

## ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE

Assistive listening devices bring a sound signal closer to the listener. They are used as a supplement to hearing aids and cochlear implants in especially difficult listening situations, for example:

- In environments with a lot of noise
- When listening at a distance, such as when you attend a lecture, a play, or a concert
- In rooms with reverberation like museums or religious buildings
- When you can't face the person you're communicating with, such as while driving or sitting at a computer

There are many different kinds and brands, but they all work in a similar way:

A microphone or sound system sends signals to an amplifier worn by the listener, effectively bridging the gap between the source of the sound and you.

- A streamer is a small device you wear around your neck on a cord. It wirelessly connects your mobile phone, laptop, or TV to your hearing aids.
- Certain mobile phones can stream directly to hearing aids using Bluetooth connection.
- Infrared systems transmit sound using infrared light waves from sound systems to a receiver you can wear, or one built into your hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant processor(s).
- Personal FM radio systems have two main parts, a transmitter and a receiver. The transmitter uses a microphone or direct connection to a sound system to send the sounds to the receiver. The most common type of receiver is worn around the neck. The receiver then feeds the sounds into your hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant processor(s).
- An induction loop works together with hearing aids that have a telecoil. It connects the sound system directly to your hearing aid when it is switched to the appropriate setting.
- Hard-wired devices include a number of hearing assistive devices such as alarm clocks, fire alarms, listening devices, personal desk top sound systems. They consist of an amplifier and a headset, and may be used by themselves, or connected to your hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant(s) via personal neck loop.

To learn more about hearing assistive technology (HAT) and assistive listening devices, check out these resources:

- Hearing Loss Association of America:  
<https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/technology/hat/>
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association:  
[https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/treatment/assist\\_tech.htm](https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/treatment/assist_tech.htm)
- National Deaf Center:  
[https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/sites/default/files/Assistive%20Listening%20Systems\\_%20An%20Introduction.pdf](https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/sites/default/files/Assistive%20Listening%20Systems_%20An%20Introduction.pdf)
- Action on Hearing Loss (UK):  
<https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/live-well/products-and-technology/products-and-technology-to-help-with-hearing-loss/>
- Beginnings: <https://ncbegin.org/assistive-listening-devices-alds/>