A hearing loop provides significantly enhanced functionality for hearing aids and cochlear implants. Even with the most up-to-date technology, these devices cannot completely separate important sounds from background noise; nor do they pick up all sounds from a distance such as those in a performance hall, a place of worship or even a home TV viewed from across the room. In such difficult listening settings, (induction) hearing loops are often a solution. A hearing loop is a wire connected to an electronic sound source that transmits that sound to the telecoils in the hearing aids. A loop can discreetly surround a room, a theater, a chair or even be worn around the neck. It can be connected to a public address system, a living room TV or computer.

A hearing aid equipped with a manual telecoil is needed to hear in a hearing loop. The telecoil, also called T-coil, receives the signal from the loop and turns it back into sound in the hearing aid. This process eliminates much of the background noise. The listener hears only pure sound that is desired whether it is speech from a pulpit, a podium, a television.

Hearing loops double hearing aid functionality. Using the telecoil in conjunction with a hearing loop is the most cost-effective way to improve the usability of aids or cochlear implants.

Looped venues display this symbol:

How to “Get in the Loop”:

Where are hearing loops used?
Hearing loops are helpful in a variety of places. Some are used for extended time, and others are beneficial while a person is in transit.

- Examples of extended time use include:
  - Theaters and performing arts centers
  - Places of Worship
  - Board rooms and large meeting rooms
  - High school and college auditoriums
  - Court rooms or City Council rooms
  - Banquet or sports facilities
  - Fellowship Halls

- Examples of transient use include:
  - Ticket counters and information booths
  - Doctors’ offices and pharmacy counters
  - Drive thru and pick up windows
  - Elevators, trains and buses
  - Museum exhibits

A few common home devices that can be used with a neck or small room loop:

- Television or computer
- Telephone (landline or cell phone)
- iPod or spoken book CD player

For more information:

Visit: [www.hearingloop.org](http://www.hearingloop.org)