

About Me

- My Hearing Loss Story – What’s wrong with this phone?!



- Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) – San Diego Chapter – Saved my teaching career.



- Hear Gear – My short-lived retirement business.



- Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) – Denver Chapter – currently inactive.



Hearing Humor



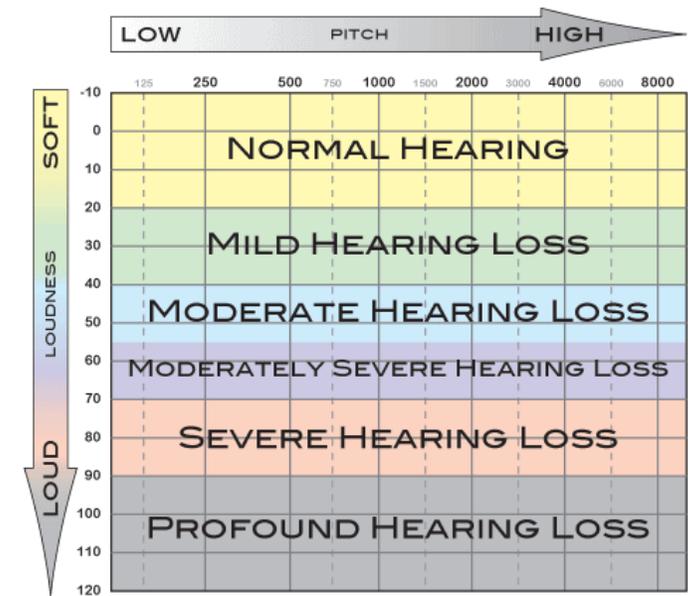
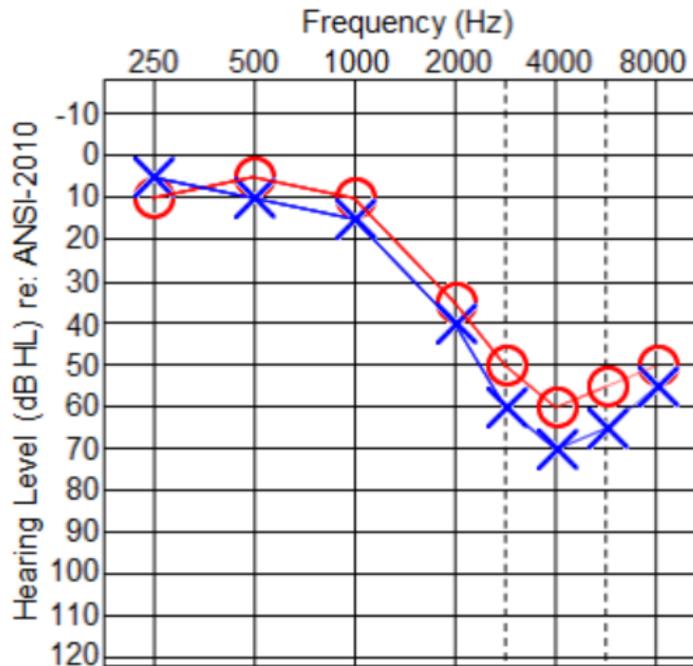
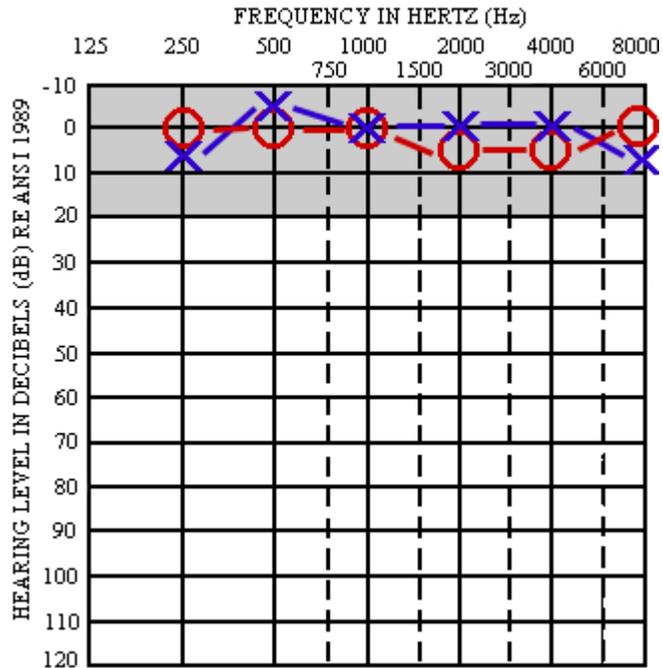
About You

1. I live in Denver.
2. I live in Colorado.
3. I wear hearing aids.
4. I own hearing aids but don't wear them
5. I'm thinking of getting hearing aids.
6. My spouse thinks I don't hear well, but she/he mumbles!
7. I don't know what a t-coil is.
8. I have a t-coil in my hearing aids.
9. I have tinnitus (ringing in the ears).



