



This symbol indicates the presence of assistive listening technology and if the symbol contains a "T", the system is telecoil accessible. Below, it indicates a phone that can connect to the telecoil in a hearing aid or cochlear implant.

TELEPHONES FOR THE HARD OF HEARING

Amplified phones

come in desktop and cordless models with the volume adjustable up to 60 decibels. Some include tone control, a loud ringer option and answering machine features.



Captioned phones

allow the user to both hear and read the response with a slight delay in the text. They have the same volume, tone etc. controls as standard amplified phones.



Voice Carry Over phones

let users speak when calling and read the reply from the person called on a small screen on the phone.



Cellular phones

have volume controls and most have jacks for a headset or neckloop. For best performance with hearing aids and cochlear implants, cellular phones should carry a T4 (telecoil) and M4 (microphone) rating.



Cellular Phone Apps

(applications) are special programs in the phone that can perform functions beyond simply transmitting speech such as the app that allows users to send and receive text messages.

There are others specifically for people with hearing loss that can be downloaded from the Internet and most of them are free. They include text to voice, voice to text, and even features that mimic personal sound amplifiers.

Your rights under the ADA

Under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), public places with a public address system must make a reasonable accommodation for those with hearing loss. In most instances that will be an assistive listening system (ALS) that supplements the loudspeakers in the room with ear buds, headsets or neckloops that can be borrowed to help people hear. With a neckloop instead of a headset, you can connect to the sound system by simply touching the t-switch on your hearing aids if they are equipped with telecoils.

If the ALS is a hearing (room) loop, no borrowed equipment is needed if you have telecoil equipped hearing aids.

Places where you should request a neckloop or headset:

- Places of Worship
- Performing Arts Halls
- Legislative Chambers
- Public Meeting Rooms



for living with hearing loss.



For more information:

Many of these telephone options, plus other assistive technology, are available free of charge from the New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing to qualified New Mexico residents. Learn about their program at: www.cdhh.state.nm.us/featured-products.aspx

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Hearing Loop**
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ALERTING DEVICES

SHAKE AWAKE



alarms can be worn on the wrist or be a small disc that is placed under a pillow to shake you awake. They work as an alarm clock or as an emergency alert for other events.

SMOKE and CARBON ALARMS



send a signal to a strobe light, lamp, bed shaker, pager or low frequency alert that is more audible to most with hearing loss.

LIGHT SIGNALERS



provide a strobe light or flashing lamp to signal a ringing phone, doorbell, barking dog, crying baby or other emergency alerting sound.

VIBRATING WATCHES or TIMERS



are smartly styled devices that can provide single or multiple alerts through a vibrating action.

Many devices can increase the functionality and enhance the performance of hearing aids when paired with a neckloop or they can be used in place of hearing aids, paired with ear buds or a headset. This symbol  as used below indicates a device that can be used with a neckloop or an earhook, headset or ear buds.

NECKLOOPS and EARHOOKS

are used in place of a headset and can be plugged into any sound source (TV, landline and cell phone, computer and other electronic sound devices) that has a speaker or headset jack. Like a loop system, they transmit sound to telecoils in hearing aids and cochlear implants.



PERSONAL SOUND AMPLIFIERS

can help reduce background sound by getting the microphone closer to the sound source. They are used with headphones or neckloops and have volume and tone controls - some include a built in telecoil.



PERSONAL FM SYSTEMS

are used to hear from a distance of up to 150 feet. They consist of a transmitter and a receiver. Personal FM's are used for guided tours, in a classroom setting or for conversations.



TV LISTENING SYSTEMS

allow the user to control the TV volume for his/her personal listening via a neckloop, headset, or remote loudspeaker without changing the volume level on the TV for others. The systems have a range of up to 100 feet.

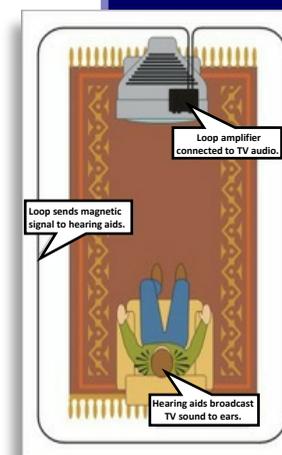


BLUETOOTH® TECHNOLOGY transmits sound wirelessly for up to 35 feet when "paired" with Bluetooth capable devices such as a cell phone, a remote microphone, TV or other device. Some applications incorporate a neckloop. It is basically a one-on-one technology and cannot serve multiple users in assembly areas.

TELECOILS and LOOP SYSTEMS

Telecoils, also known as T-Coils or a telephone switch, are small copper coils inside most hearing aids and cochlear implant processors that receive sound transmitted wirelessly by a hearing loop, neckloop, ear hook or telephone ear piece.

Loop Systems may also be called Hearing Loops or Induction Loops. These are assistive listening systems using amplifiers that connect to any sound source (TV, iPod, radio, PA system, etc.). They send sound through a wire loop creating an electromagnetic signal that is picked up by a telecoil and converted to sound.



In a home TV installation the loop can be under the carpet, the baseboard, in the basement or in the attic to transmit sound to the telecoils in your hearing aids.