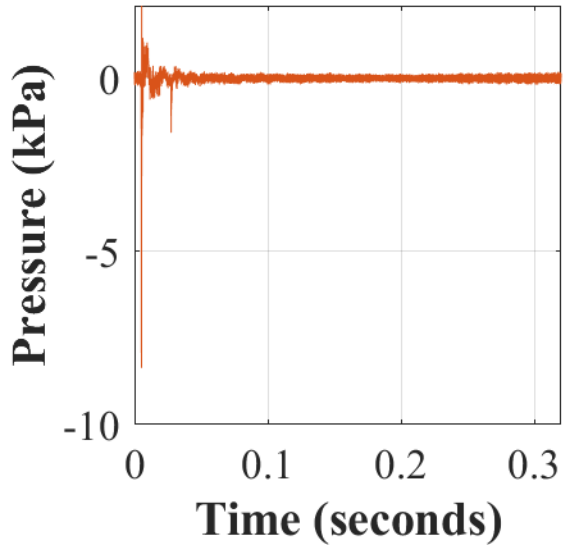


Note. The naming convention for all occluded waveforms is “Occluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Occluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD donned), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dBp), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

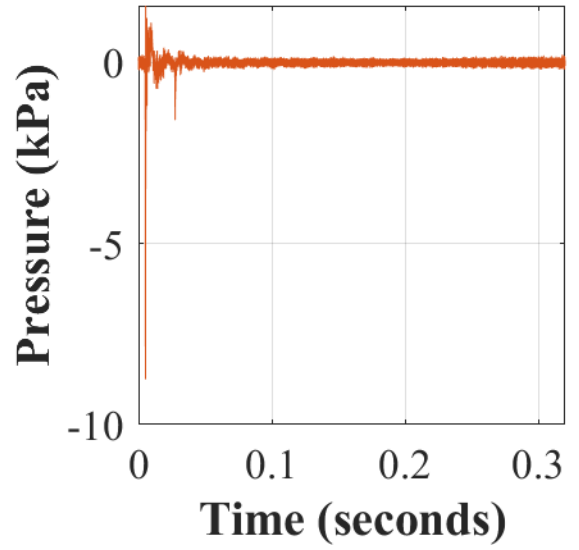
Appendix M. Estimated unoccluded (open-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 160 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the closed mode.



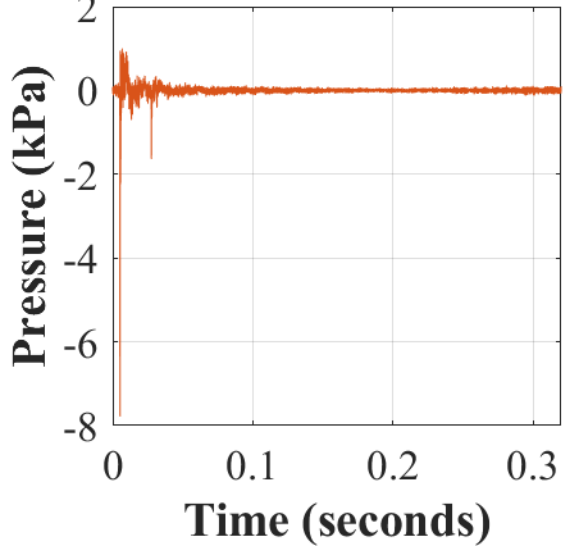
Unoccluded 160 2AL



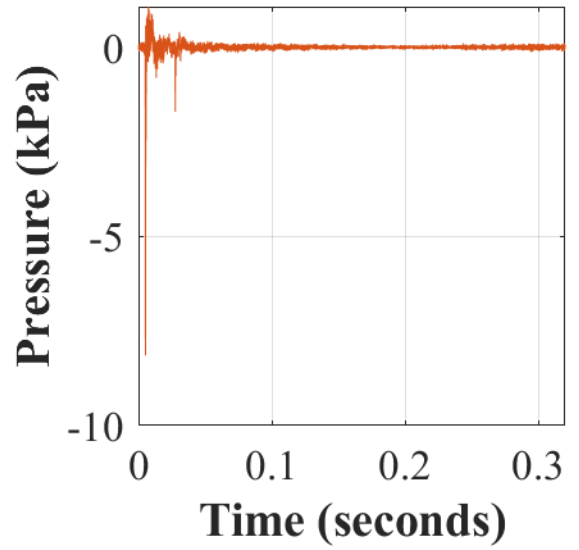
Unoccluded 160 2AR

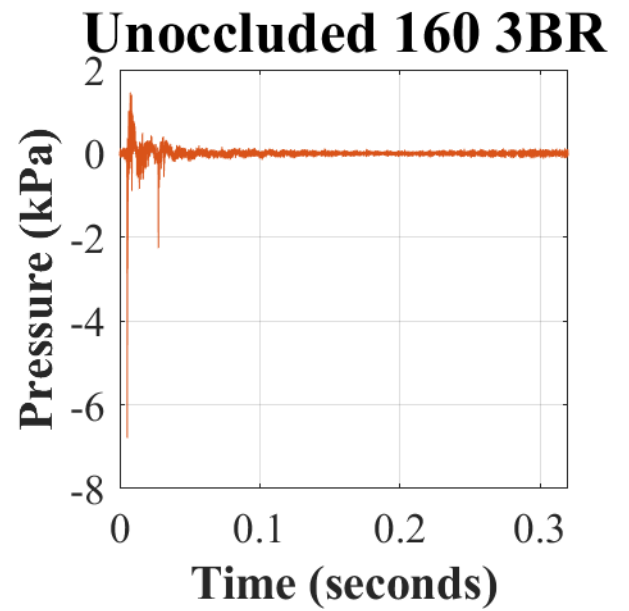
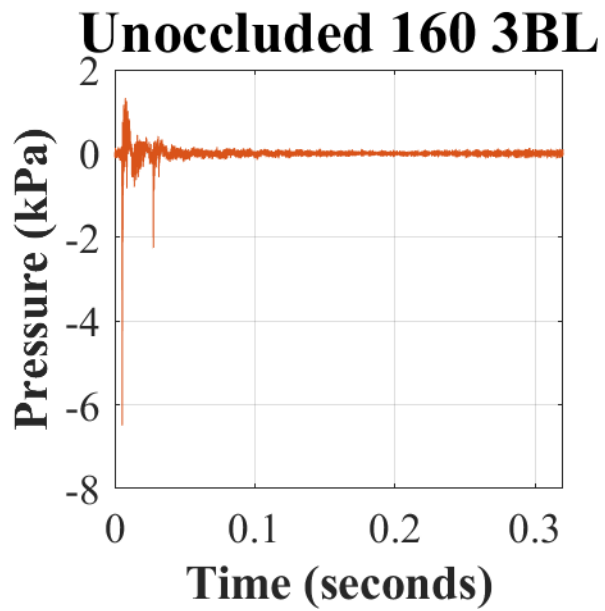
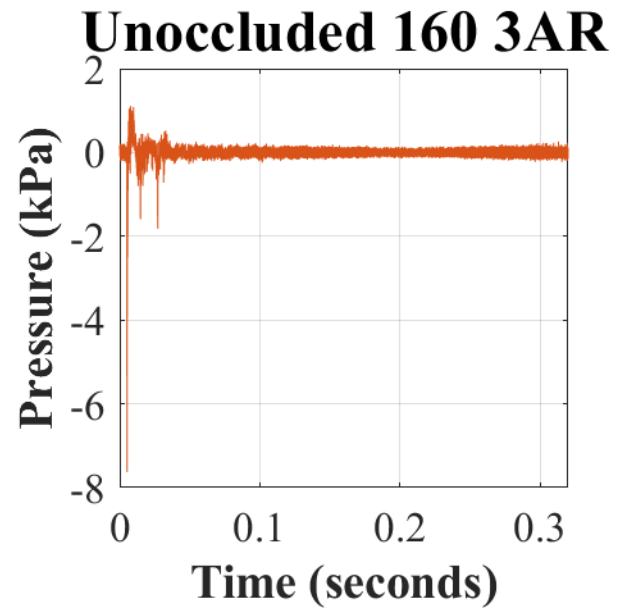
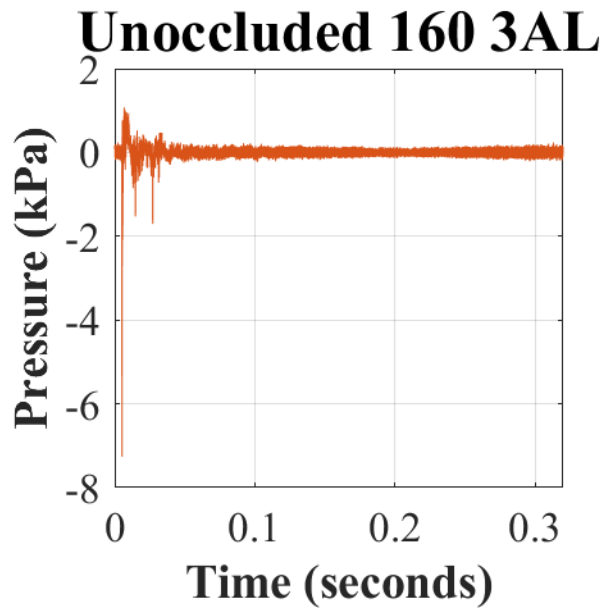


