



Adult Loss of Hearing Association Inc.

A Support and Advocacy Organization

Looping options (By Lou Touchette)

Churches/large venues: When a facility has an unusual design that renders installation of a loop near impossible, there are options. For those who have telecoil equipped hearing aids, you can substitute loops with wireless systems that afford you the same high quality listening as what a loop would provide.

With Fm and infrared systems, there are receivers that have jacks that will accept a neckloop. The neckloop which is simply a small version of a room loop will provide the same high quality listening enjoyment with perhaps an added plus. The receivers have volume controls that will let you pick your own level of signal strength. Or, if you don't have telecoil equipped hearing aids, you can use either ear buds or headphones plugged into the receiver with the same ability to adjust the volume. Some receivers even have Bass/Treble controls.

Small room's: Again, if the room layout is irregular and because of its design, you cannot install a loop, you can also consider the same alternatives as above. In addition, you can substitute a "Loop Pad" that can be routed around the edge of the room or threaded under a carpet. The pad can be placed under a chair or couch where once you are seated, you can also listen using your telecoil equipped hearing aids. The loop amplifier volume can be adjusted to a comfortable level of listening. Or, if you don't have telecoil equipped hearing aids, you can use a loop receiver with ear buds or headphones to also benefit from the "Loop pad." Loop receivers have telecoils in them that will also sense the loop signal.

Other options: If there is Electro-magnetic interference (EMI) present that causes a loud objectionable "buzz" in the ears, often the wireless system can be an effective "work-around" to avoid this unpleasant sound. A professional loop installer or sound professional can evaluate your situation and recommend alternative ways to work around such problems.

If a loop is installed but you don't have telecoil equipped hearing aids, by using a "Loop Receiver," you can enjoy the same level of listening enjoyment as those who wear telecoil equipped hearing aids. The ALOHA office has loop receivers that you can try out. Call the office for a demonstration appointment.