



# Real Ear Technology at The Hearing Place



By Pat Fournier BC-HIS

Technology is expanding at an ever increasing pace. As capabilities are increasing with hearing aids, our challenge is to make sure we apply



the technology efficiently and still make it easy for you. We have recently acquired a MedRx audiometer for

(Audiometer from the 1940's) hearing testing and a MedRx "real ear" synthesizer with "live speech mapping" for difficult hearing aid fittings.

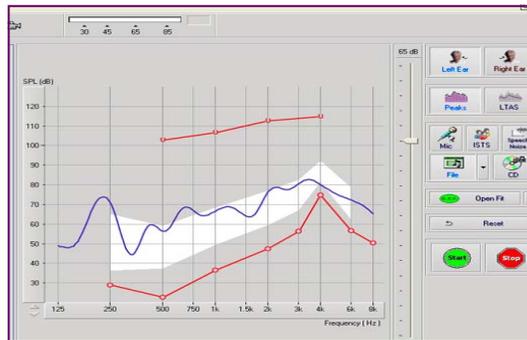
"Real ear" is a method of measuring sound in an ear canal.

Everybody's ears are different.

Hearing aids are designed for "average ears". We use your subjective assessments when we personalize hearing aids for you. This works well most of the time, however, we still have problems occasionally.



"Real ear" technology uses a probe microphone that goes into the ear canal. With that microphone, we can actually measure the amount of sound in that ear canal. We measure sound without hearing aids in, and with hearing aids in your ears. We can then scientifically see what is being produced exactly for each ear. Sometimes it's surprising how the size of an ear canal or texture of the ear tissue changes the acoustic response of a hearing aid.



"Live speech mapping" takes the process further. We can actually measure a live voice and show it on our monitor. You can see the volume of a speaker's voice and the frequencies where the voice is at in your ears and how it changes, all in real time. When we play background noise from our speakers you can actually see how the directional microphones in the hearing aids reduces the competing noise. This all means we can make better adjustments for you.

Our new MedRx equipment will help us apply the fantastic new technology in today's hearing devices. It takes effort to learn all the new things technology has to offer. All technology has quirks. Sometimes it drives us crazy!



Working with seven brands of hearing aids is definitely a challenge. The average number of brands offered by a practice is just 1.6, that's because learning different software is daunting. But each manufacturer does something special, so we do it.

It's an old fashioned attitude; it's our quest for excellence that drives us to run our practice this way. We owe it to you to find the very best value and performance in the instruments we fit for you. We owe it to you to learn how to apply all the sophisticated features so that you can hear the best you can.

"Latest technology, old fashioned care", it's always better working together.