Hearing Aids? Me?!

- Do I have a hearing loss?
- Do I need hearing aids?
- Will “Over the Counter” (OTC) hearing aids work for me?



What are Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids?

OTC hearing aids are an entirely new category of hearing aids approved by the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) designed for adults with mild to moderate hearing loss, available without involving a doctor, audiologist or hearing instrument specialist.

What is a PSAP?

PSAP – personal sound amplification product

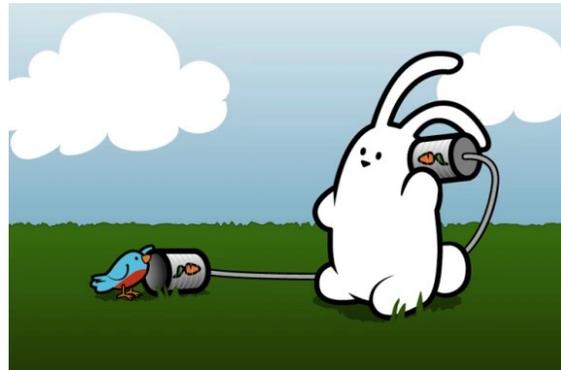
Hearing aids are intended for people with hearing loss. PSAPs, in contrast, are intended for people with normal hearing to amplify sounds in certain situations, such as recreational activities like birdwatching or hunting.

Technically, hearing aids could not be sold over the counter until Aug. 2022 but in reality, many products were being sold over the counter as “hearing aids” not PSAPs.

OTC Hearing aids are only for people with a mild or moderate hearing loss.

You may have mild to moderate hearing loss if...

- You have trouble understanding conversations in groups, with background noise, or when you can't see who is talking.
- You have trouble hearing on the telephone.
- You need to turn up the volume of television, or radio loud enough for others to complain.
- Your friends or family complain that you don't understand speech and ask them to repeat often.



Important questions to ask about OTC hearing aids

- Does it have a t-coil? Do NOT buy a hearing aid without a t-coil! (more on that later)
- Is there a free trial period, money back return policy, restocking fee?
- Does it need a smartphone, app, or computer to operate or customize to my needs?
- Does it have connectivity via Bluetooth to a smartphone?

Important questions to ask about OTC hearing aids, cont.

- Is there a volume control?
- Is it water/sweat resistant?
- How does it control, reduce, or block out background or wind noise?
- How long is the battery life? Can it be recharged?

In general, OTC hearing aids, which are limited in function and use, won't have as many features as hearing aids available at hearing clinics.

Where can I get help?

- Audiologist vs. Hearing Instrument Specialist (HIS)

- Costco vs. Private Practice

- Financial Resources

<https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/financial-assistance/>

Marion Downs Center - <https://www.mariondowns.org/>

4280 Hale Pkwy, Denver, CO 80220

- Assisted Listening Devices

- ADCO - <https://adcohearing.com/> 4242 S. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80113

- Diglo - <https://www.diglo.com/> (formerly Harris Communications)

Water Break!



Questions???

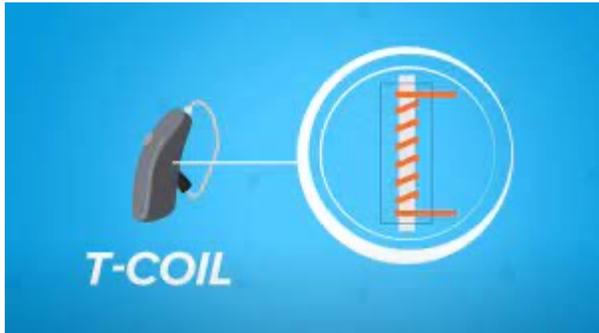
What else can help me hear better besides hearing aids?



Hearing Loops and T-coils

What is a hearing loop?

