



Adult Loss of Hearing Association Inc.

A Support and Advocacy Organization

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Loop, I/R or FM System - Why choose one over the other:

1. A loop system at 1/3rd or less the cost would accomplish the same thing.
2. With the loop system no neckloops are required.
3. With the FM and I/R System even those with telecoil equipped hearing aids **still** need to use the receivers (\$\$\$\$) PLUS they would have to use NECKLOOPS to hear!
4. Receivers are notorious for having batteries die at inopportune times
5. FM & I/R receivers have been known to grow "Little feet" and walk away.
6. Neckloops are fragile and if a person drops a receiver, the delicate wires can break (\$50 for a new neckloop)
7. FM and I/R Receivers are subject to maintenance issues (Ask hundreds of churches across the country who have switched to "Looping!" because of the exorbitant cost to maintain the FM or I/R System)
8. Loop System once turned on is "ALWAYS" on and never needs to be bothered with.
9. FM and I/R Systems need to be turned on and set up each time.
10. FM and I/R Systems have accountability issues. Issue out, turn back in, charge batteries (Manpower!)
11. Rechargeable batteries at \$10 each have a short life expectancy
12. With a loop, a person walks in and turns on telecoil then simply listens.. no extra hardware. FM and I/R requires standing in line to receive, then adjust the volume then later again stand in line to return it!
13. For those without hearing aids a loop receiver (at half the price of an FM or I/R Receiver) can be used.
14. Those needing an inexpensive loop receiver buy their own and it can be used anywhere there's a loop installed....**ANYWHERE!!!!** (FM is frequency specific to the entity!)

Why choose a HIGH MAINTENANCE FM or I/R system over an inexpensive low maintenance loop system? You'd get no argument that yes, the FM and I/R systems are truly a **WONDERFUL** system... *initially* but consider these realities (Pros and Cons) that are listed above. **To further make the point, look at the attached sheet. On page two it shows the long term cost differences between all three systems**

It is important to remember there is a difference between simply "hearing" with louder volume and actually understanding the words. FM, I/R and Loop listening systems remove unwanted background noise, increase volume, and improve clarity.

Select a Loop I/R or FM system to best fit your needs:

- 1) Do you need the system to be mobile?
- 2) Would you prefer to have no hardware and minimal maintenance?
- 3) Is confidentiality a concern?