Unoccluded 160 2BL

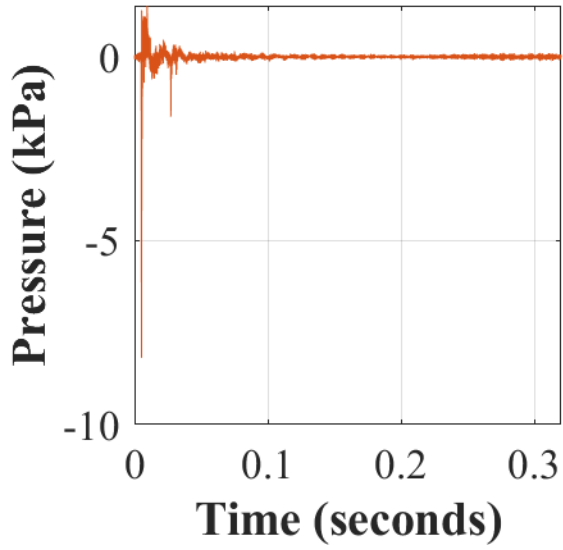


Unoccluded 160 2BR

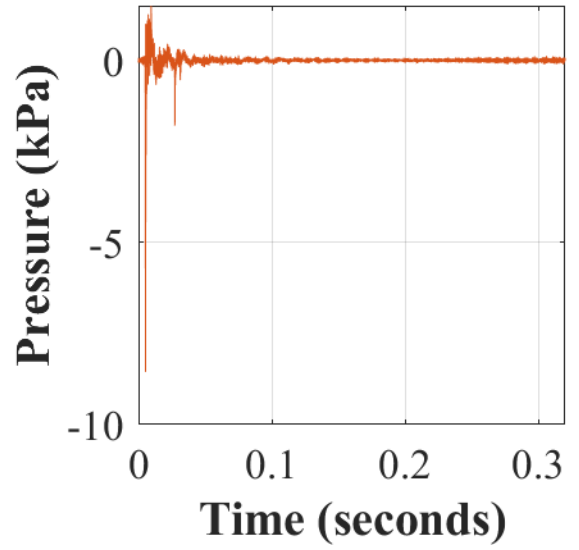




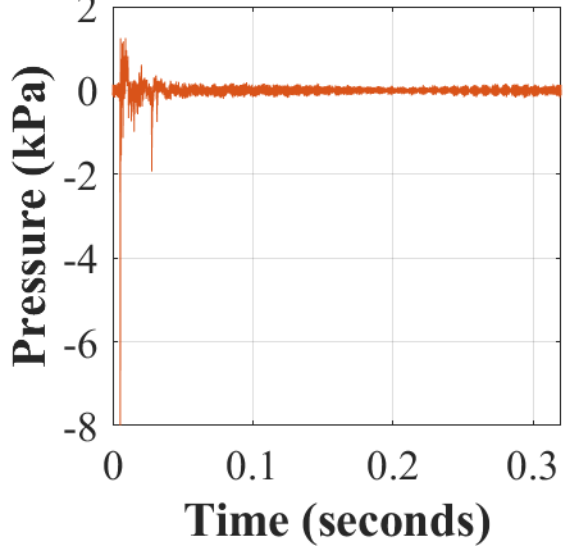
Unoccluded 160 4AL



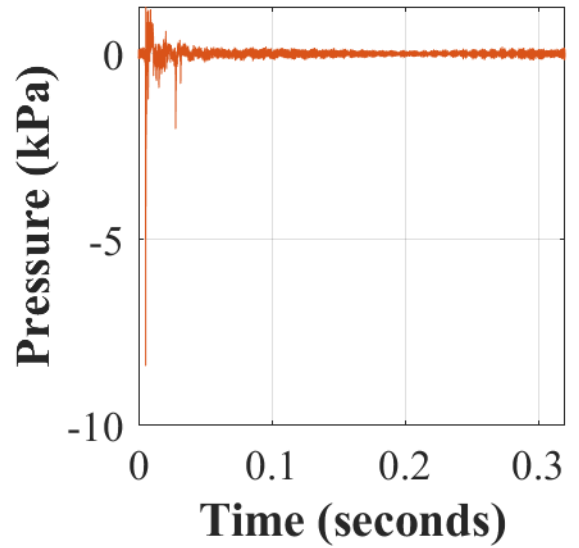
Unoccluded 160 4AR

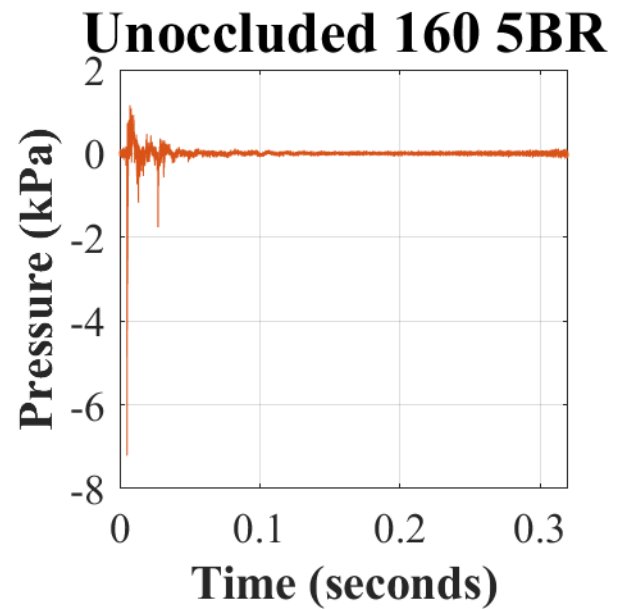
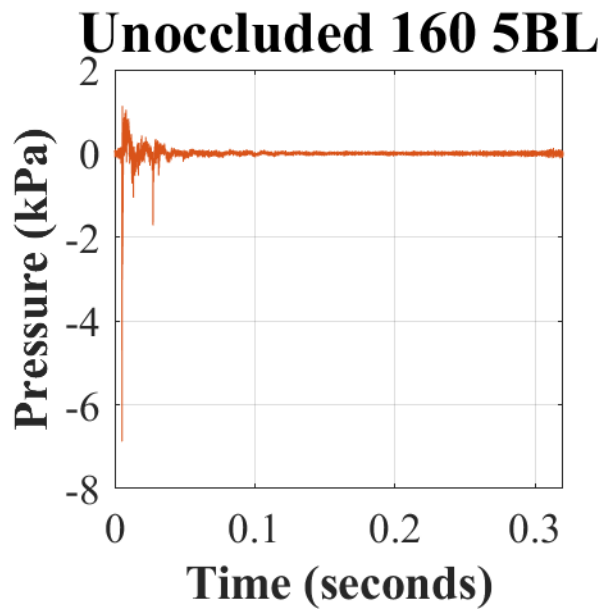
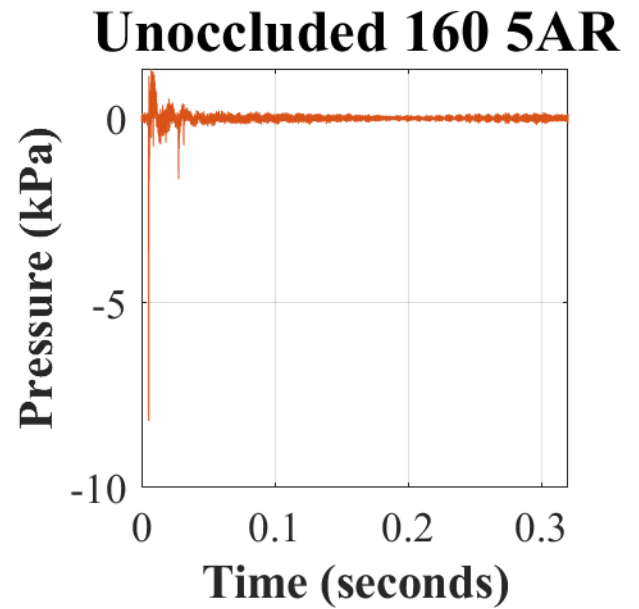
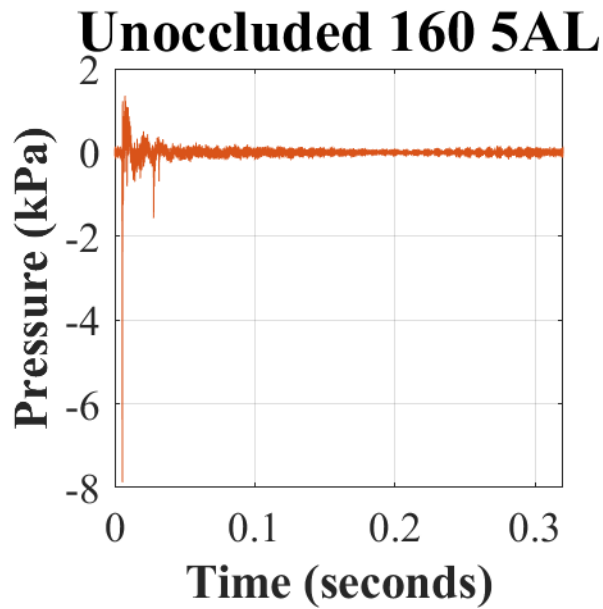


Unoccluded 160 4BL



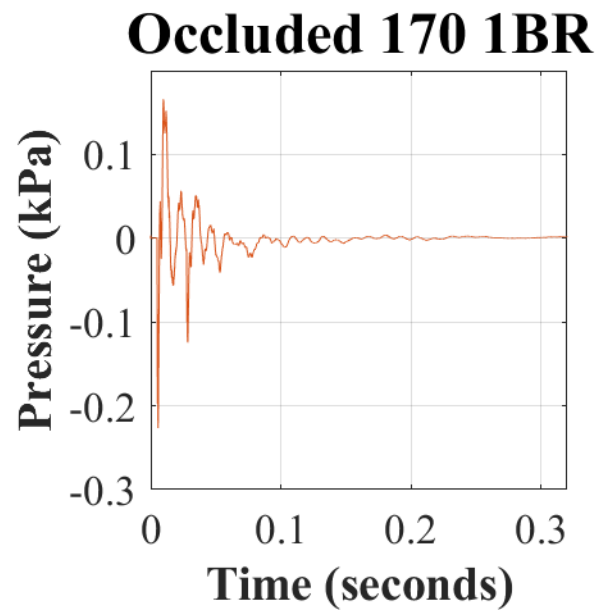
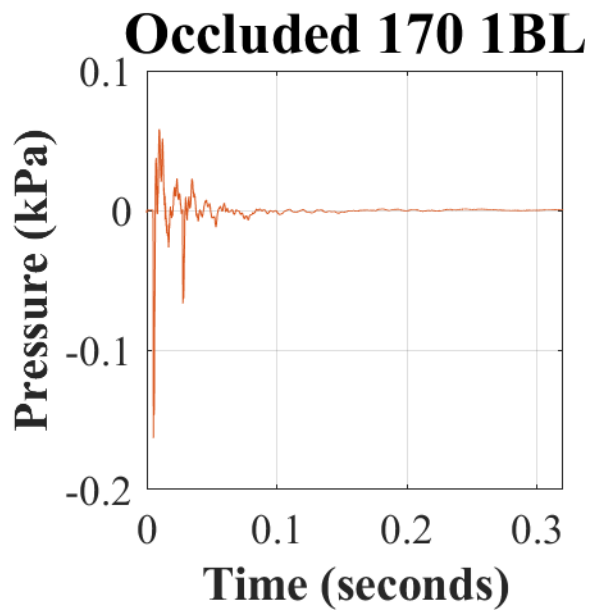
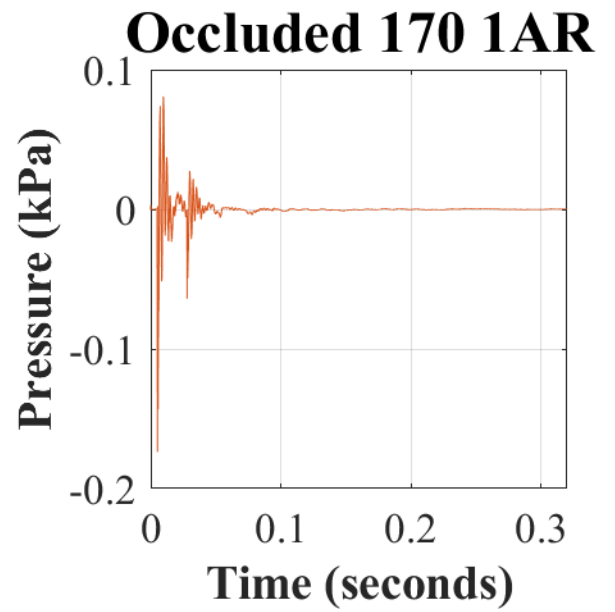
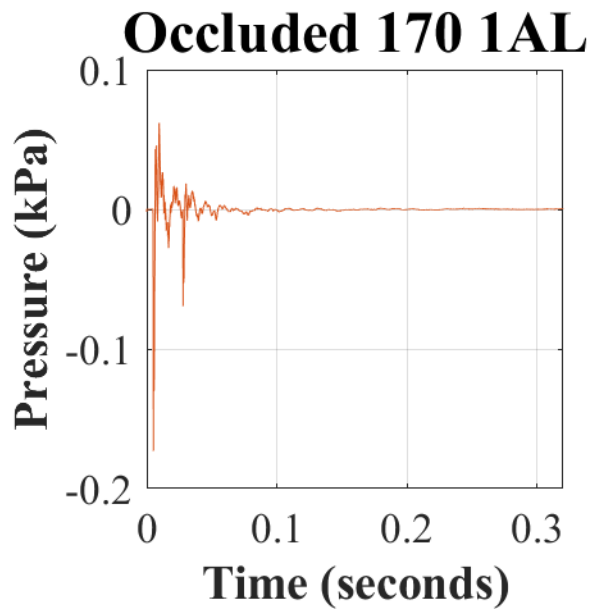
Unoccluded 160 4BR

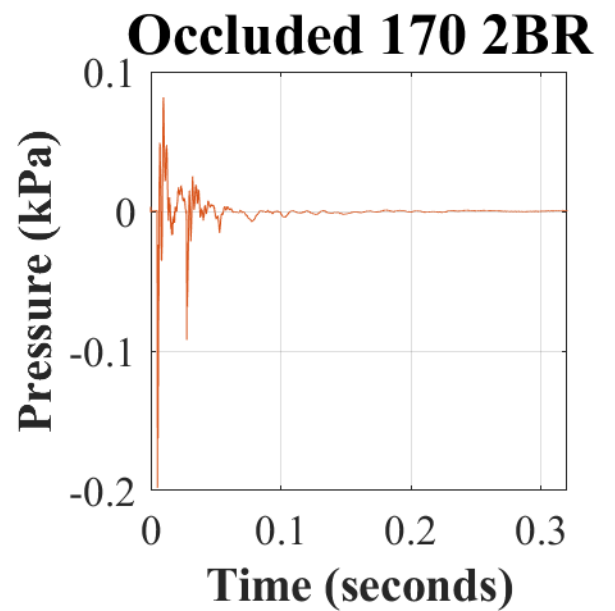
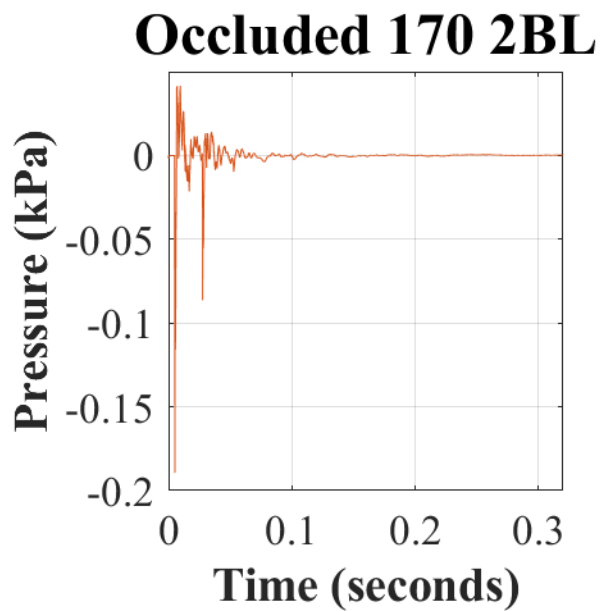
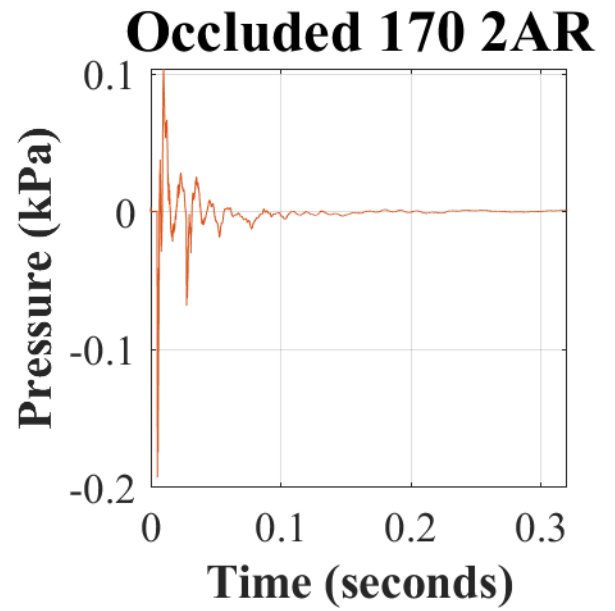
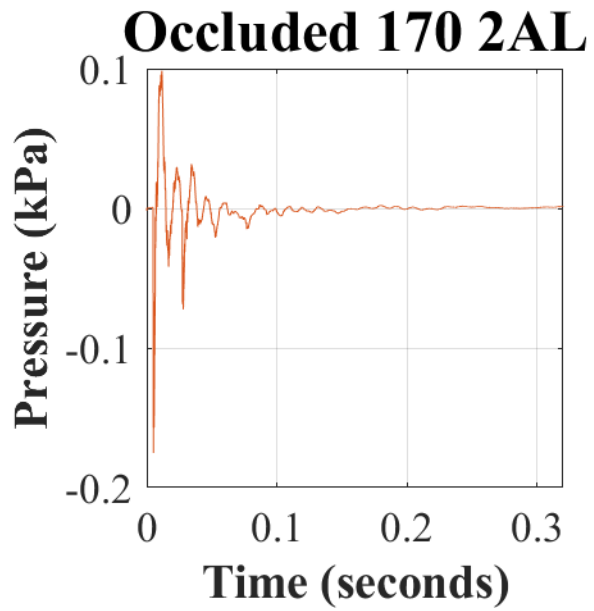


