

What is an audio induction loop?

An audio loop system comprises a microphone, an amplifier and – in the place of a loudspeaker – a coil of wire.

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.

The field is picked up by the "T" switch of hearing aid, amplified and converted back into sound. [Most aids have a "T" switch facility, either on the aid or programmed into the remote control.]

Hearing aid users sitting within the loop system can pick the speaker's voice with a minimum of distortion with no background noise.

What kinds of audio loops are available?

The coil of wire can be placed around a room or building or put into variety of personal devices.

Any building where a microphone and/or a sound system is used can be fitted, at a reasonable cost.

Personal loops include a neck or shoulder loop, a cushion, an antimacassar, which hangs neatly over the back of a chair and a loop, which can be put around a chair.

What appliances can use loops?

The loop system is fully adaptable to television, radio, stereo, tape recorders and movie projectors.

Audio loop systems can also be used in cars, making it much easier for people with hearing impairment to have a conversation. Safer, too, because the driver isn't turning to face the speaker.

How can I tell where audio loops are available?

This international symbol indicates a loop system is available. Information and ticket booths often have loops. As do many theatres, hotels, cinemas, meeting rooms.

Where can I get more information?

More information is available from the technical resource officer of Better Hearing Australia. Ring the number on the cover and leave a message.