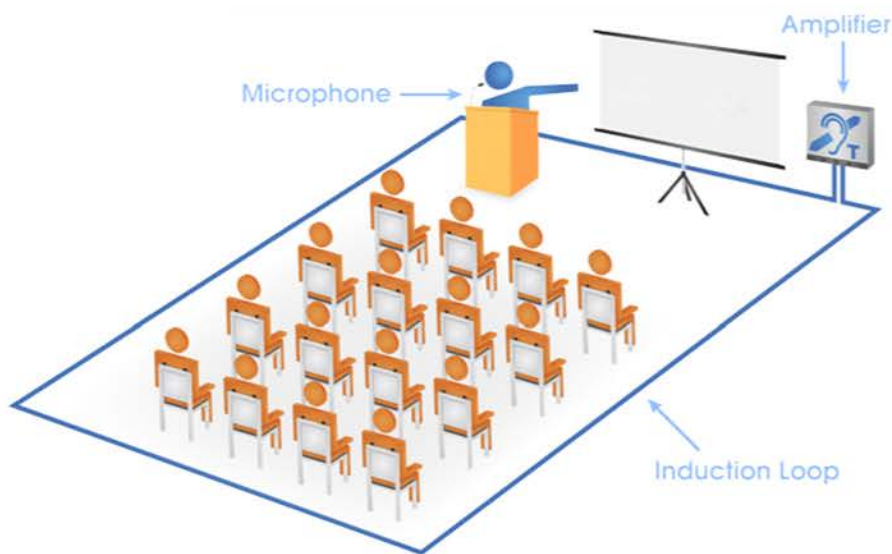


Sound BYTES

INFORMATION FOR YOUR EARS



ASK THE EXPERT: HEARING LOOP TECHNOLOGY



What is a Hearing Loop?

A hearing loop is a wire that circles a room and is connected to a sound system. The loop transmits the sound electromagnetically. The electromagnetic signal is then picked up by the telecoil in the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

To use a hearing loop, you flip on the t-switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant to activate the telecoil. Usually, no additional receiver or equipment is needed.

Using a telecoil and hearing loop together is seamless, cost-effective, unobtrusive, and you don't have to seek additional equipment. Hearing loops are also called audio-induction loops, audio loops, or loops.

Why are hearing loops needed?

Don't hearing aids and cochlear implants enable hearing?

Today's digital hearing aids effectively enhance hearing in conversational settings. Yet, for many people with

hearing loss, the sound becomes inaudible and unclear when live speakers or recorded broadcasts are at a distance, there is room noise and as room acoustics cause reverberation of sound. A hearing loop electromagnetically transfers sound signals directly to hearing aids and cochlear implants equipped with a telecoil receiver. A hearing loop is like "binoculars for the ear."

What is a Telecoil?

A telecoil in a hearing aid functions as a wireless antenna that links to the sound system and delivers customized sound to the listener. A telecoil is a small copper coil that is an option in most hearing aids, and is built into cochlear implant processors. The telecoil can make a noticeable difference in your life when combined with hearing assistive technology such as the hearing loop. This pairing of technology bridges the space between you and the sound source. The hearing loop connects the listener directly to the sound source while most of the background noise is eliminated. If you are buying a hearing aid for the first time, be sure to ask that a telecoil be included. With a telecoil you can expand the functionality of your hearing aid or cochlear implant.

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Our "Ask the Expert,"
Julie Fournier, AuD



EARPLUG



EARPLUGS: CUSTOM AND NON-CUSTOM OPTIONS

NOISE IS EVERYWHERE, AND WE ARE EXPOSED TO IT ON A DAILY BASIS, EVEN WHEN MOWING THE LAWN, USING SNOW BLOWERS, AND LISTENING TO MUSIC. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PROTECT YOUR HEARING. EARPLUGS OF VARIOUS STYLE AND SIZES ARE RECOMMENDED TO HELP PROTECT YOUR EARS AND YOUR HEARING.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM INTERESTED IN EARPLUGS?

If you are interested in earplugs, it is recommended that you schedule an appointment to discuss options. For custom earplugs, earmold impressions will be taken of the ears and sent to the manufacturer to be made. Make your appointment today by calling Professional Hearing Services at 262-549-5150.

WHAT KIND OF EARPLUGS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are a number of different custom and non-custom earplugs available, such as swim plugs, musician plugs, hunting protection, and snore plugs. Non-custom options are available same-day with an appointment. Custom options require an appointment to have an earmold impression taken of the ears, and will be ready for pick up in two weeks.

CUSTOM EARPLUGS

MUSICIAN PLUGS: have a filter that will help dampen the level of the sound, but allows the speech or music to come through clearly. Custom musician plugs offer three different noise reduction filter levels (9dB, 15dB, and 25dB filters). In-ear monitors are also available, and are an electronic form of musician plugs.

HUNTING PROTECTION: amplified options will help with amplifying environmental sounds, but will protect against the impact sound while

hunting. Non-amplified options are transparent, but protect against the gunfire through the use of a filter.

SWIM PLUGS: are used to keep water out of the ears.



HEARING PROTECTION: can be used for a number of different situations such as factory work, snoring, motorcycles, etc.

NON-CUSTOM EARPLUGS

MUSICIAN PLUGS: are available in etymotic ER-25 or Earasers.
SWIM PLUGS come in the form of Doc's plugs or puddy buddies.
STANDARD FOAM EARPLUGS to protect the ears from loud noise or snoring.
EARPLANES help with reducing noise while flying, but also with equalizing pressure in the ears with altitude changes.