

Telecoils Improve Hearing Aids Dramatically!



I love my telecoil!

The sound is so clear. I find it easier to understand, and I am more relaxed.

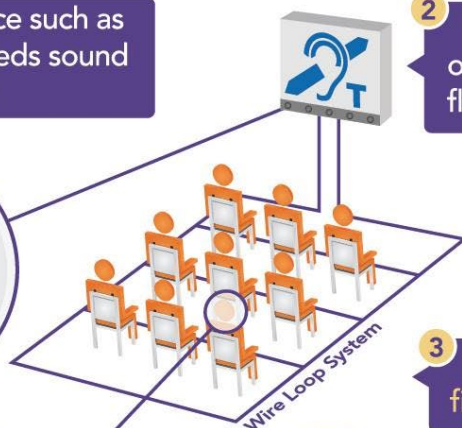
A telecoil is an essential hearing aid component that brings clear sounds from the microphone through ADA* mandated assistive listening systems directly into the hearing aid with clarity and no background noise.

How a Hearing Loop System Works

1 A sound source such as a microphone feeds sound into an amplifier.



2 The amplifier sends a current through one or multiple wires embedded in the floor or ceiling of a room.



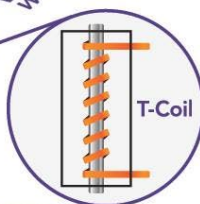
This symbol lets people know that a room is looped, so they can switch their hearing devices to telecoil (or "T") mode.

3 The current generates a magnetic field, which emanates from the wires.

4 Tiny wire telecoils built into most hearing aids and cochlear implants pick up the magnetic signal.



Hearing Device



5 The hearing device converts the signal into sound customized for the listener's individual pattern of hearing loss.

Courtesy OTOJOY

Note: Telecoils are for hearing aids, cochlear implants, and bone conduction devices.

Why Are Telecoils Needed?



Hearing aids are not like eye-glasses. Hearing aids do NOT restore hearing to normal.



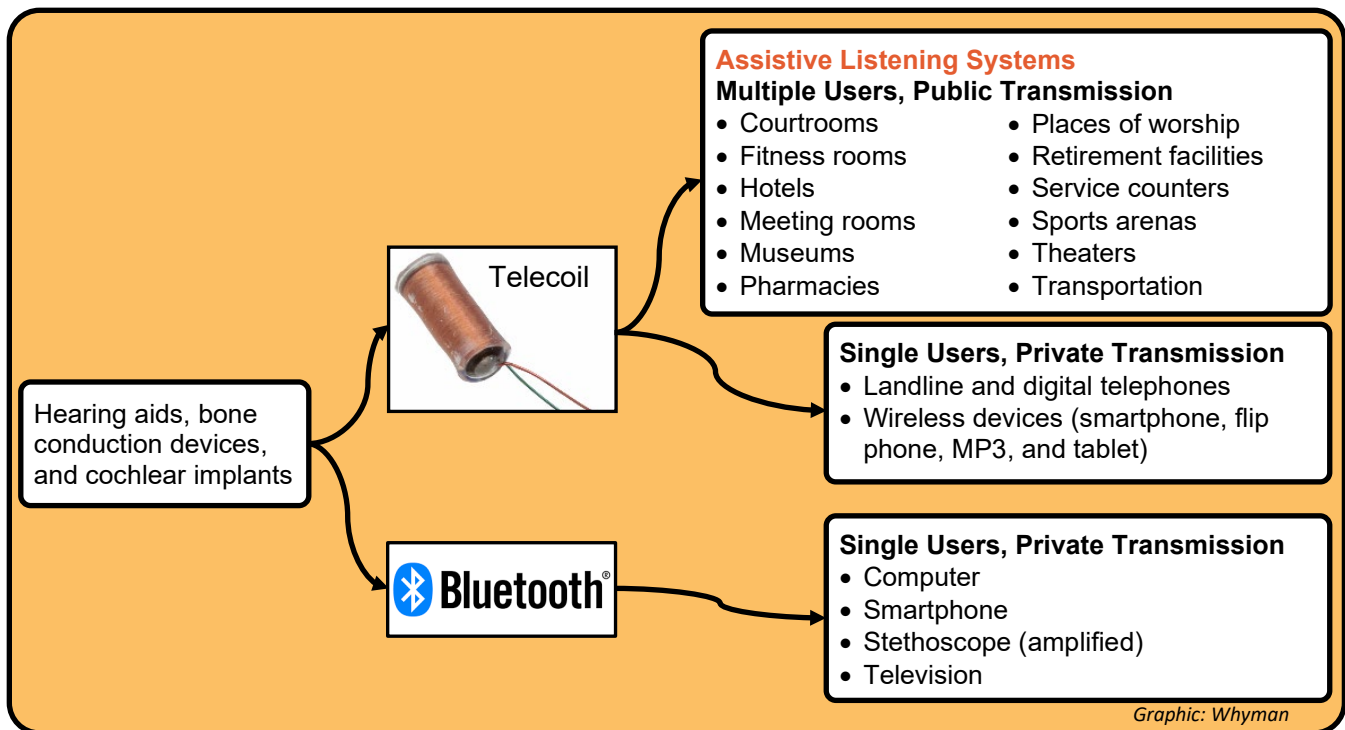
With hearing aids, most people only understand speech up to 6 feet and lose clarity at further distances.



