Frequently Asked Questions

Q Who is a candidate for LINK-IT?

A The **LINK-IT** array microphone is for every hearing aid user who has difficulty understanding speech in noise. **LINK-IT** is typically used in special situations, not all day.

Q Can LINK-IT be used next to eyeglasses?

A **LINK-IT** fits comfortably between most BTEs and eyeglasses temples.

Q Are 1 or 2 LINK-ITs recommended?

A One **LINK-IT** provides 7-dB improvement in signal-to-noise ratio. Two **LINK-IT**s give approximately 2-3 dB additional improvement compared to one. Preference for one or two **LINK-IT**s depends on the communication needs of each person.

Q When only one Link-it is used, can a hearing aid be used on the opposite ear?

A Yes. A hearing aid on the opposite ear can be used in either omni or directional mode, depending on user preference. Note: **LINK-IT** works only with the hearing aid that is nearest to it.

Q Will a hum or buzz be heard when wearing Link-it?

A There can be interference from magnetic fields from computer monitors, fluorescent lighting and certain sensors. There is a special switch on **LINK-IT** to help reduce temporary interference.

What is LINK-IT?

LINK-IT is a wireless directional microphone array used with a hearing aid to improve speech intelligibility in noise. **LINK-IT** was designed to be used when directional hearing aids do not provide sufficient directivity. It is ideal for use in difficult listening situations.

How does LINK-IT work?

LINK-IT transmits sound to a BTE or ITE through the hearing aid's built-in T-coil. **LINK-IT** contains three directional microphones working together to give a 7-10 dB improvement in signal-to-noise ratio. **LINK-IT** fits over the ear in close proximity to the hearing aid. **LINK-IT**'s communication with the hearing aid is wireless, which means that it does not require an audio-shoe connector, a cord or a separate hand-held microphone. **LINK-IT** can be operated in any environment.

About Etymotic Research

Wim Soede, Ph.D. • Inventor of Link-it

Etymotic Research Inc. (ER) designs products that measure, improve and protect hearing. ER has developed and patented some of the most innovative hearing technology available today.

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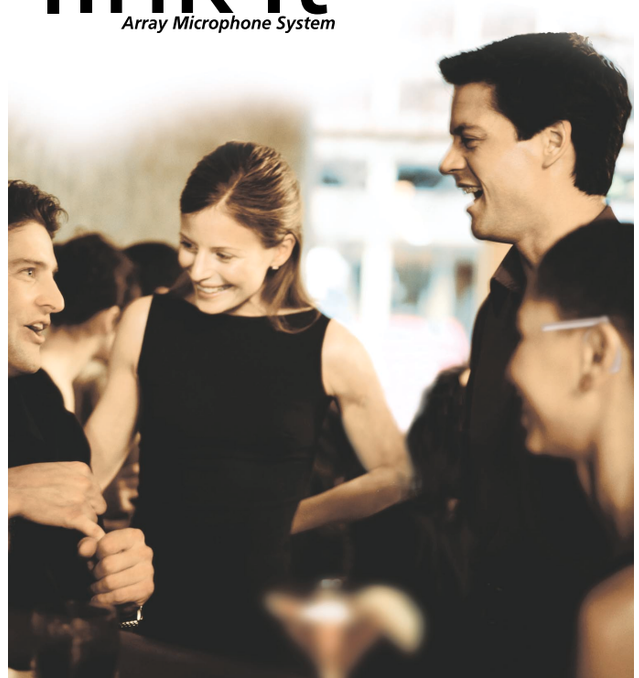
 Linkit-5-04/03

Link to better hearing in noise

link·it™
Array Microphone System



Challenge: To Hear in Noise

Hearing in noise is the number-one complaint of hearing aid wearers. The people we most often want to hear when it is noisy are those in front of us. Directional-microphone hearing aids effectively suppress sound from the sides and rear, but there are situations when even more sound reduction is needed.

Solution: link·it™

LINK-IT is for every hearing aid user who has difficulty understanding speech in noise. **LINK-IT** is worn on the ear close to the hearing aid and requires no external cables or hand-held devices. **LINK-IT** can be used with either a BTE or ITE. **LINK-IT** is especially effective in restaurants and noisy reverberant areas, such as family gatherings, meeting rooms, public buildings and airports.

Instrument Overview

1. **Microphone Bar**
   LINK-IT can be used on either ear. The microphone bar can be adjusted to 3 positions: right, left or center.

2. **Earhook**
   LINK-IT is shipped with a medium earhook attached.