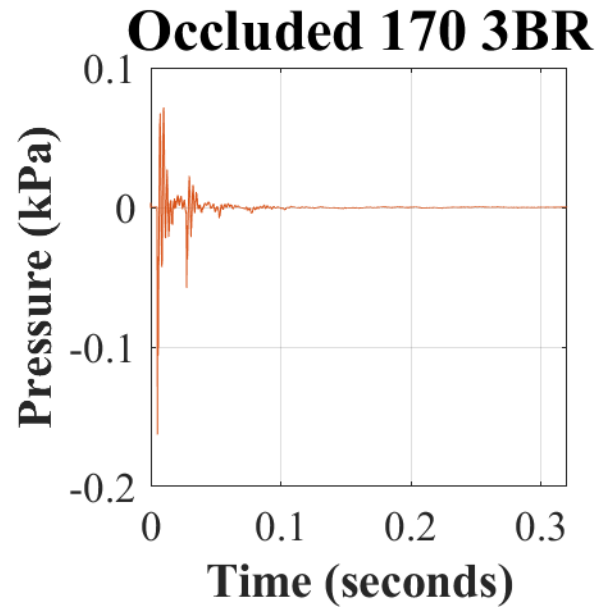
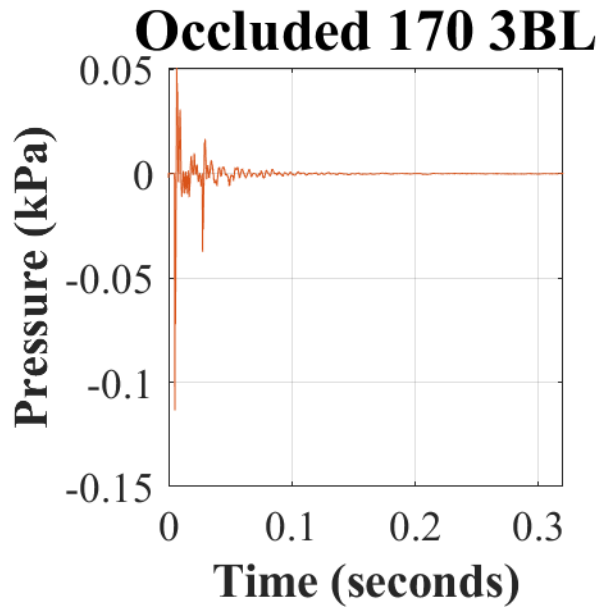
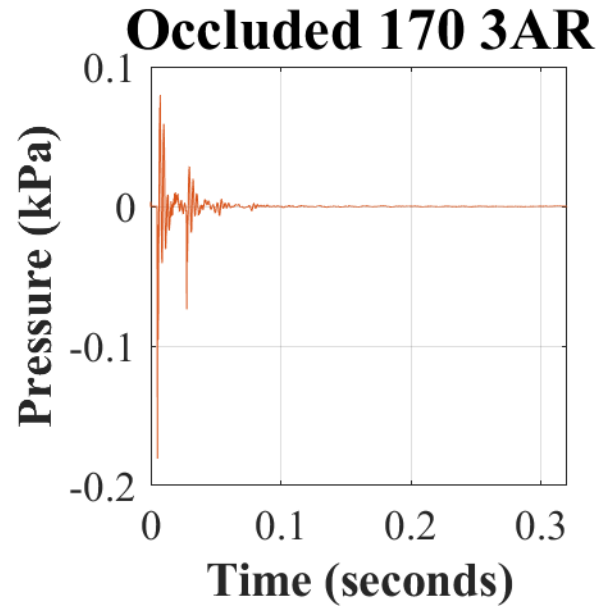
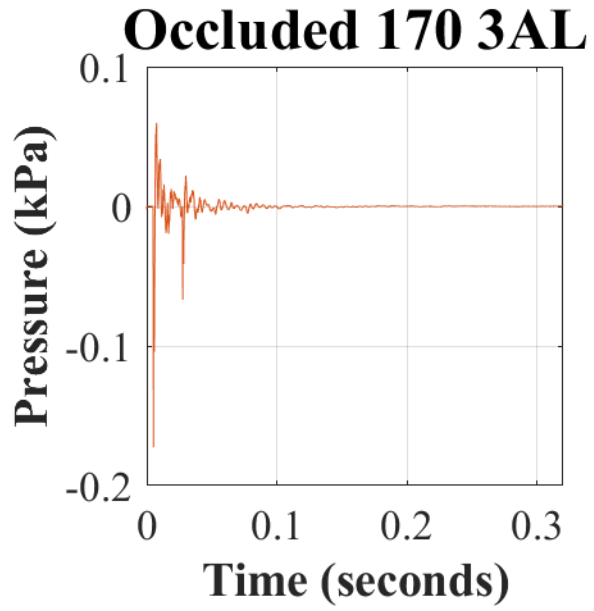


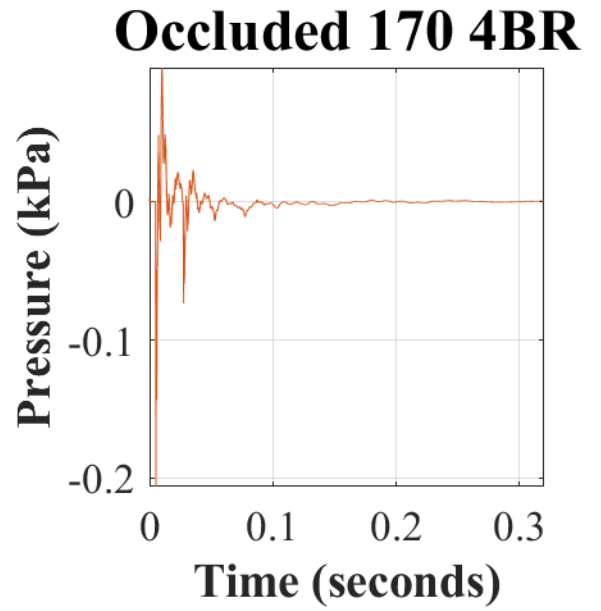
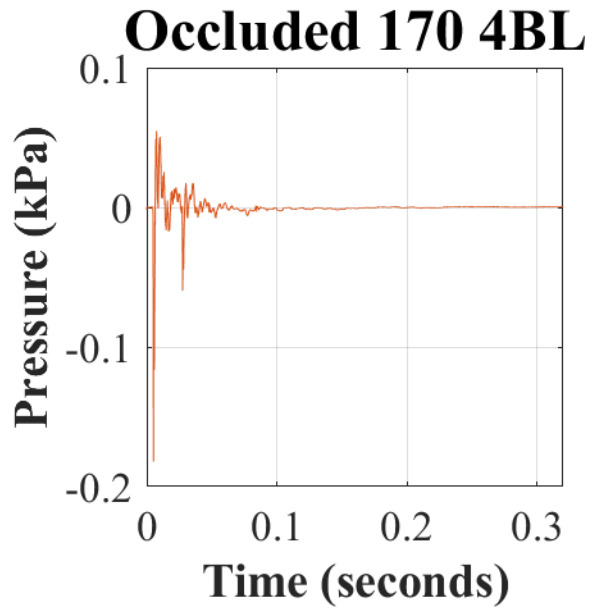
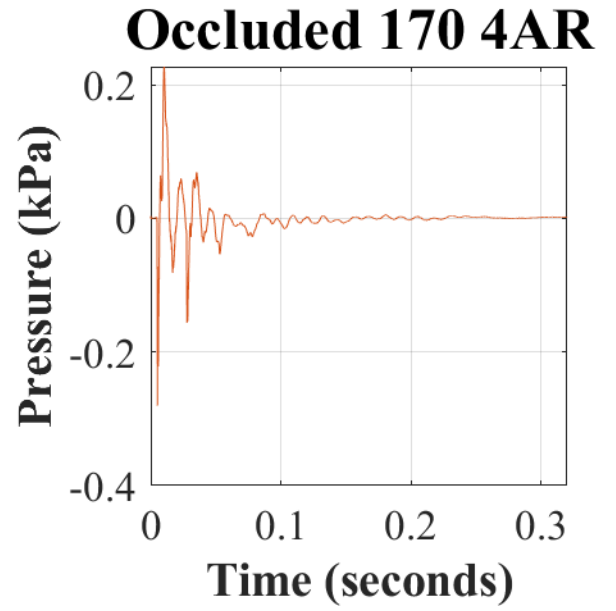
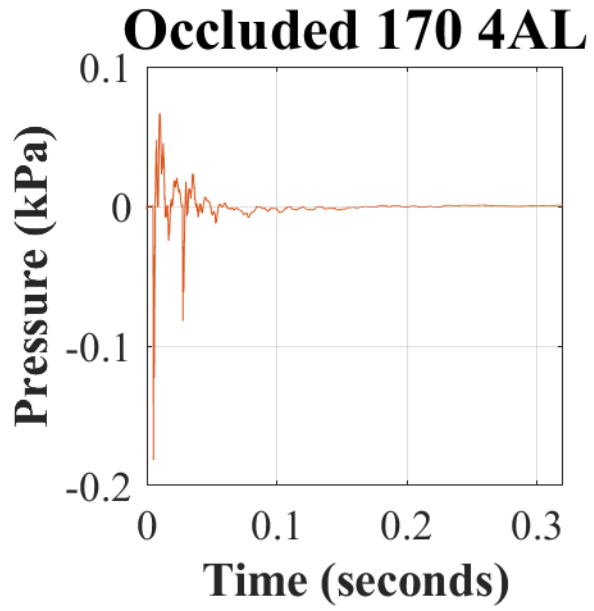
Note. The naming convention for all unoccluded waveforms is “Unoccluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Unoccluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD doffed), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dB), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

Appendix N. Recorded occluded (closed-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 170 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the closed mode.

