

# AID YOUR HEARING

Hearing aids are electronic devices that detect and increase sound that you wouldn't normally hear. The volume of the sound is increased and better delivered to your ear.

Hearing aids come in the following styles:



**BEHIND-THE-EAR**, or BTE, hearing aids are the most powerful. They're reliable and durable. These devices are made in a mini or standard BTE option. The sound is delivered to the ear through a custom ear mold attached to the BTE. If you have mild-to-severe hearing loss, you may be fit with BTE hearing aids.



**OPEN-FIT BEHIND-THE-EAR** hearing aids are reliable. These devices are available in a mini or standard BTE option. They're appropriate if you have normal-to-near-normal hearing in the low pitches, and mild-to-moderately severe hearing loss in the high pitches.



**RECEIVER-IN-CANAL**, or RIC, hearing aids come in a standard or mini BTE option. These aids can be used if you have mild-to-severe hearing loss. The sound is delivered directly into your ear canal and is connected to the BTE piece by a thin, clear wire.



**IN-THE-EAR**, or ITE, units are the most powerful, custom-made style. They fit completely in the outer ear. ITEs can be used if you have mild-to-severe hearing loss.



**IN-THE-CANAL**, or ITC, aids fit in the ear canal. These are similar to ITE hearing aids, but are smaller. ITCs are appropriate if you have mild-to-moderately severe hearing loss. Because of their smaller size, you need agility to insert and remove them, replace the battery, and adjust the volume.



**COMPLETELY-IN-CANAL**, or CIC, units are the smallest hearing aids. They have a removal string due to their small size and because they fit so deeply in the ear canal. CICs are suitable if you have mild-to-moderate hearing loss.

*Check with your audiologist or healthcare provider for the type of hearing aid that best suits your individual needs.*





# TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP YOU HEAR

If you have hearing loss, there are a number of assistive listening devices, or ALDs, that can help you participate better in daily activities.

Visit our Web site for more information about hearing aids and assistive listening devices.

*It's a noisy world ...  
Protect your hearing.*

**ALERTING DEVICES** use loud sounds or visual signals, such as a blinking light, to notify you that the doorbell or telephone is ringing or that an alarm is going off.

**HEARING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**, or HATS, help reduce background noise and strengthen the sounds you want to hear. These include the following:

- **Personal frequency modulation**, or FM, systems are like miniature radio stations. The personal FM system consists of a transmitter microphone used by the person speaking and a receiver that you use to listen. FM systems can be used in theaters, concert halls, places of worship, museums, corporate conference rooms, convention centers, and other public meeting places.
- **Infrared systems** can be used in your home with a TV set. Like FM systems, they can also be used in public settings. With an infrared system, sound from the TV is broadcast using infrared light waves.
- **Induction loop systems** are most common in large group areas, but can also be purchased for your individual use. Induction loop systems work with your hearing aid, and the volume is adjusted through your hearing aid.
- **Personal amplifiers** can be utilized in public settings, when watching your TV, if you're outdoors, or when traveling in a car. About the size of a cell phone, these devices increase sound levels and reduce background noise.
- **Mobile applications** can be used to assist in difficult listening situations.



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