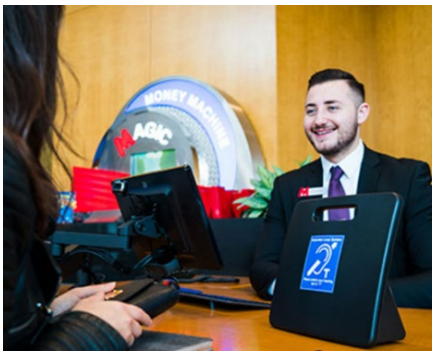
HLAA
Hearing Loss Association of America
Washington State Association

Hearing Loop Assistive Listening Systems

Technology that sends sound directly to telecoil-equipped hearing instruments



L to R: Counter loop, auditorium/room loop, personal loop

What Is a Hearing Loop?

Assistive listening technology installed throughout the world

A hearing loop (also called induction loop) is an assistive listening system (ALS) that transmit sound from a microphone directly into listeners' **telecoil-equipped** hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone conduction devices, or through a neckloop. Hearing loops can reduce background noise, greatly improving sound clarity in loud or noisy environments.

How Does It Work?

Microphone/audio system → loop amplifier → loop wire → your telecoil

Hearing loops consist of a special amplifier and hidden wire(s) that creates a magnetic field. Sound from a microphone, TV, or public address system is sent to the loop amplifier. The amplifier drives current through the loop wire. The wire creates a looped zone in any size venue from a small ticketing booth to a large auditorium. Within the looped zone the magnetic sound signal is sent directly to any hearing device with a telecoil. When a hearing loop is available, simply switch your device to the telecoil program and experience greater sound clarity.

What's a telecoil and why is it important?

A hearing instrument component that connects to ALS

A telecoil (or t-coil) is a small, copper coil inside personal hearing devices. Telecoils receive the magnetic sound signal inside looped spaces. It also enables listening via infrared and FM systems with the use of neckloops. Many hearing aid models come with t-coils. Having telecoils in your personal hearing devices is the easiest and most discreet way to connect to hearing loops. **Ask your hearing health care provider about telecoil technology and ask for instructions on how to use your t-coil program.**

How to Use a Hearing Loop

Switch to telecoil program, adjust volume, and enjoy clearer sound

1. Confirm your device has a telecoil and that your audiologist has enabled a telecoil program.
2. Look for the **ear-with-a-"T"** sign and sit or stand within the looped area.
3. Switch your device **to its telecoil program.**
4. Use your hearing aid/CI controls (or app) to adjust volume as desired.

Where You'll Find Hearing Loops

Look for the blue and white ear-with-a-"T" symbol

This is the international sign for hearing loops. The universal symbol for hearing assistance with the "T" to indicate a telecoil compatible system.

You may see this sign at the entrance to a large venue, on mass transit, at customer service windows, places of worship, and many more. In public venues, ask if a loop is available.

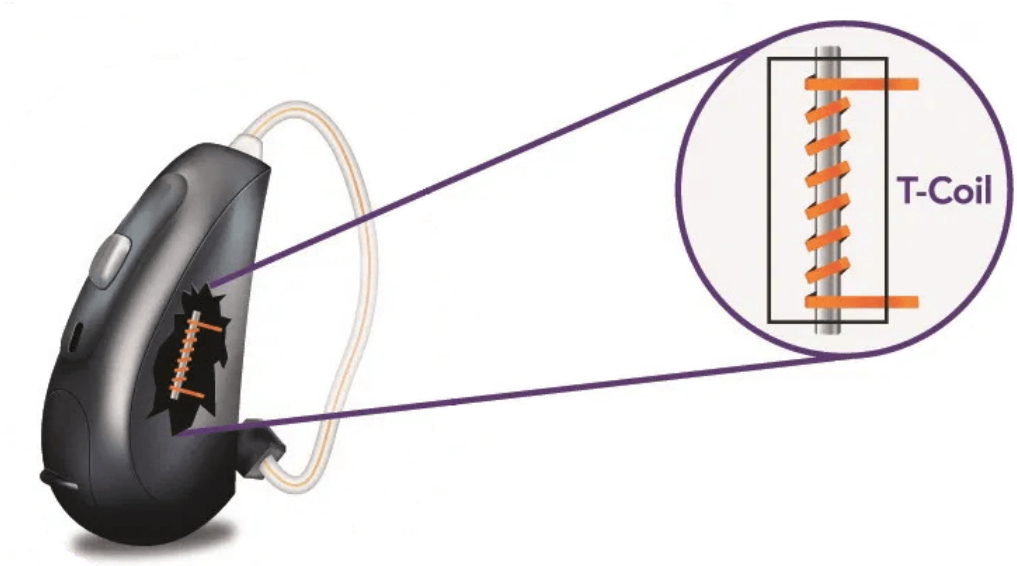
Quick Troubleshooting

If you don't hear the loop clearly, try these quick fixes

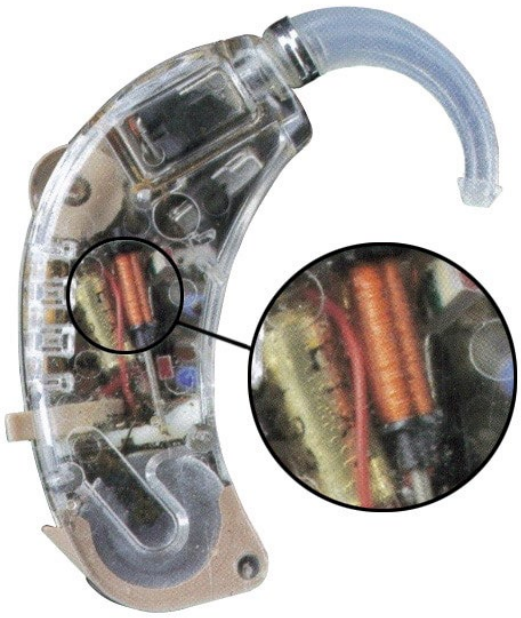
- No sound: confirm the Telecoil program is on and that the venue's loop is on.
- Sound is weak/patchy: move a few feet or try a different seat (coverage can vary).
- Buzzing: step away from power supplies/lighting.
- Still not working: ask staff for help and confirm your telecoil program is enabled by your audiologist.

Tip: When you're in public, don't hesitate to ask if a hearing loop is available.

Meet a Telecoil



Hearing Aid

Courtesy OTOjOY

A Telecoil (or t-coil) is a small, copper coil inside personal hearing Instruments. It that connects to hearing loops, Infrared and FM assistive hearing systems.