

Loop/telecoils

Many products to support people with hearing impairments work with loops, sometimes referred to as a telecoil. A loop/telecoil is a wire that creates a magnetic field, which communicates to the hearing aids. The hearing aid will pick up whatever sound is being transmitted through the loop and it will then be heard directly through the hearing aid.

Loops are often used to aid in both communication and entertainment.

For communication, loops can be found in some telephones (both landlines and mobiles) and in public places where communication can be difficult due to background noise (such as banks, places of worship or the post office).

For entertainment, neck-loops are used for devices such as TV listeners or headphones and room loops are used in places such as theatres or cinemas. Using a loop system in public places can be very helpful to remove background noise. To find out whether a service has a hearing loop you can ask staff or look out for the loop symbol (see below).

The loop symbol looks like this: 



To hear via a loop system the hearing aid needs to be put on the loop-setting (also known as a T-setting), however not every hearing aid is programmed with a loop setting when it is issued by an Audiologist. If you are unsure whether you have a loop-setting you can check with the Audiologist who administered the hearing aids to see if they can put one on.

Common public places to find loops:

- Banks
- Post offices
- Theatres
- Cinemas
- Train stations
- Places of worship
- GP surgeries

In the home you can use loops with:

- Telephones and mobile phones
- Televisions
- Laptops, computers, and tablets

Example scenario:

John is finding it difficult to hear voices on his favourite television dramas. John turns the volume up, which is too loud for his spouse, and he finds that he still misses about 1 in 3 words. John contacts his local sensory team who complete a Sensory Impairment Assessment with him and as a result issue a neckloop TV listener.

When John wears the neckloop he hears the sound from the television directly into his hearing aid and his spouse can watch the same show at a volume comfortable for them both. John now hears most words when wearing his neck-loop. John recognises the device is not perfect but has made a big impact on his ability to enjoy the television.

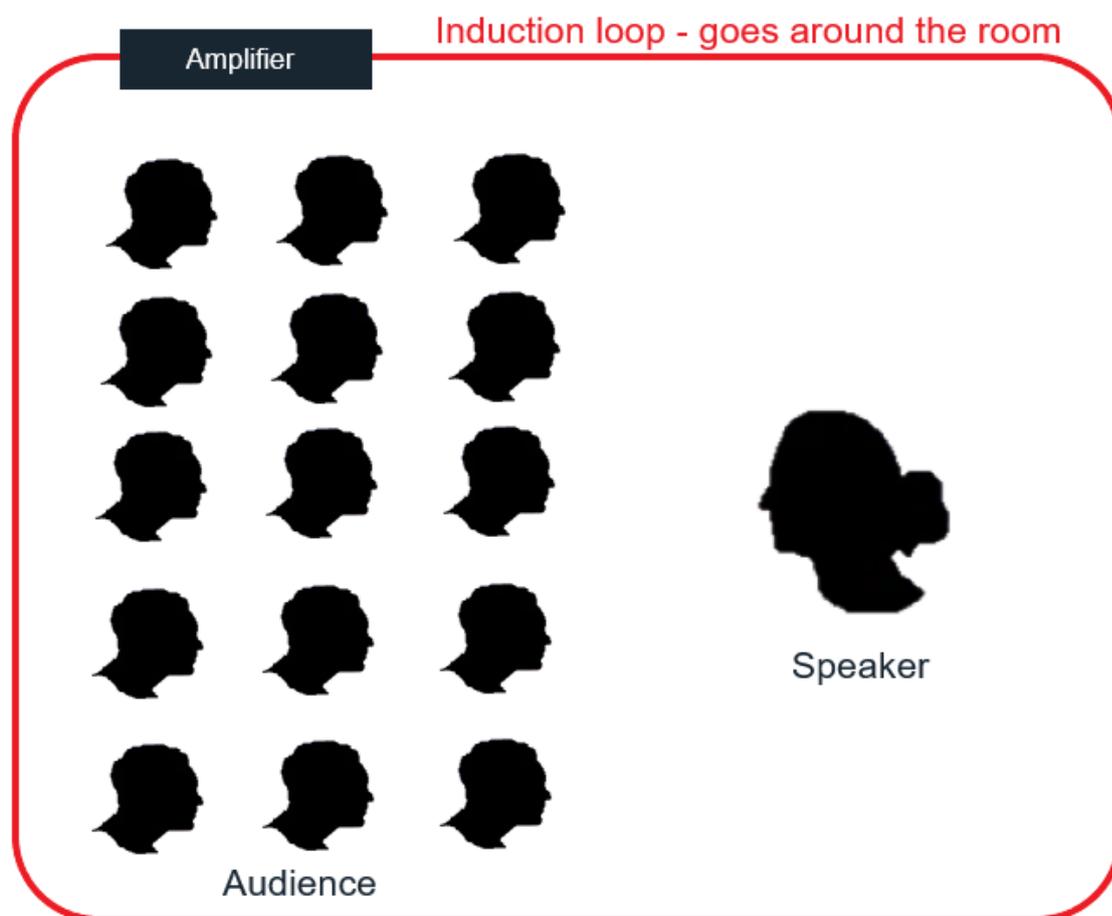
This is an example of a NeckLoop.



Example scenario:

Catherine enjoys going to the theatre but is finding it difficult to hear the actors. She finds it particularly difficult to hear when the actor is talking but not looking directly at the audience or she is sitting too far back to see the actor's face. The next time she visits the theatre she notices there is a sign with the loop symbol. Catherine switches her hearing aid to the loop setting and finds she is able to hear the actors significantly better and it is not as important to see the actors faces when they talk.

Illustration of how a Loop System works around a room.



If you would like further information, support and advice about any of the items mentioned here or for further information about requesting a Sensory Impairment Assessment please contact the Yorsensory Team:

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