

# Hearing Loop Basics

## How does a Hearing Loop work?

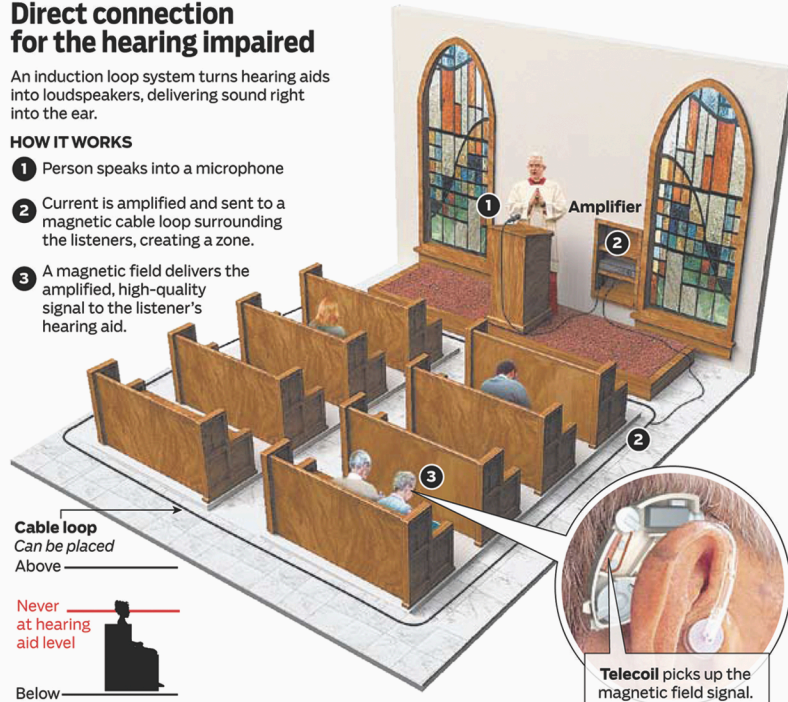
A Hearing Loop, through the use of a Loop amplifier and strategically placed wire around the room, transmits a signal (electromagnetically) that is received directly by and into a hearing aid or cochlear implant that has a T-coil installed in it or a special receiver for those who don't wear hearing devices.

### Direct connection for the hearing impaired

An induction loop system turns hearing aids into loudspeakers, delivering sound right into the ear.

#### HOW IT WORKS

- 1 Person speaks into a microphone
- 2 Current is amplified and sent to a magnetic cable loop surrounding the listeners, creating a zone.
- 3 A magnetic field delivers the amplified, high-quality signal to the listener's hearing aid.



SOURCE: Ampetronic

ALEX BORDENS AND PHIL GEIB/TRIBUNE

## What are the benefits of a Loop System?

Loop Systems help eliminate bothersome background noise and reverberation/echo. Additionally, Loops transmit sound directly into hearing aids and cochlear implants utilizing the prescriptive corrections that are programmed for that individual. No external receivers are required but are available for those without hearing devices.

## What is a T-coil?

A T-coil or Telecoil, is a small metal rod with metal wire wrapped around it that is installed in a hearing aid or cochlear implant which is necessary to receive the Loop signal. The other purpose of the T-coil is to make using the telephone easier by eliminating the high pitched interference you may hear when putting the phone to your ear.

## How do I know if I have a T-coil?

The T-coil program necessary for use with the Loop System is one that is manually activated by the user. This is done by either pressing a button on the hearing aid or cochlear implant itself or by use of a remote control. You may presently be pressing this button to use the telephone - It is the same program. If you are uncertain if you have a manual T-coil program, consult with your hearing professional as you may have one but it may not be activated.



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- **I have an automatic T-coil or phone program...is that the same thing?**

No, it is not. The automatic program is activated by the hearing aid/cochlear implant detecting the receiver of the phone, which has a magnetic component to it, as it gets close to the ear. The signal the Loop creates is not strong enough to activate the auto program.

- **When I turn on my T-coil program, I can hear the presentation, sermon or program but I can't hear anyone around me. Why?**

In most cases, when activating the T-coil program, it disables the microphones on the hearing aid/cochlear implant allowing you to only hear the Loop System. This is important because it helps eliminate background noise. Consult with your hearing professional as they may be able to set it so that the microphone AND T-coil are activated at the same time.

- **Can my hearing aid be retrofitted for the T-coil if it does not presently have one?**

Yes, in many cases. Consult with your hearing professional or hearing aid manufacturer to confirm.

- **Is a Loop System and the electromagnetic field it creates, safe for a pacemaker user?**

Yes, the electromagnetic field it creates is not strong enough to affect a user.

- **Where can a Loop System be used or found?**

Loop Systems are most commonly found in houses of worship and live performance theatres. They can also be used in classrooms, meeting or conference rooms, as well as "transient" locations like cash registers and pharmacy windows.

- **How do I know if a venue has a Loop System installed?**

There should be signage posted at the entrance to the room or building. It should incorporate the internationally recognized symbol for Hearing Loops which is an ear that has dashes, a line, or an arrow that is going through it. Additionally it will have a T in the bottom corner and can be any color from black and white, to blue, to red or even no color if it is a metal sign for instance. If you see an ear without the T then it is not a Loop System.



- **Sometimes I go to a venue and it doesn't seem like the Loop is working. Why?**

It is impossible to know for sure going to the venue and troubleshooting. However, some of the most common issues are that the performers aren't using mics for that particular show, the venue has accidentally turned the audio feed to the Loop System down or off, a cable or wire came unplugged, a problem with the Loop amplifier, or you didn't turn on your T-coil program.

- **What should I do if this happens?**

First, you should confirm you are in fact in the T-coil program on your hearing device. If so, you should immediately mention it to an usher or representative of the venue in case there is a simple solution like plugging something in. If that doesn't resolve it, please report it to Complete Hearing Solutions so we may make an appointment to troubleshoot it.

- **There is a venue I go to or would like to go to if I could hear there but they don't have a Loop System, what should I do?**

You should do two things. Most importantly, you should tell the venue about the Hearing Loop, preferably a manager, board member, administrator, or someone of influence or responsibility at that location. There are handouts, brochures, and articles that are available for you to take to the venue. Secondly, you should notify Complete Hearing Solutions so we may get in contact with them.



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