<https://youtu.be/hlnx3ZImTw0>

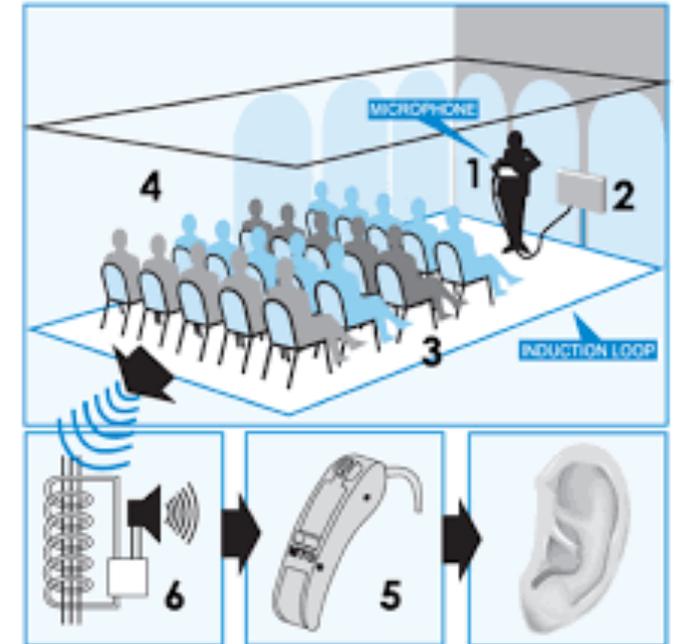


What is a telecoil?

A telecoil, also called a t-coil, is a small copper wire built into a hearing aid. This wire works as a receiver that picks up signals from a loop system. When the telecoil in the hearing aid is activated, sound is streamed directly into your hearing aid or cochlear implant.



What is a neckloop?



One more thing!!

Remote Microphones – Bluetooth microphone available with most hearing aid brands. Clip onto the shirt of your conversation partner in a noisy restaurant and their voice is streamed directly into your hearing aids.



Do you go to the Movies or the Theater?

Most movie theaters have captioning devices.

CC – closed caption, you must borrow a device.

OC – open captions - Now some movie theater are showing movies with open captions.

The captions are on the screen, just like on your TV. Much nicer!!

Denver Center for the Performing Arts have Open Captions (OC) for some performances.

Lakewood Cultural Center, Lone Tree Arts Center and Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center have hearing loops.

Some libraries have meeting rooms with hearing loops: Arapahoe Libraries: Kelter Library (Byers), Castlewood Library (Centennial), Koelbel Library (Centennial)

For more venues with hearing loops including churches:

<https://www.loopcolorado.org/looped-venues>

Resources

Hearing Loss Association of America - HLAA – www.hearingloss.org

Let's Loop Colorado – www.loopcolorado.org

Hearing Loss Association of America – Denver Chapter

<https://hearinglossdenver.doodlekit.com/>

Hearing Loss Association of America – Boulder Chapter on Facebook

Hearing Loss Association of America – Colorado Chapters

<https://www.hearinglosscolorado.org/>

<https://hearingup.com/videos/4-differences-between-otc-and-prescription-hearing-aids>

Facebook has many hearing loss groups. Just search for “hard of hearing.”

Tips for finding the best hearing aids: [https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/53261-](https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/53261-Superfecta-hearing-aids-key-features-bluetooth-telecoil-small-rechargeable)

[Superfecta-hearing-aids-key-features-bluetooth-telecoil-small-rechargeable](https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/53261-Superfecta-hearing-aids-key-features-bluetooth-telecoil-small-rechargeable)

Discussion



Feel free to contact me with questions.

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If time



Assistive Listening Devices

- Hearing Aids & Cochlear Implants
- Multi-mic/Mini-mic – Bluetooth microphone available with most hearing aid brands.
- Personal Amplifiers – Pocketalker still my favorite.
- Alerting Devices – Alerts with flashing lights, bed shaker, and loud alarm. For doorbell, phone, smoke detector, baby monitor, etc.
- Speech to Text Apps – Otter, Ava (iPhone); Live Transcribe (Android Phones)
- Captioned Telephones and captioning apps for cell phones: Innocaption, Naglish, Hamilton Captel, Caption Call
- Neckloops and silhouettes (ear hooks) vs headphones and earbuds

What's new?

Fully implanted Cochlear Implant

<https://www.envoymedical.com/acclaim-cochlear-implant>

Auracast

<https://www.bluetooth.com/auracast/>

5 STAGES of HEARING LOSS

DENIAL



ANGER



BARGAINING



DEPRESSION



ACCEPTANCE



The Five
Stages of
Hearing
Loss