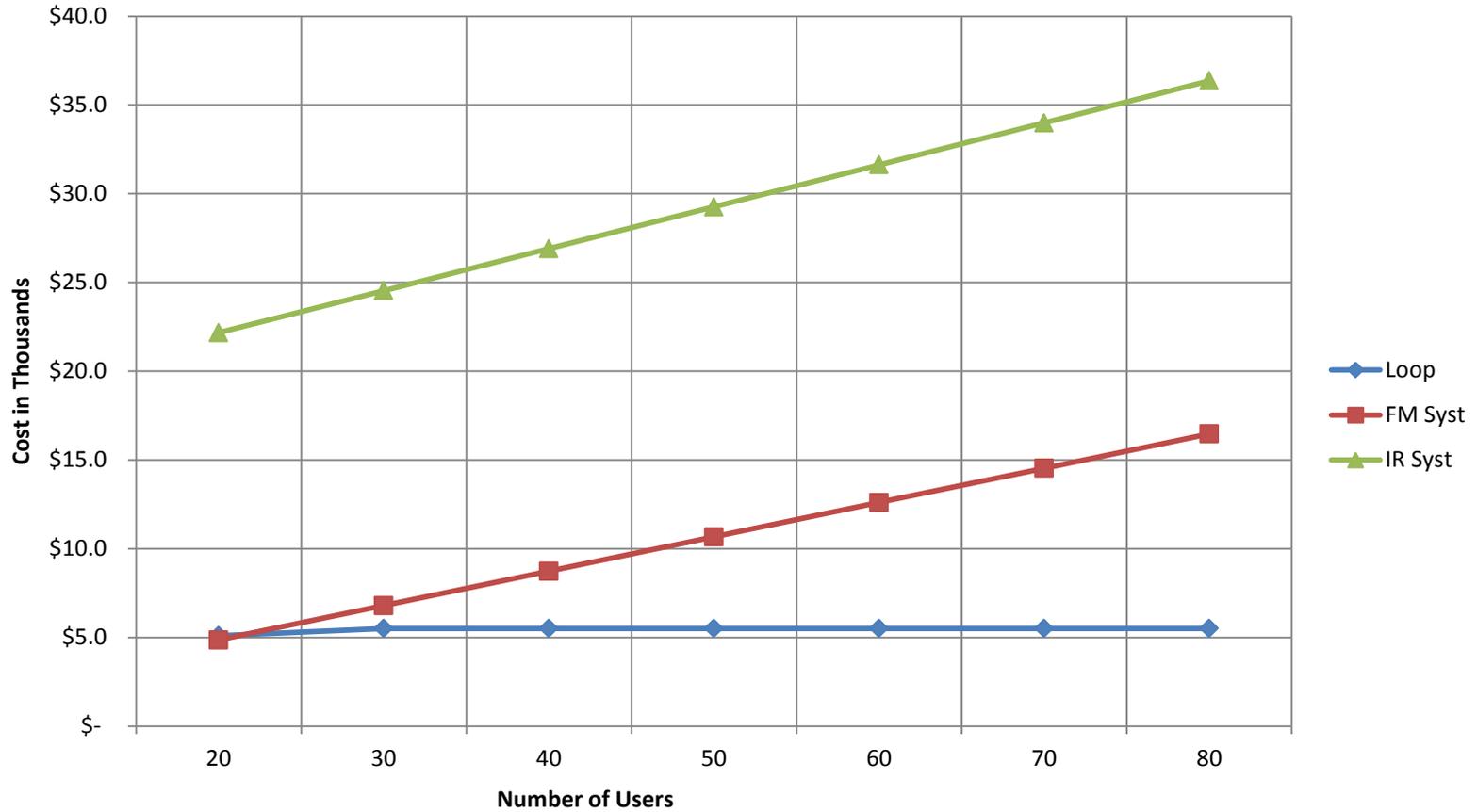


Assistive Listening Devices

For a large venue

Category	Hearing Loop	FM System	Infrared (IR)	Bluetooth
Description	Sound transmitted by magnetic induction and picked up directly by <i>any</i> brand of hearing aid or cochlear t-coil	Works just like commercial FM broadcast systems, need a transmitter and receiver	Audio signal is conveyed onto the base station, converted into infrared light by emitter, receiver detects signal and converts it back to audio	Requires a relay device to transmit audio from the source to the hearing aid. <i>Not appropriate for a large venue.</i>
Cost/User <small>(based on 50 users)</small>	\$102	\$213	\$585	N/A
Installation	Need Installer	Somewhat technical	Somewhat technical	Somewhat technical
Portability	Not	Highly	Highly	Highly
Privacy	Overspill in all directions (can be limited by design.)	Transmission can be tuned in.	Private	Private
System interference	Steel construction and old wiring can cause interference (EMI)	Can select band with no interference	No interference, line-of-sight only, sensitive to sunlight	No interference, distance limited to 10 meters
Equipment required	Amplifier, wire, sound source adapter cable, t-coil with manual activation	Transmitter, receiver and neck loop for t-coil with manual activation or headset	Transmitter, emitter, and receiver with neck loop for t-coil with manual activation or headset	Relay device for brand specific hearing aid (must be paired)
(+) Advantages, (-) Disadvantages	(+) No headset and any t-coil can connect (+) No receiver required by user with t-coils (+) Very little maintenance required (make sure its turned on)	(-) Users must wear receivers	(-) Users must wear receivers	(+) Can connect to 8 BT devices (cellphone, computer, car, etc.) simultaneously (-) Energy intensive

Comparison of Assistive Listening Device Costs



Loop	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$5.1
FM Syst	\$4.9	\$6.8	\$8.7	\$10.7	\$12.6	\$14.5	\$16.5
IR Syst	\$22.2	\$24.5	\$26.9	\$29.3	\$31.6	\$34.0	\$36.4

- FM & IR costs based on Listen Technologies 2013 catalog
- Includes an estimate of maintenance cost for 1 year.