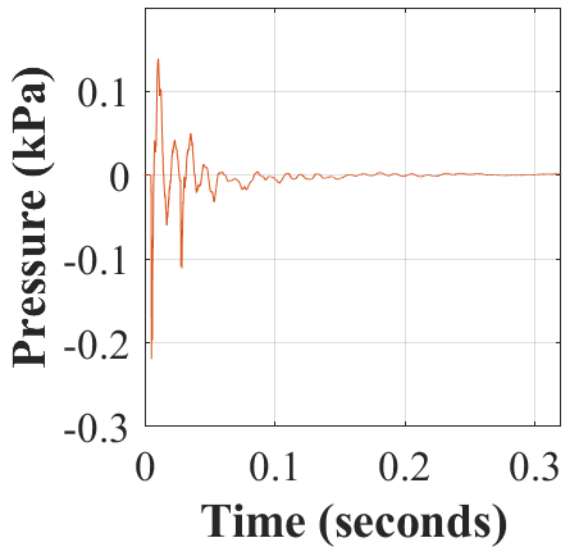




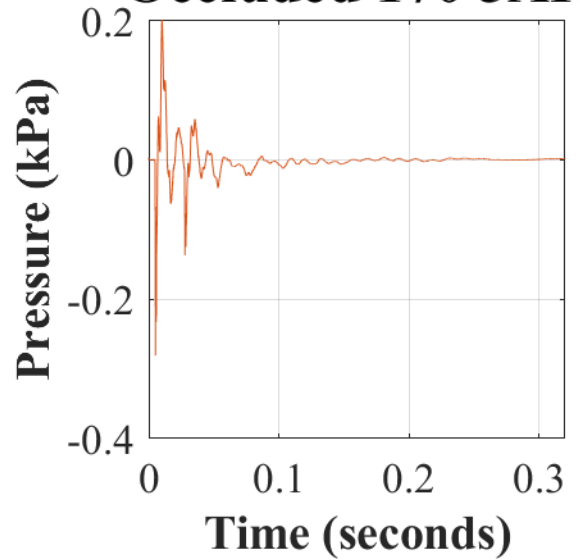




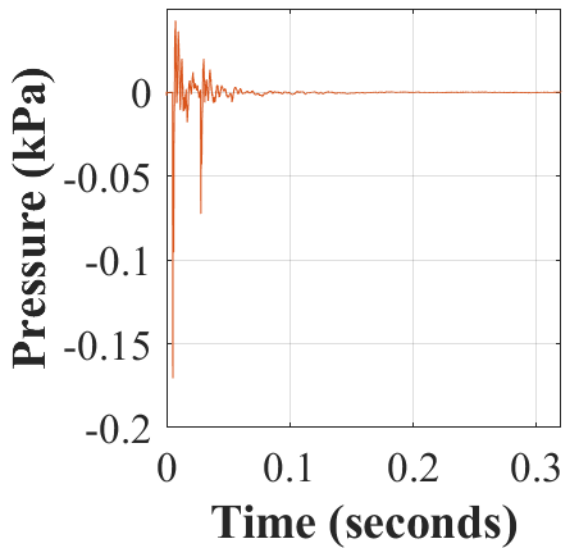
Occluded 170 5AL



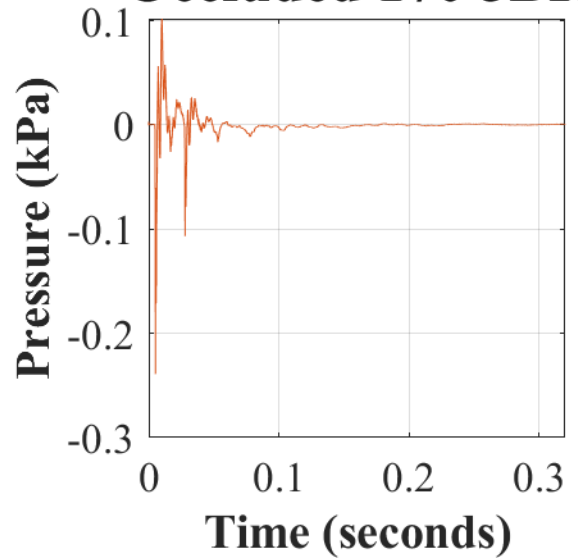
Occluded 170 5AR



Occluded 170 5BL

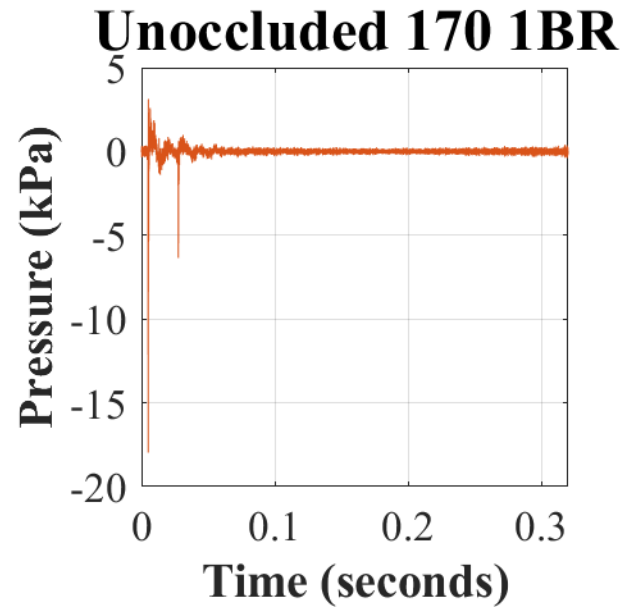
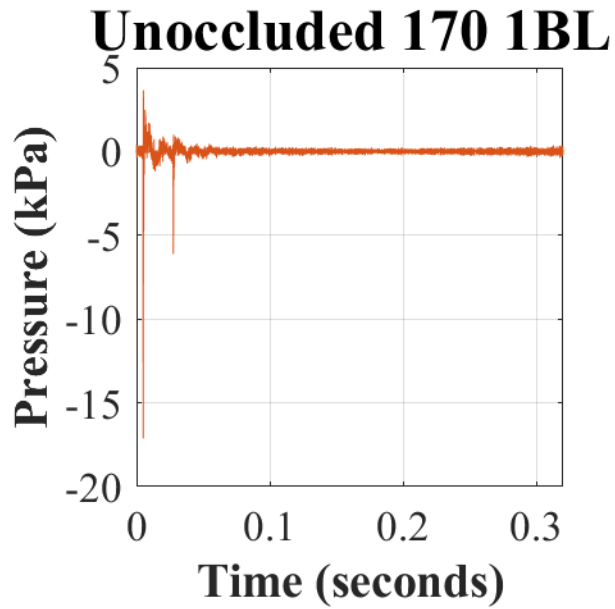
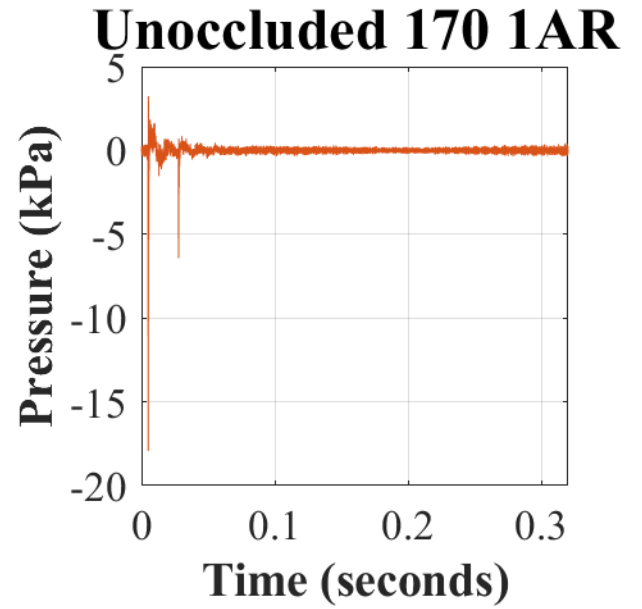
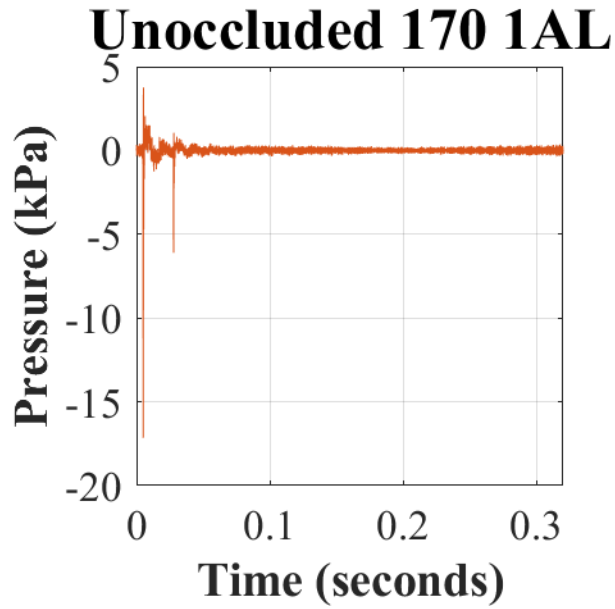


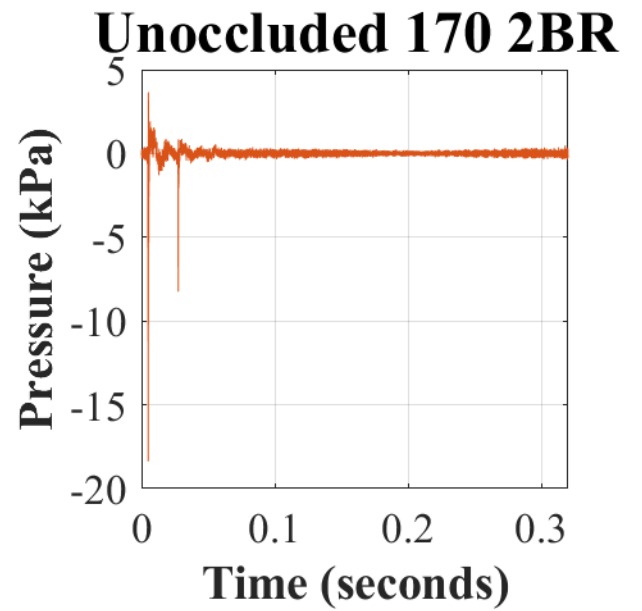
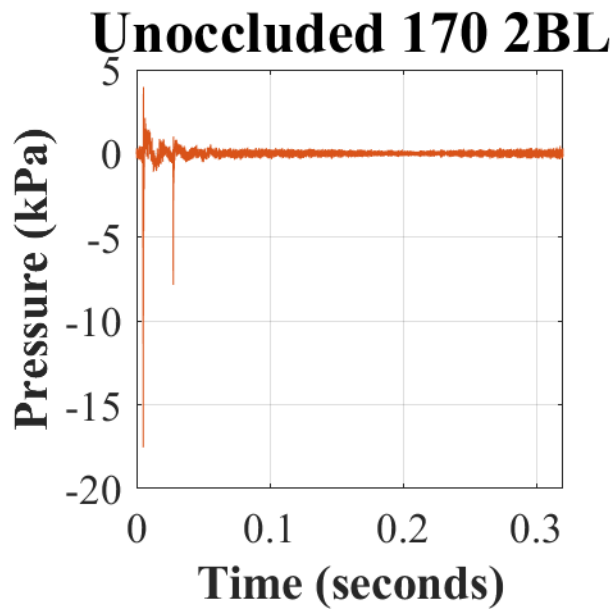
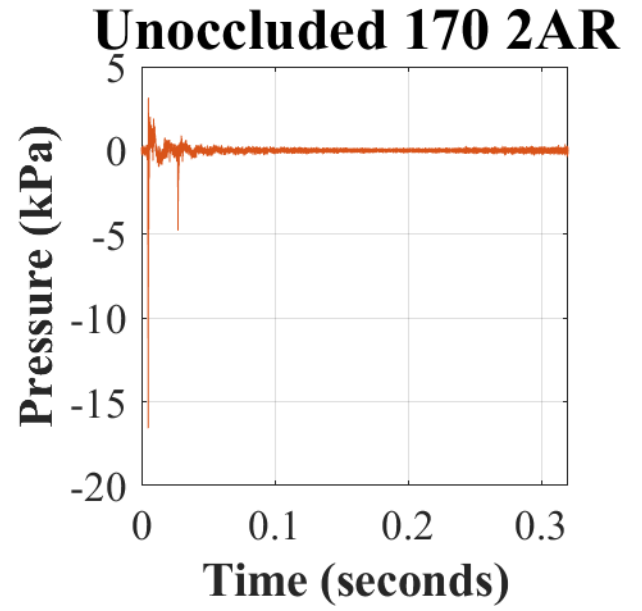
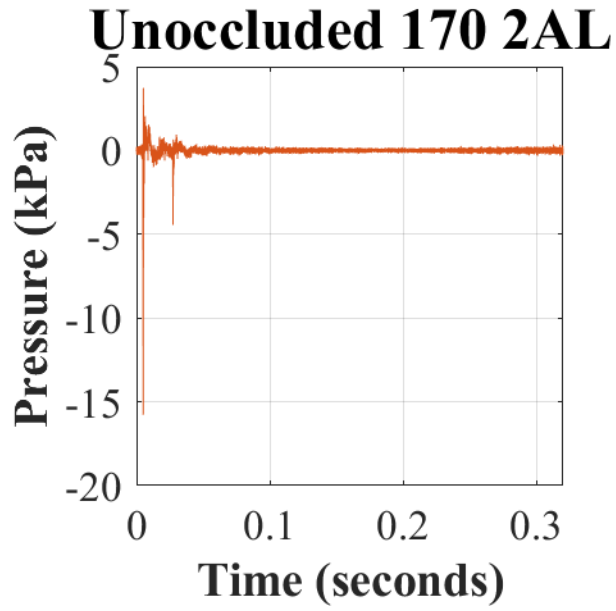
Occluded 170 5BR

