

What is a T-coil or Telecoil?

The T-coil is a small coil built in most hearing aids and cochlear implants. T-coils were originally used to boost magnetic signals from the telephone handset. Today this same T-coil enables users in a hearing loop-equipped venue to hear sound from the PA system broadcast to the hearing aid. Many also make use of this hearing aid compatible assistive system to clearly hear TV at home while keeping its volume low for the comfort of others.

To activate this T-coil, the user pushes a "T-switch" to start a special program in the hearing aid. Some instruments let the user switch between a T-coil only and a combined Mic/T-coil program. The latter setting allows signals from the hearing loop to be heard while at the same time amplifying nearby voices and sounds.

Why should I know about the T-coil?

Whether you are thinking about getting hearing aids for the first time or want to replace your current hearing aids, take time to discuss all the different hearing aid options with your dispenser. Ask if your new instruments come equipped with the T-coil. Some smaller hearing aids, though very discreet and nearly invisible, may not accommodate a T-coil. Adding a T-coil at a later date is usually not possible.

If you need to better understand speech in your church, auditoriums, or TV room, discuss the T-coil option with your dispenser prior to ordering instruments.

Why is listening in a hearing loop so much better for those with hearing aids?

Digital hearing instruments work well in quiet, intimate settings, and thanks to directional microphones, they can greatly improve understanding in noisier situations such as a car or restaurant. But they often are less effective in large or noise filled public spaces.

In places where a hearing loop is in operation and the T-coil setting is selected by the hearing aid user, the signal from the microphone or public address system is received wirelessly in the T-coil by magnetic induction. It functions rather like Wi-Fi for hearing aids, with sound relayed directly into the ear with the appropriate amplification and without the background noise.

Hearing loops in Wisconsin and beyond.

Hearing Loop technology has steadily found its way into Eastern Wisconsin and the Fox Valley area. Among the places where you find loops are churches, libraries, meeting rooms, senior centers, a convention center and the Oshkosh Grand Opera House. The University of Oshkosh is planning to use hearing loop technology in its new academic building to open in 2011.

Loops are very common in Europe, particularly in Great Britain. You can find them in taxicabs, post offices, airports, theaters, museums and cathedrals.

Hearing loop initiatives are spreading in Wisconsin and across the country, thus making it ever more likely you will see the universal hearing loop sign below.



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil [Universal loop sign](#)

To learn more about hearing loop technology:
www.hearingloop.org

To find places in Wisconsin that have hearing loops or to locate an installer near you:
www.loopwisconsin.com

Let's loop Wisconsin!

Why get a T-Coil?

Because it doubles the usefulness of hearing aids!