

What is an induction loop system?

An induction loop is a cable that goes around the listening area. **It helps people who use a hearing aid** or loop listener to hear sounds more clearly because it reduces or cuts out background noise. At home, for example, you could fit and use a loop system to hear sound from your television. In your car you can use a loop system to help you hear the stereo or radio. You can also use a loop with a microphone to help you hear conversations in noisy places. In the theatre, a loop can help you hear the show more clearly.

How do induction loop systems work?

An electric current is fed to the loop by an amplifier that gets its signal from a connection with a source of sound. This can be a sound system or TV set, or a microphone placed in front of the person speaking. The resulting current in the loop produces a magnetic field that matches the sound. You can then pick up this magnetic field if you are sitting within the area of the loop and your hearing aid – or loop listening aid – is **set to 'T'**. You can adjust your hearing aid for volume in the usual way. Some telephones have a very small loop, called an inductive coupler, in the earpiece. **You need to check if your model has this before using it with your hearing aid set to 'T'**.

How do I use an induction loop system?

If you have a hearing aid with a 'T' setting, simply switch it to 'T'. If you do not have a suitable hearing aid you can still use a loop, but you will also need a 'loop listener'. Some loop listeners are small boxes with headphones – others are worn as an earpiece.

More than one person can benefit from a loop installed in a room as long as they each have their hearing aids set to 'T' or they are using loop listeners. You are not wired to any other equipment so you are free to move around and listen from anywhere within the loop.

Possible problems with an induction loop system

You may find you have to turn up the volume on your hearing aid a little when you switch to 'T'. You might pick up buzzing noises when you set your hearing aid to 'T', or when using a loop listener. This is caused by interference on your hearing aid from electrical equipment such as fluorescent lights, dimmer switches or electric cables.

The loop signal can spill out beyond the area within the loop to other rooms. The magnetic waves from a loop can pass through walls, ceilings and floors. So you may be able to overhear sounds or conversations in rooms next door or directly above and below the loop. This could be a problem if your neighbour also uses a loop system, or if you want to have a confidential conversation. To get round this problem, you could try to reduce the size of the loop – although you might need to rearrange the seating.

How do I use loop in public places?

Using a loop system in a public building should be straightforward as long as your hearing aid has induction pick up – **you just need to set it to 'T'**. Check with your audiology clinic or hearing aid dispenser if you are not sure. Loop systems can be useful in a variety of public places. You are most likely to find them in theatres, cinemas, places of worship, meeting rooms, lecture rooms and banks.

What should I do if encounter problems?

If you experience problems with the loop system in the building you are visiting, first contact the member of staff responsible for the system or the building manager. Sometimes the loop might not have been switched on or not set correctly. So it is always worth pointing this out to the appropriate member of staff.

If you are satisfied that the loop system has been switched on and set correctly, contact your local audiology clinic to make sure the loop pick up on your hearing aid is working.

If you require this leaflet in a different format i.e. larger print, please contact:

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'T' is for Telecoil



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