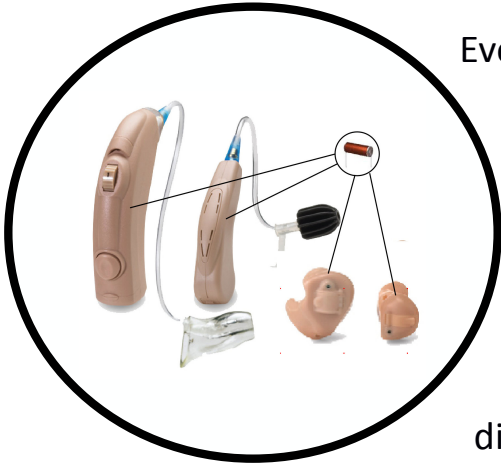


# The Telecoil

## *Connecting Directly to Sound*



Even with today's digital technology, the best hearing aids and cochlear implants can't separate the sounds you want to hear from background noise, or pick up all the sounds coming from distant sources like a stage or pulpit. Telecoils double the functionality of your hearing aids and can make a dramatic difference in your ability to clearly hear and to understand dialog in such settings.

### **What is a telecoil?**

A telecoil is a small copper coil that is an option on most hearing aids and is built into all cochlear implant processors. They are also known as t-coils and were originally used to boost the magnetic signals from the telephone handset. The telecoil is activated by a t-switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant. All landline and some cell phones are designed by law to be used with a telecoil. Telecoils also wirelessly connect the user directly to an assistive listening system (ALS) either directly with a hearing loop or via a receiver if the ALS is an FM or InfraRed system. Such systems are now required in all public places of assembly that feature a public address system under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The telecoil bridges the physical space between you and a sound source, connecting a listener directly to the sound source and eliminates most background noise.

### **When would you use a telecoil?**

Increasing the volume on your hearing aid or cochlear implant won't necessarily increase the clarity of what you hear. Hearing assistive technology combined with telecoils can improve your understanding of dialogue at work, in a meeting, in the classroom, theaters, places of worship, tour buses, and other places of assembly. Some people use telecoils at home with the TV, keeping the volume low for the comfort of others. Since the 2010 revisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act, with the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act most public places of assembly are being equipped with assistive listening systems that are telecoil compatible.

### **What other uses are there for telecoils?**

Telecoils can improve hearing on hearing-aid-compatible phones and can be used with neckloops to replace headphones. A neckloop is similar to a hearing loop, except that it is worn around the neck and can be plugged into other audio devices (such as an MP3 player, computer, or FM or infrared receivers) to transmit the audio signal directly to the hearing aid telecoil, bypassing the need for headphones.

### **How do you get a telecoil? Are they expensive?**

Ask for telecoils when you buy your hearing aids - telecoils normally add nothing to the cost of hearing aids. Ask your audiologist or hearing instrument specialist to include telecoils in your hearing aids and ask for advice on how to use them. Most models and styles of hearing aids and all cochlear implants have or can be fitted with telecoils. Telecoils can sometimes be added to your current hearing aids at no cost if they were recently purchased or for a reasonable fee if they're out of warranty.