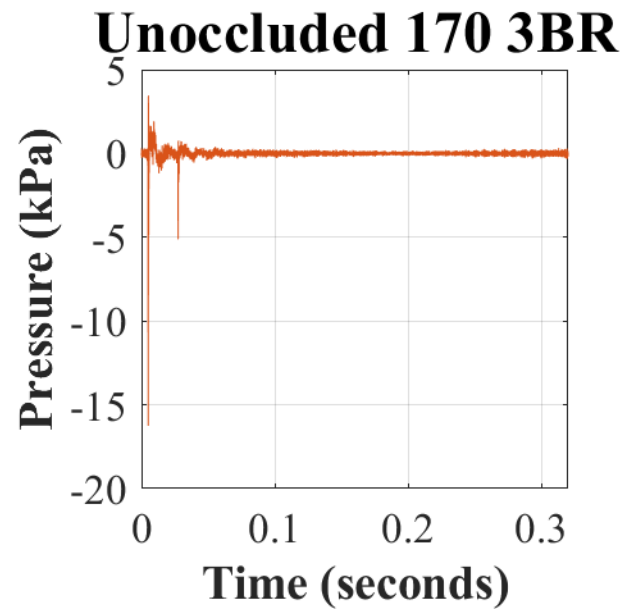
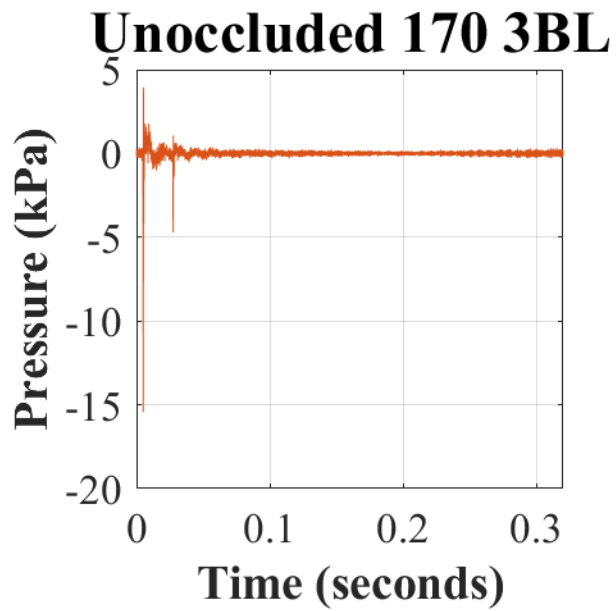
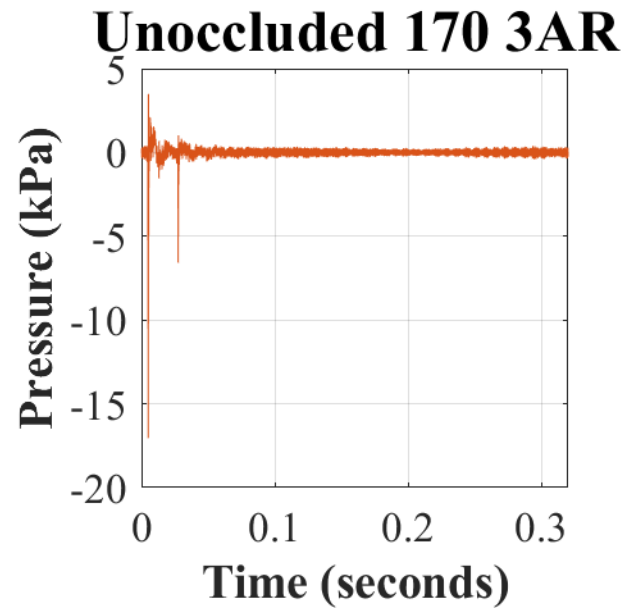
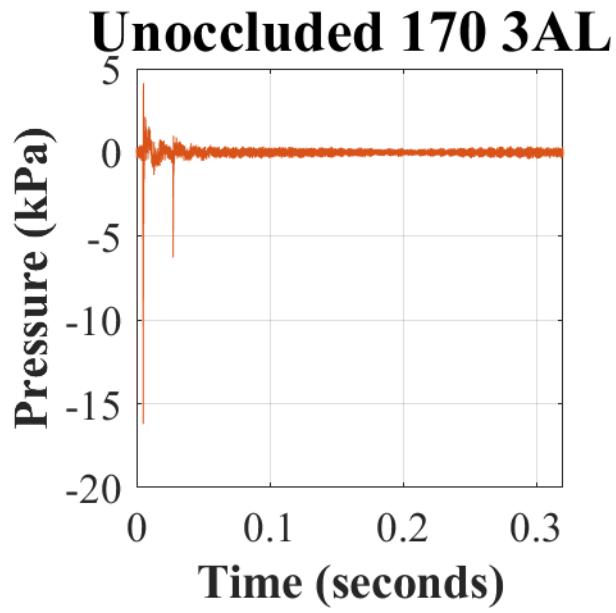


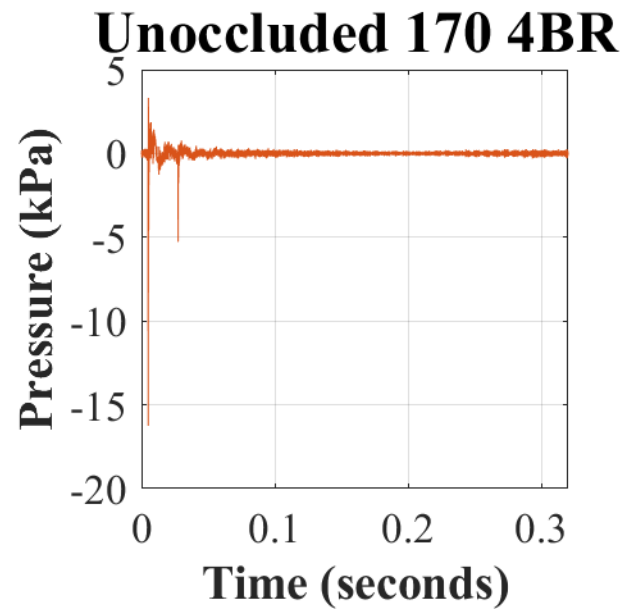
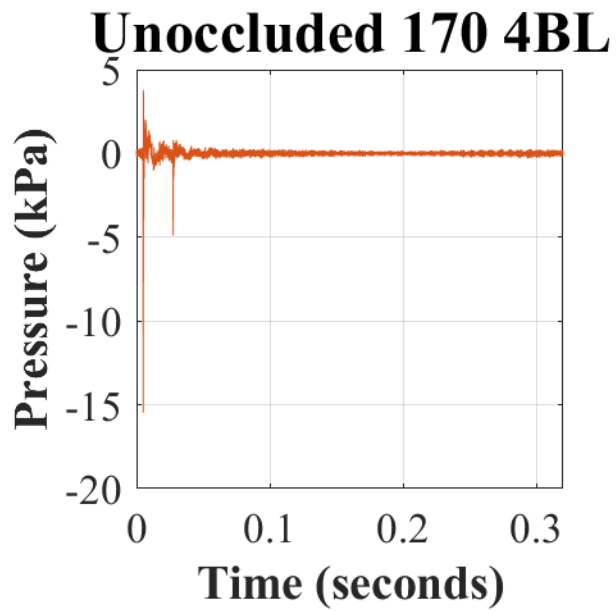
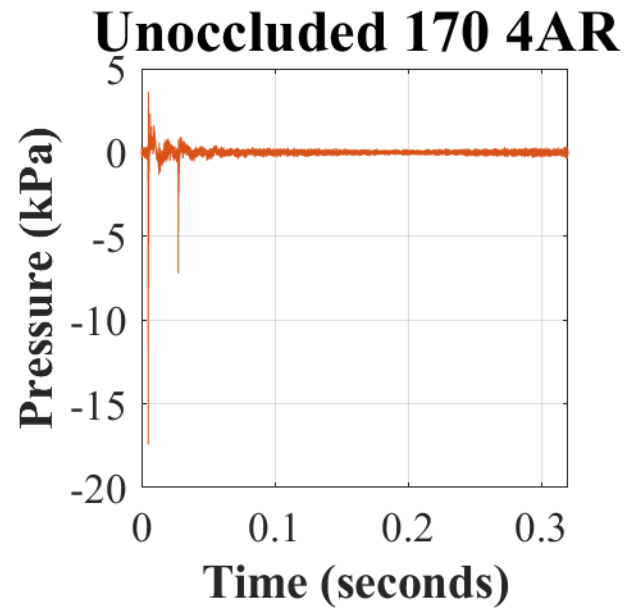
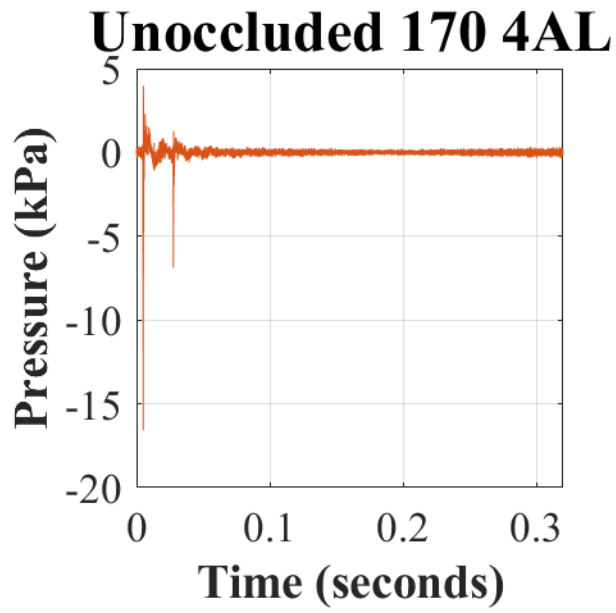
Note. The naming convention for all occluded waveforms is “Occluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Occluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD donned), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dBp), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

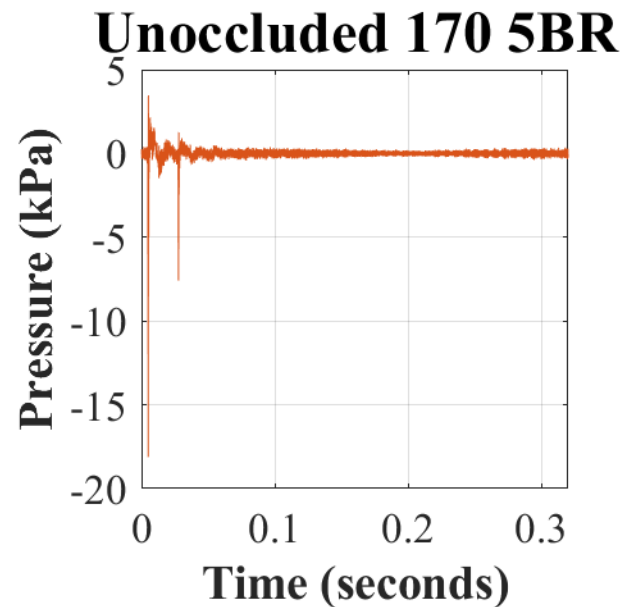
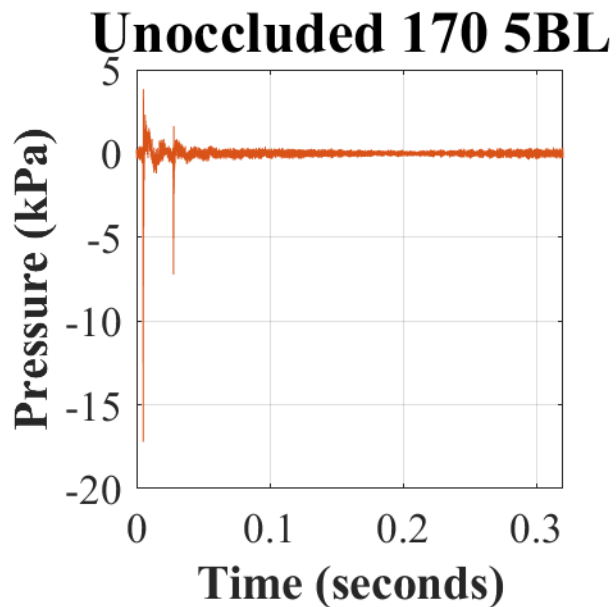
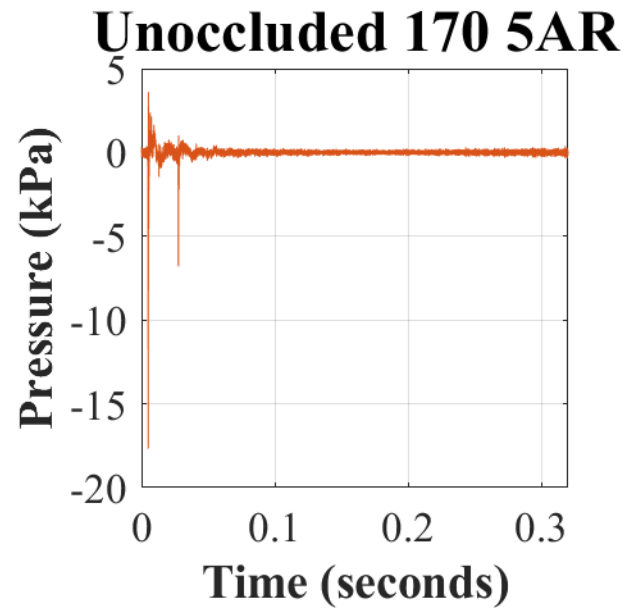
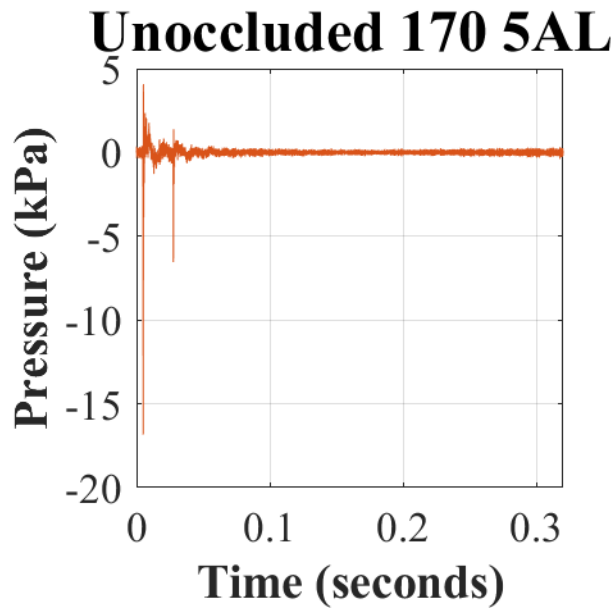
Appendix O. Estimated unoccluded (open-ear) waveforms (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) in response to 170 dBp with the CAE Gen. 4.0 in the closed mode.





