



A volunteer network of neighbors helping neighbors

Bloomingdale

AGING IN PLACE

bloominplace.org

P.O. Box 497, New York, N.Y. 10025
info@bloominplace.org – (212) 842-8831

How to Enhance Your Hearing with Our New “Loop”

All you need to do is turn your hearing aid to the t-coil position. (The t-coil also helps you hear better on the telephone.) Most hearing aids have a t-coil, which is a separate copper microphone from the one you usually use. If you do not know if you have a t-coil in your hearing aid, ask your audiologist. Often a t-coil is in your aid but not activated; there is no charge to activate the t-coil. If the t-coil is working well, it will pick up the signal from the loop and you will be amazed at how well you can hear.

It is best to wait to turn your hearing aid to the t-coil position until the speakers start using their microphones since when you have the t-coil on you cannot hear those around you. When the t-coil is on, you hear only what is coming through the sound source hooked up to the loop.

After listening to a presentation with a microphone (or a movie through a TV that is hooked up to the induction loop), be sure to turn your hearing aid/cochlear implant back to the regular microphone setting so you can once again hear the people around you.

If you have some hearing loss but do not wear a hearing aid or have a hearing aid but no t-coil, you can access the same wonderful sound by using headphones with an appropriate portable receiver.

What Exactly Is an Induction Loop

An induction loop consists of three things: insulated wire, an amplifier and a sound source (e.g. a TV or a microphone). The wire is installed around the perimeter of a room, usually in the ceiling or on the floor. The looped wire is connected to an amplifier (equipment used in stereo systems to make the sound louder) which, in turn, is connected to the sound source, several of which can be hooked up to the loop at once by using a mixer. The system creates a magnetic field within the looped area. The magnetic field signal carries the sound from the loop directly to the t-coil (telephone program or telecoil or t-switch) of a hearing aid/cochlear implant or the special receiver of a headphone set. All background noise is eliminated. It is an amazing technology that has been used in Europe, mostly Great Britain, for 30 years but is just catching on in the U.S.

For more information and help...



This informational flyer was prepared by **Barbara Bryan**, a member of BAIP who also is active with the **Manhattan Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America**. If you have any questions about this system or need help using it, please contact her at:
email: barbarabryan@usa.net; telephone: **(212) 864-5663**

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