Background noise, distance, and reverberation make it even more difficult to understand speech.

People who experience significant hearing loss require a volume (signal to noise ratio) increase of about 15 to 25 dB in order to achieve the same level of understanding as people with normal hearing. An Assistive Listening System allows them to achieve this gain for themselves without making it too loud for everyone else. (David Baquis, "Benefits of Assistive Listening Systems," www.nad.org).

Why You Need Both Bluetooth and Telecoils



Note: Telecoils are for hearing aids, cochlear implants, and bone conduction devices.





Assistive Listening Systems (ALS)

There are four systems: hearing loops, FM, infrared, and direct-wired equipment. Anyone can try out an assistive listening system and listen to the quality sound - even individuals without a hearing loss.

Hear the difference a hearing loop system makes with a telecoil! Large gathering simulation:

<https://tinyurl.com/HearingLoopSim> (1 minute)

Signage at Venues and Websites

Hearing Loop System	FM and Infrared Systems
  <p>Note the white “T” in the lower right corner.</p>	 
<p>Individuals with telecoils in their hearing devices- NO equipment to check out.</p> <p>Individuals without telecoils in their hearing devices- must check out a receiver and headphones.</p>	<p>Individuals with telecoils in their hearing devices- must check out a receiver and neckloop.</p> <p>Individuals without telecoils in their hearing devices- must check out a receiver and headphones.</p> <p>Note: Keep neckloop 6 inches away from a pacemaker.</p>

Telecoils - Additional Information

- *Consumer Reports* lists telecoils as a key hearing aid feature to include when purchasing hearing aids. <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/hearing-aids/buying-guide>
- Hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone conduction devices, and personal amplifiers can include telecoils or can be included in accessory equipment.
- A telecoil (aka t-coil) is universal and non-proprietary. It gives international communication access.
- Telephones
 - To connect to a landline phone, look for the ‘HAC’ (Hearing Aid Compatible) label. For wireless handsets, look for the T-rating of T3 or T4. A higher number is better and indicates how well the phone works with a hearing aid’s telecoil. If the phone does not have a T-rating, it will not work with the hearing aid’s telecoil.
 - To connect to a cellular phone, cordless phone, tablet, or audio player using the jack, use a silhouette (ear hook) or neckloop. Silhouette single or bilateral models available.

Working with Your Hearing Healthcare Professional

When you buy your hearing aids or cochlear implant, include a telecoil - even if you think you have little use for this feature. Remember, you will probably keep your devices for several years. If your needs change, the audiologist or hearing aid provider can simply activate and program the telecoil at that time at little or no cost. If the telecoil is not included when you purchase your hearing aids or cochlear implant, you cannot have it added later.

When your telecoils are programmed:

- 1) Make sure you understand how to use your telecoils. Ask for written instructions and specific page numbers in the hearing aid or cochlear implant manual so you can refer to the information later.
- 2) Verify your telecoils are working properly, either in the hearing healthcare provider's office or by clicking on <https://www.loopcolorado.org/looped-venues> to find a hearing loop system in your community.

What If You Have Questions About Telecoils?

Step 1. Talk with your hearing healthcare professional to answer your questions.

Step 2. If you have a concern, it is likely you will get it resolved with your hearing healthcare professional. However, if you cannot, the State of Colorado can help with consumer protection issues <https://dpo.colorado.gov/FileComplaint>

This document is for educational purposes, and developed by volunteer consumer advocacy groups to reach consumers with hearing loss. It is not intended to replace the advice from your hearing healthcare provider.

*ADA stands for the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Let's Loop Colorado

Hearing loop systems are the preferred Assistive Listening System. For free presentations, resources, and a venue map, contact:

Email: LetsLoopColorado@gmail.com
Web: www.loopcolorado.org



Hearing Loss Association of America Colorado Chapters

The voice for people with hearing loss

Email: HLAAColorado@gmail.com
Web: www.hearinglosscolorado.org