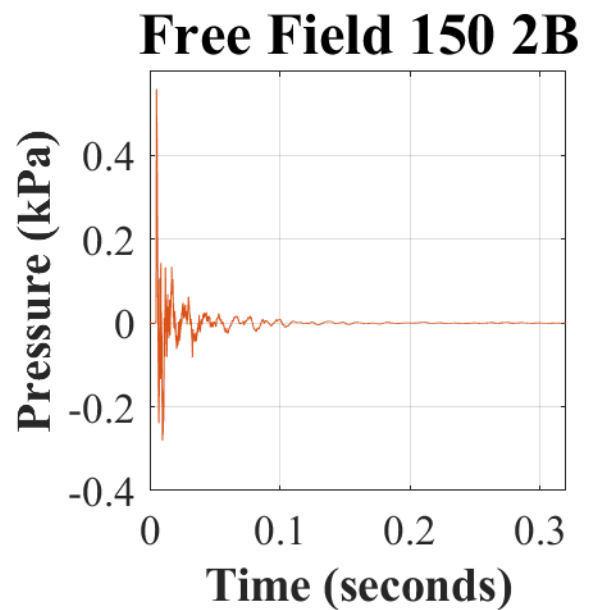
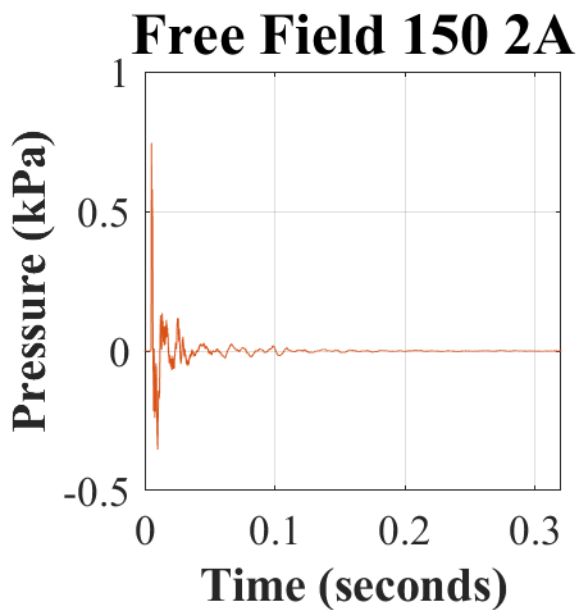
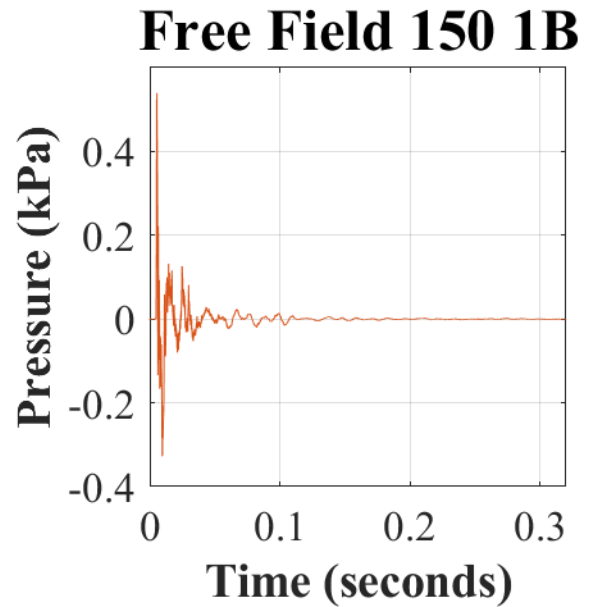
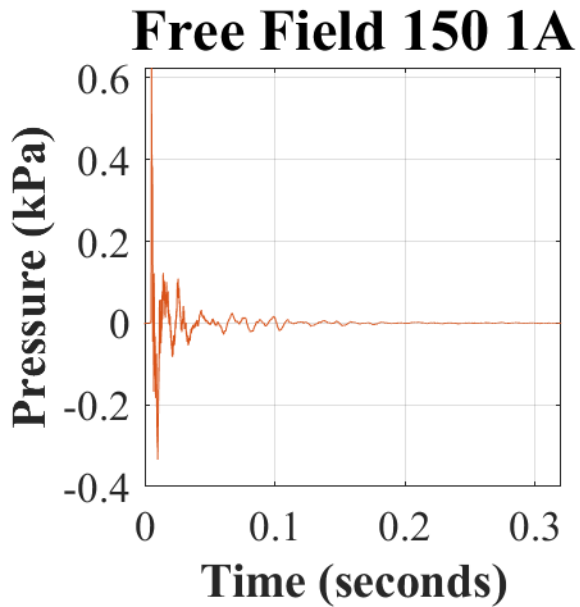


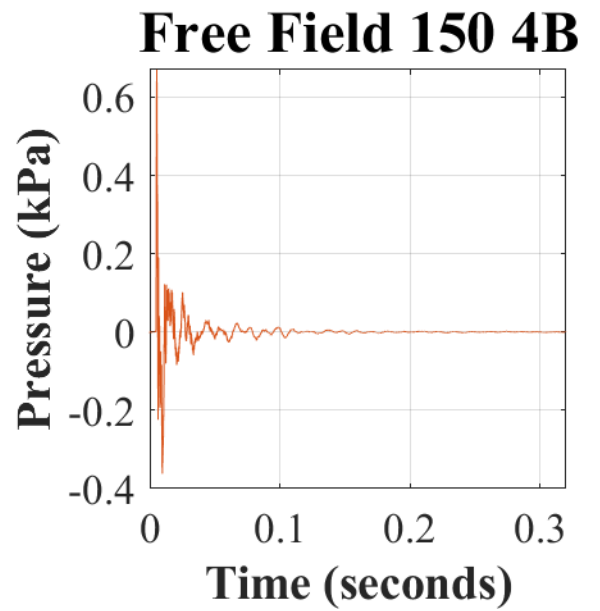
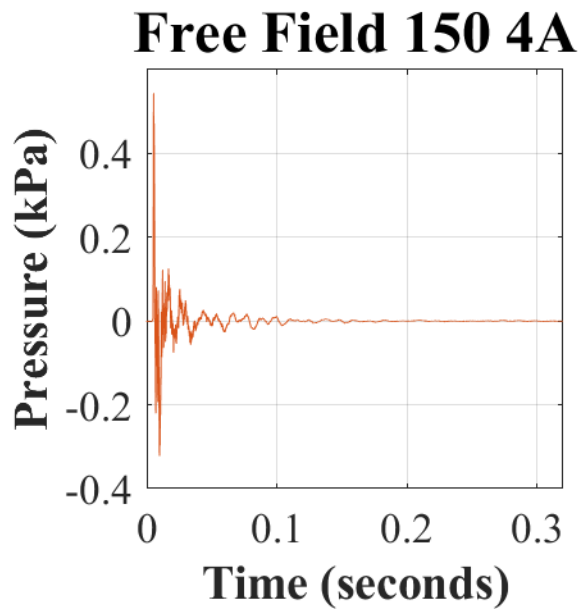
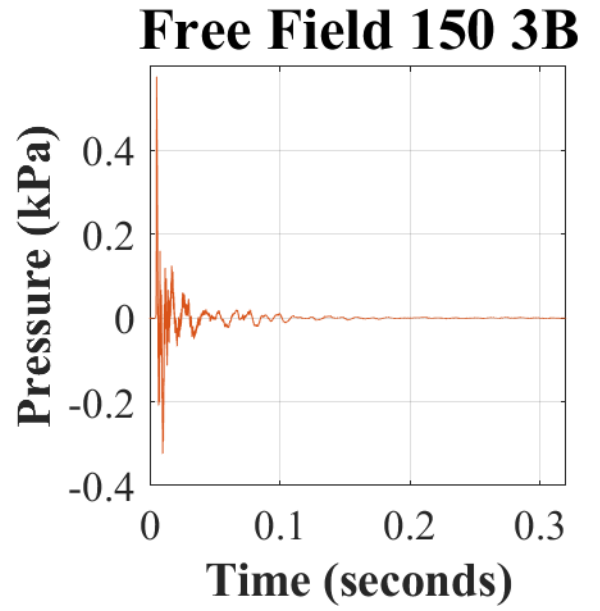
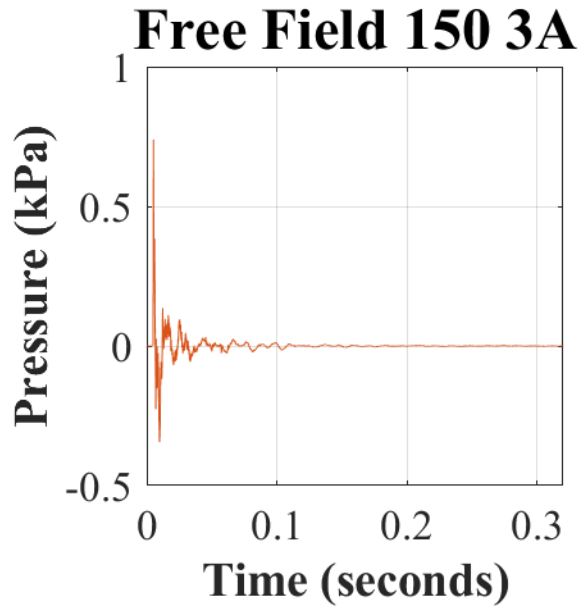


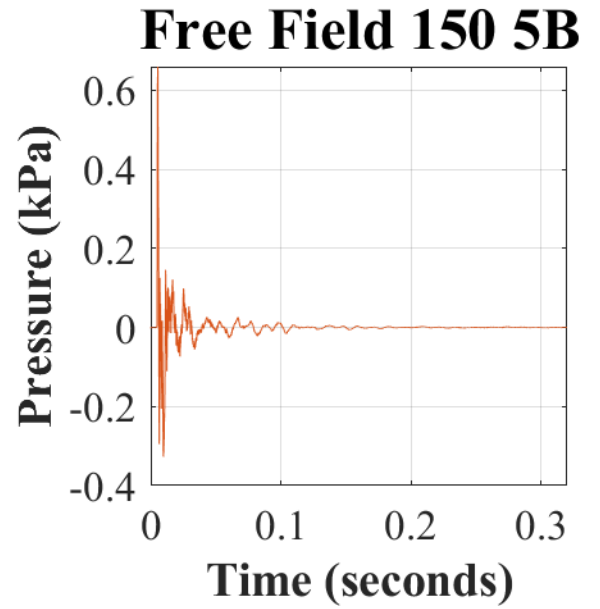
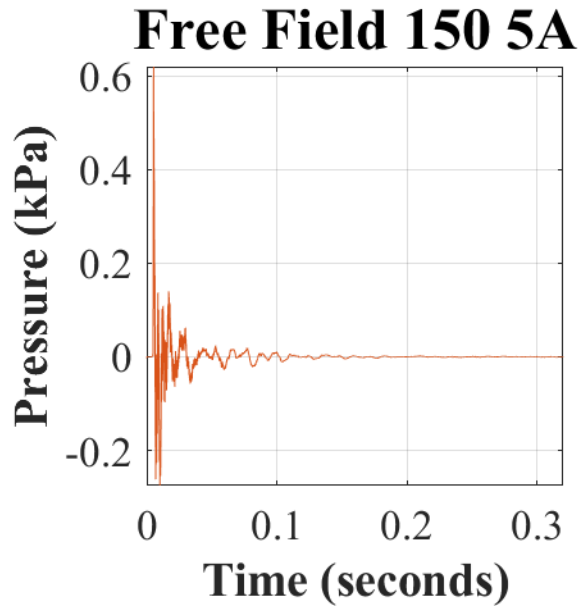


Note. The naming convention for all unoccluded waveforms is “Unoccluded LvL NnX”, where ‘Unoccluded’ is the test condition (i.e., ATF has the HPD doffed), ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (i.e., 150, 160 or 170 dBp), ‘N’ is the sample number (i.e., 1 to 5) of the device tested, ‘n’ is the trial (i.e., A or B) indicating HPD fit (i.e., first or second, respectively), and ‘X’ indicates from what ATF microphone the recording is from (i.e., right [R] or left [L] pinnae).

