

The Audio Induction Loop

For people who are hearing impaired, an AUDIO INDUCTION LOOP system is of great benefit. Very few people understand that hearing aid wearers do not always receive clear reception, even though good Public Address or Amplification Systems are present. Nor do they know that when an AUDIO INDUCTION LOOP is incorporated in the amplification system, a hearing aid wearer will benefit with clear reception.

WHAT IS THE AUDIO INDUCTION LOOP?

This description of an Audio Induction Loop is taken from Alexander Graham Bell Association pamphlet, November 1979.

An AUDIO INDUCTION LOOP consists of a microphone, an amplifier and, in the place of a loudspeaker, a coil of wire placed around the room. Sound waves from the speaker's voice going into the microphone are changed into an electric current, amplified, and then sent through the coil which emits a magnetic field in the room. The field is picked up by the "T" switch of a hearing aid, amplified, and converted back into sound. Hearing aid users sitting within the loop system can pick up the speaker's voice or other auditory stimulus with a minimum of distortion and no background noise simply by turning on the "T" switch on their aids. The loop is fully adaptable to television, radio, stereo, tape recorder or movie projector.

WHAT IS BEHIND THE HEARING AID "T" SWITCH?

Most behind the ear (BTE) hearing aids and body hearing aids and some in the ear (ITE) hearing aids have a "T" switch. The "T" switch stands for telecoil or telephone, and is in addition to a microphone input.

Loop receivers are available for users without the "T" switch.

WHERE CAN THE AUDIO INDUCTION LOOP BE FITTED?

Any buildings that use an amplification system attached to a microphone, such as meeting halls, theatres, senior citizens' clubs and churches are suitable for loop installation. In fact any building where a microphone and or a sound system is used can generally be fitted at a reasonable cost. The induction loop does not affect the efficiency of the existing amplification system.

Printacall is able to provide Audio Loops in locations without any amplification system, and also portable systems where required.

HOW CAN THE LOOP BE INSTALLED?

The whole room or hall is normally looped, with the cable under the floor, in the ceiling, under the carpet etc. The exact method will be determined when quoting.

WHEN SHOULD A LOOP BE INSTALLED?

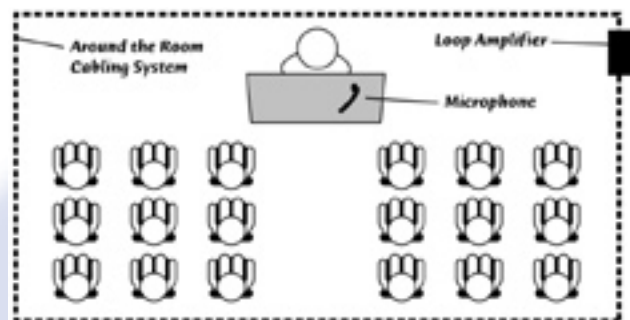
For new or renovated buildings with public access, there may be a legal requirement to install a loop system for the benefit of hearing impaired people who access the venue. Refer to the Australian Building Codes with respect to hearing augmentation for further details.

Loops should form part of the planning process for all new buildings. Churches, councils, and all people in charge of public buildings should consider installing AUDIO INDUCTION LOOPS to assist people wearing hearing aids to receive better sound reproduction. However, installation in older buildings is standard and can be accomplished with minimum interruption to current activities.

STATISTICS OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT

A study has shown that more than 22% of the population over the age of 15 have some hearing impairment. This represents about 3.3 million people, of these it is believed about 70% should wear hearing aids.

COMMERCIAL LOOP SYSTEMS



WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF A LOOP SYSTEM TO YOUR CUSTOMER OR EMPLOYEE?

A loop provides clarity of sound for people wearing a hearing aid with a "T" switch. The loop directs the amplified sound, eg, music, speech, etc to the hearing aid and minimises distracting and annoying background noise. It will enhance communication between the user and other people, make conversation more natural and clarify amplified sound.

BENEFITS OF A LOOP SYSTEM

- Gain a competitive edge, meet the needs of your customer;
- User benefits when seeking access to your services and facilities, attending training sessions, meetings, seminars or product demonstrations;
- More natural conversation between user and other people;
- Multiple users can access the loop at the one time;
- Incorporate into your Disability Discrimination Act Action Plan by providing hearing impaired people with access to your services and facilities.
- Meet the Hearing Augmentation requirements of the Building Codes of Australia.

Printacall is a specialist in audio induction loop systems and has installed over 1000 loop systems into major public buildings in New South Wales and the ACT.

Loop Systems designed and installed by

PRINTACALL

Call **PRINTACALL** for Service

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS AND AVAILABILITY MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR DEAF, HEARING IMPAIRED AND SPEECH IMPAIRED PEOPLE.