The Telecoil: Plugging into Sound

The Importance of Telecoils

A telecoil is a wonderful feature available on many hearing aids. The telecoil is also called a t-switch, t-coil or telephone switch and can be an alternate or supplemental input device for a hearing aid.

While the microphone on a hearing aid picks up all sounds, the telecoil will only pick up an electromagnetic signal. You can activate it with the push of a button, and it gives you a whole new dynamic in listening.

The telecoil is simply a tiny coil of wire around a core that will induce an electric current in the coil when it’s in the presence of a changing magnetic field such as on the telephone.

When the telecoil in the hearing aid is coupled with a neckloop, room loop or an Assistive Listening Device, the electric signal is amplified by the hearing aid and converted to sound. The sound is transmitted directly into the ear and background noise is eliminated. So often, telecoils can provide the extra help you need to hear in many difficult listening situations.

If a room is “looped” with an induction loop (hearing loop), such as a large meeting room or public places, like houses of worship, libraries and museums, once you activate your hearing aid t-coil, you can freely move around anywhere inside the loop and still hear the speaker as if you are right in front of them.

Look for this symbol to alert you if a room is looped and you can use your telecoil.

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Using a neckloop with your telecoil

What is a neckloop? A neckloop takes the place of a headset if you have a telecoil on your hearing aid.

The neckloop is literally a loop of wire that plugs into the receiver, then goes around your neck. When you turn on the receiver and turn on your t-switch, the sound gets sent over the wire and is picked up by the telecoil in your hearing aid.

Here are some samples of uses for the neckloop.

Connect the neckloop to your TV listening device. The headset then communicates with your t-coil eliminating the need to wear head-

The pocketalker PRO is a small, portable, personal amplifier with volume control. Attach the neck-loop in place of head-

The neckloop will work with computers, iPods, CD players, stereos, or any audio device with a 2.5 jack.

Using the neckloop with a cell phone enables clear communication.

Attaching the neckloop with this portable, light weight clipboard with built in mic, is ideal for one on one conversations. It can be used both indoors