Appendix P. Recorded waveform (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) of the impulse measured with the free-field probe at 150 dBp and the CAE Gen. 4.0 donned in the closed mode.

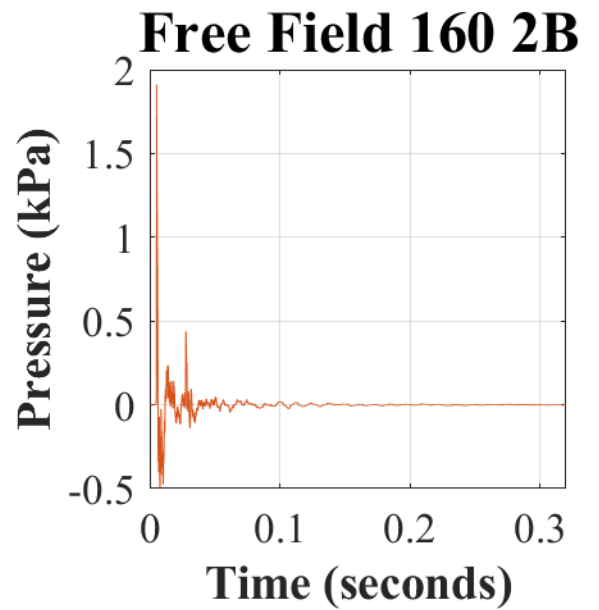
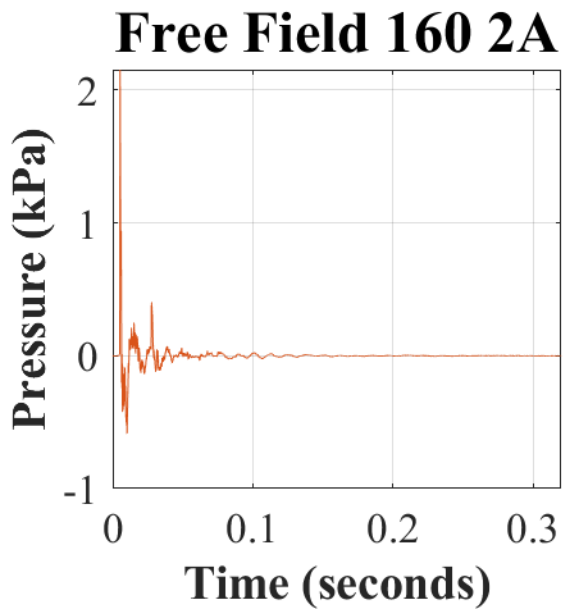
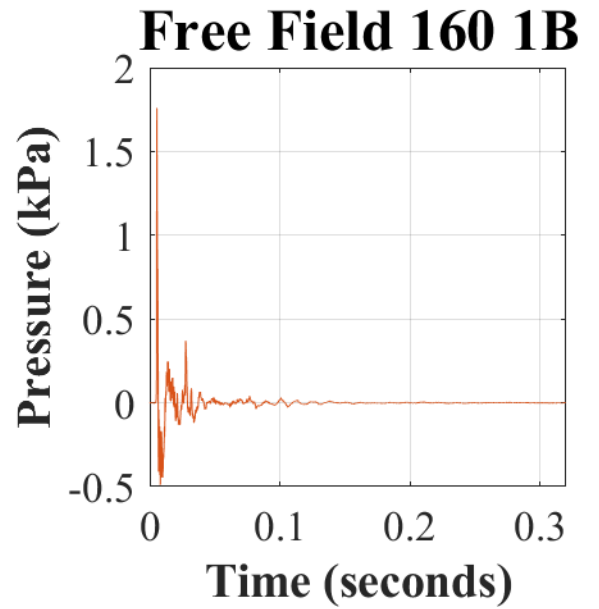
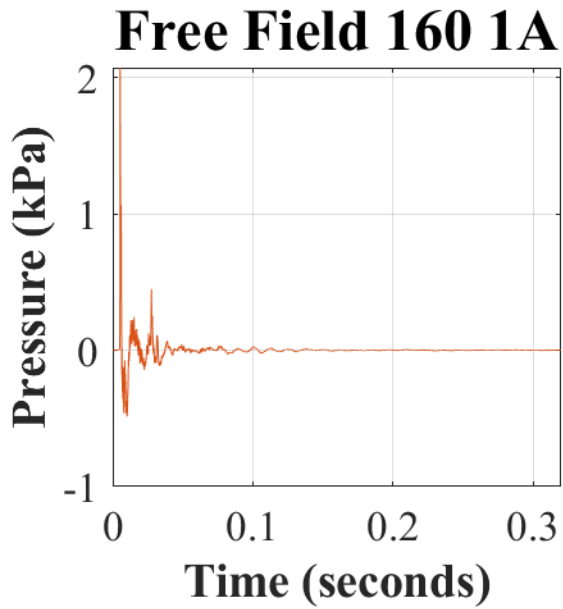


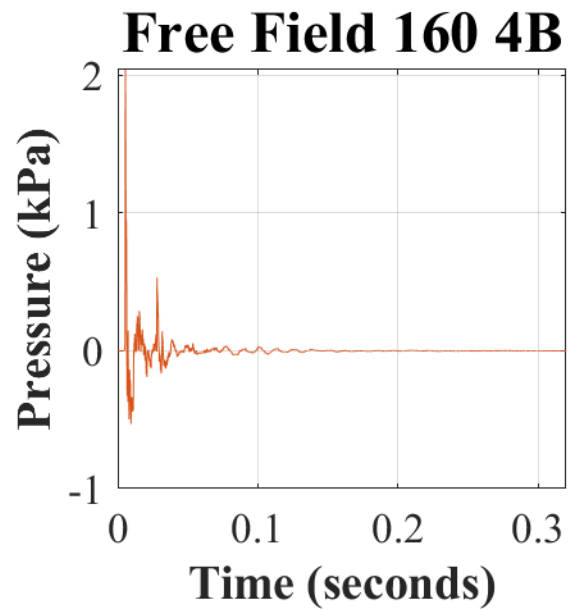
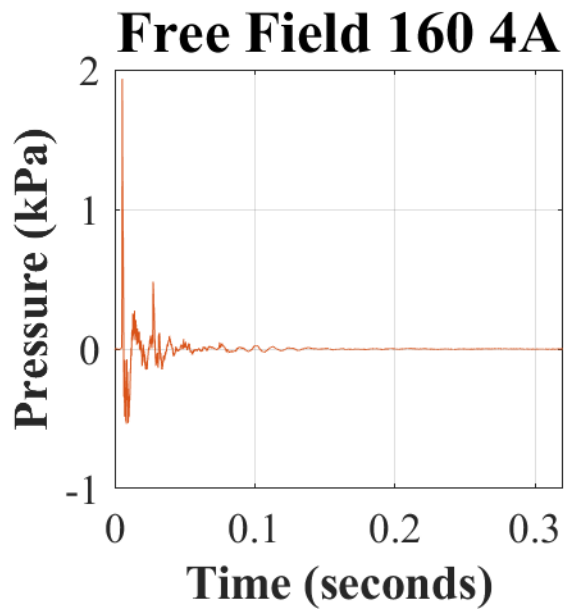
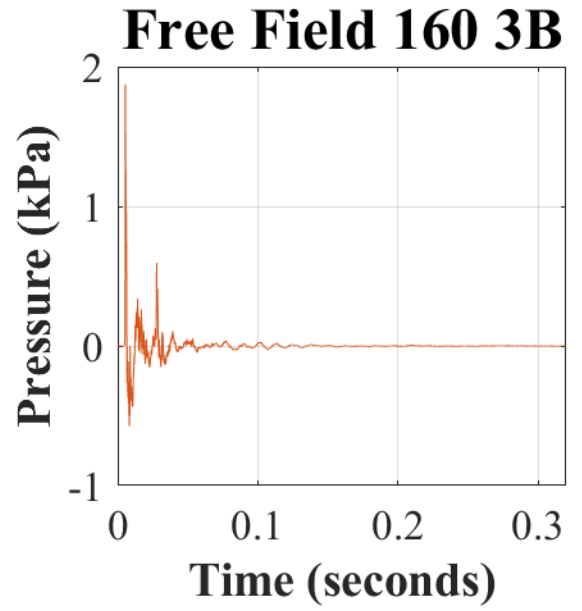
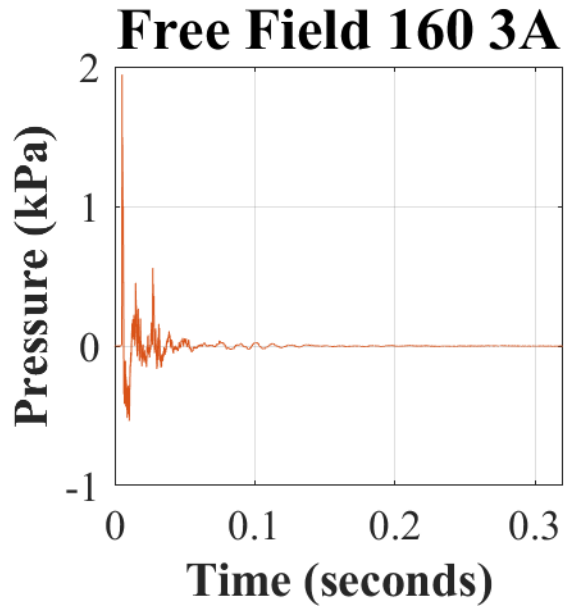


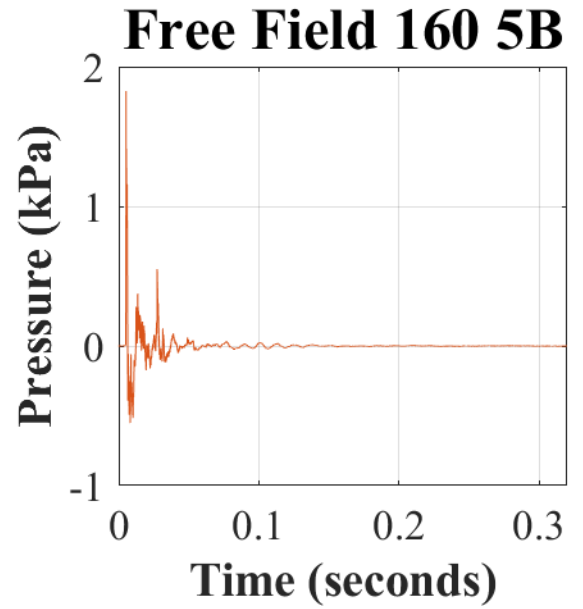
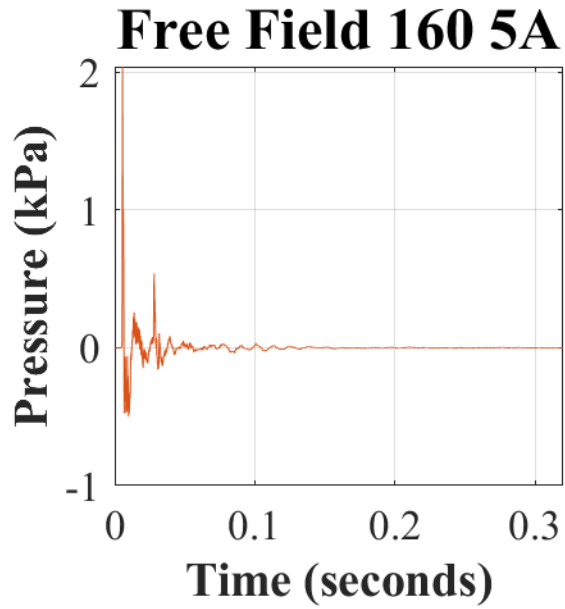


Note. The naming convention for all free-field waveforms is “Free Field LvL Nn”, where ‘Free Field’ indicates that the recording was obtained using the PCB reference microphone, ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (150 dBp), ‘N’ is the device sample number (1 to 5), and ‘n’ is the device trial (i.e., A or B).