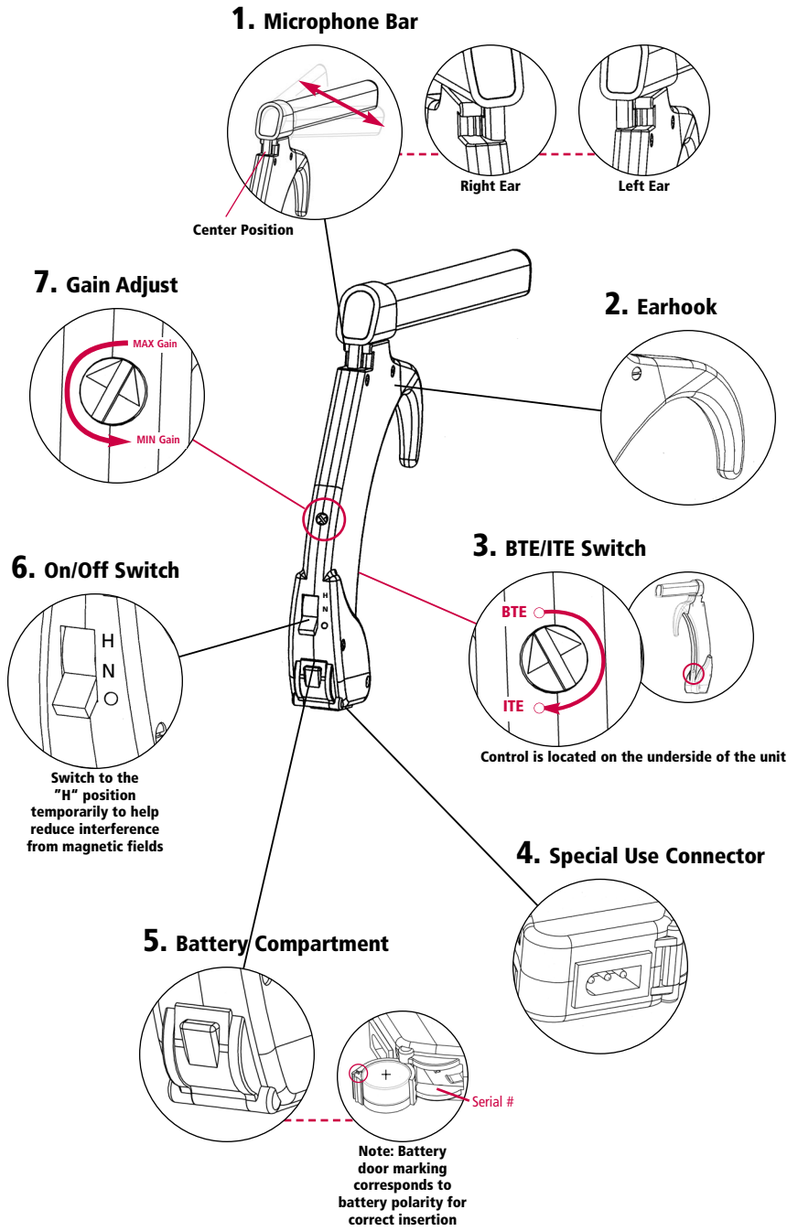
3. **BTE/ITE Switch** (Control is located on the underside of the unit)
   LINK-IT is preset for BTE use. For ITE use, rotate the BTE/ITE control clockwise until it stops.

4. **Special Use Connector**
   For use with direct audio input.

5. **Battery Compartment**
   LINK-IT requires a #10 battery (included).

6. **On/Off Switch**
   Switch to the "H" position temporarily to boost signal strength which can help reduce interference from magnetic fields.
   3 positions:
   - **H** High (+8 dB)
   - **N** Normal
   - **O** Off

7. **Gain Adjust**
   LINK-IT is compatible with most hearing aids that have a built-in T-coil. The gain trimmer is shipped in the "max" position (full clockwise). When using **LINK-IT** with power aids it may be necessary to reduce hearing aid and/or **LINK-IT** gain if feedback occurs.



Basic Operation

To use **LINK-IT** simply set the array microphone for the right or left ear, switch to the **N** position, place **LINK-IT** on the ear, then insert the hearing aid. Turn on the hearing aid and switch to the T-coil-only position. Adjust the hearing aid's volume control for conversational speech.

Available Colors

System Includes

- Array microphone with medium earhook
- 1 small earhook
- 1 large earhook
- 1 battery #10A
- User manual
- Carrying case

Link-it used with a BTE

Link-it used with an ITE

Benefits

- Compatible with any BTE or ITE that has a built-in T-coil.
- Provides twice as much directivity as most directional microphones.
- Dramatic SNR improvement (7 to 10 dB) compared to omnidirectional hearing aid microphones.
- True binaural processing (with two **LINK-IT**s) compared to systems that transmit the same signal to both ears.

Features

- Wireless; head-worn
- Exceptional battery life: approx. 1 month on a #10 battery (estim. 4 hours/day)
- Lightweight
- Built-in connector for wired uses with direct audio input (DAI)

Special Uses

- **LINK-IT** can be used with some cochlear implants that have built-in T-coils at the proper position.
- **LINK-IT** can be used with standard direct audio input on hearing aids.
- Other audio inputs may require special wiring, cords and plugs. Contact Etymotic Research with compatibility questions.
- **LINK-IT** can be placed on the opposite ear (connected by a cord) to pick up sound from the other side of the head.