Appendix Q. Recorded waveform (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) of the impulse measured with the free-field probe at 160 dBp and the CAE Gen. 4.0 donned in the closed mode.

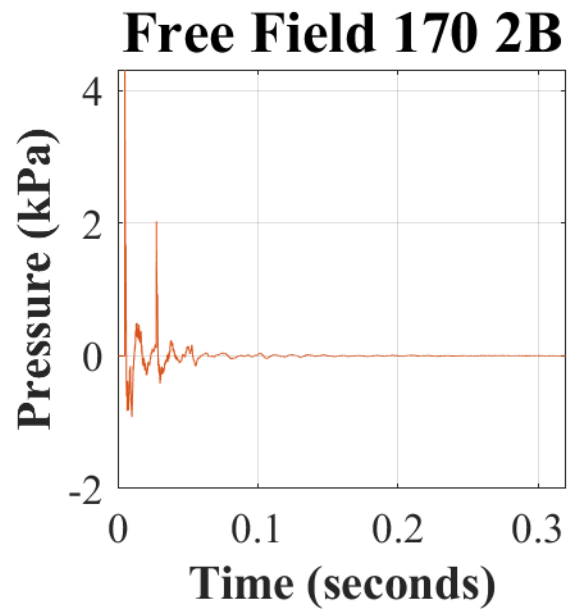
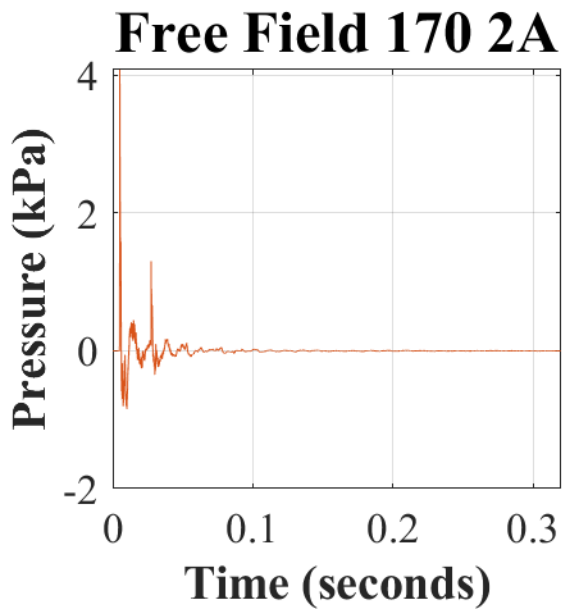
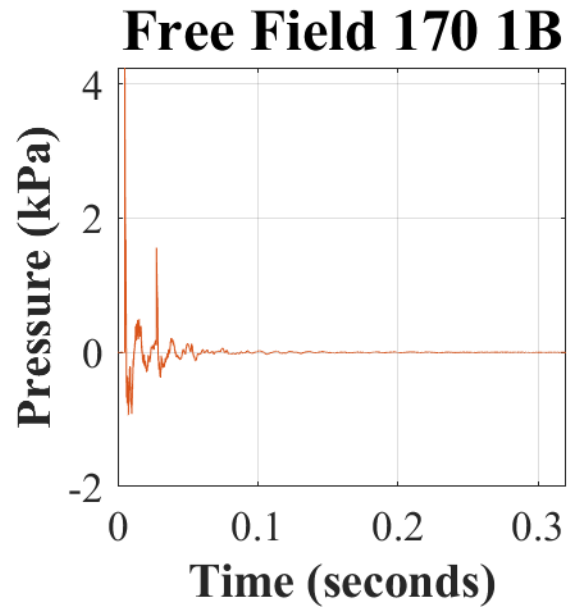
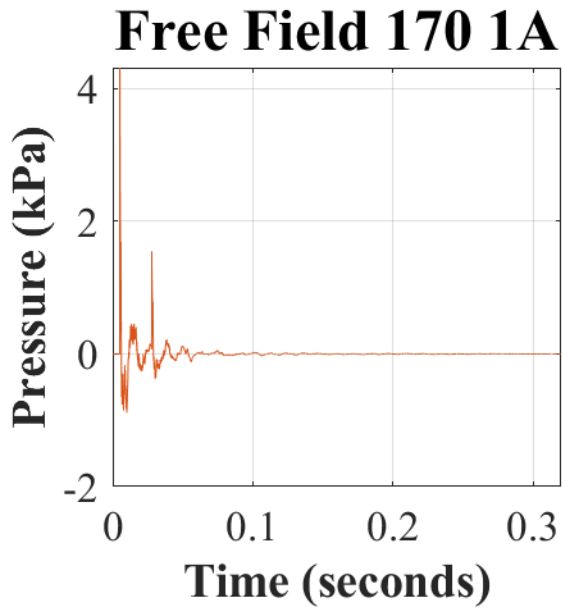


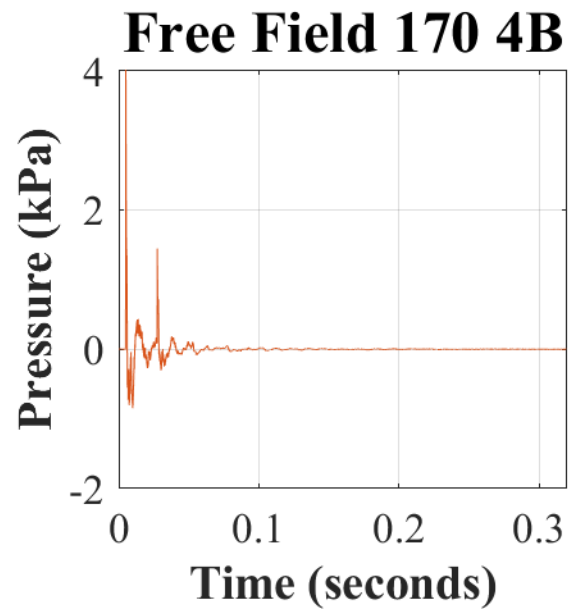
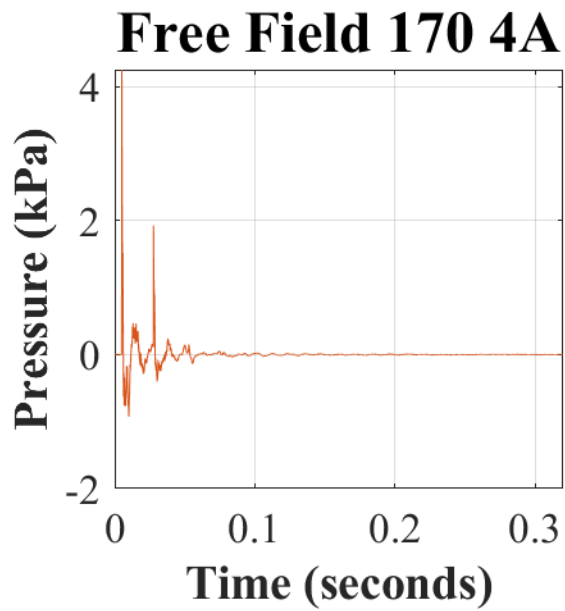
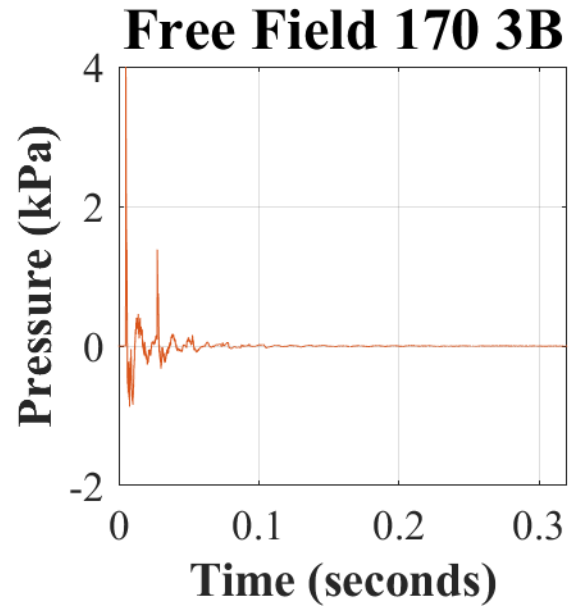
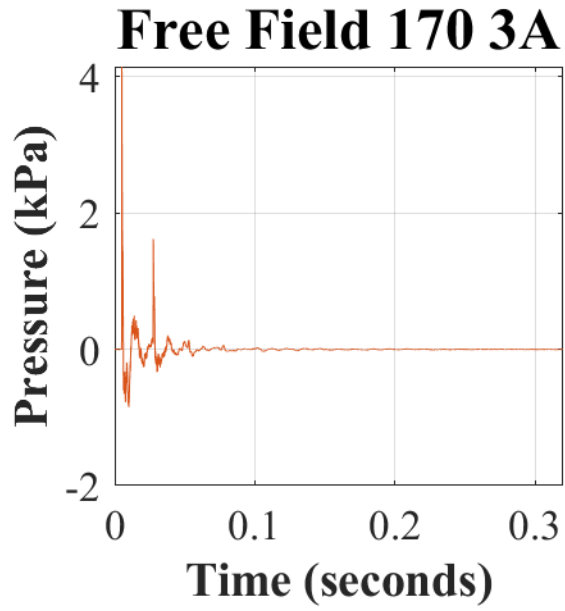


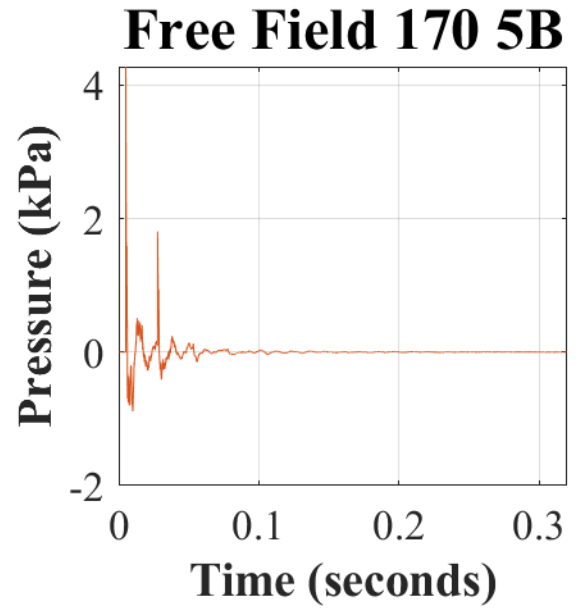
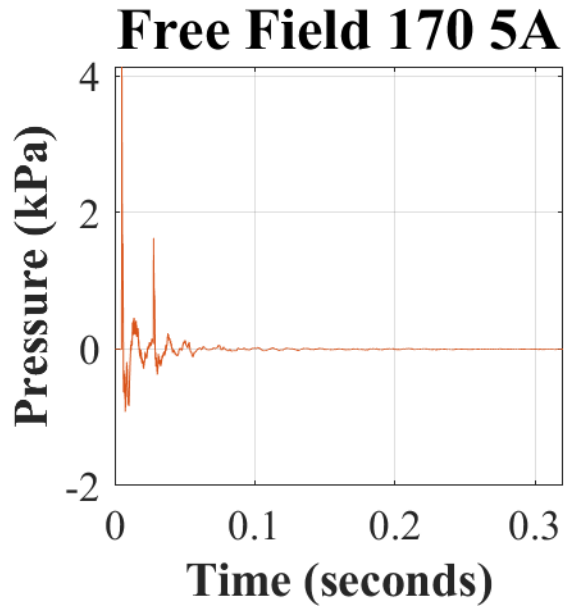


Note. The naming convention for all free-field waveforms is “Free Field LvL Nn”, where ‘Free Field’ indicates that the recording was obtained using the PCB reference microphone, ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (160 dB), ‘N’ is the device sample number (1 to 5), and ‘n’ is the device trial (i.e., A or B).

Appendix R. Recorded waveform (in kilopascals [kPa]) over time (in seconds [s]) of the impulse measured with the free-field probe at 170 dBp and the CAE Gen. 4.0 donned in the closed mode.







Note. The naming convention for all free-field waveforms is “Free Field LvL Nn”, where ‘Free Field’ indicates that the recording was obtained using the PCB reference microphone, ‘LvL’ is the nominal test level (170 dBp), ‘N’ is the device sample number (1 to 5), and ‘n’ is the device trial (i.e., A or B).