



# Hearing Aids As Sound Systems

By Pat Fournier BC-HIS



As long as there have been hearing aids, there have been “Assistive Listening Devices” (ALDs). Historically, hearing aids and ALDs were different devices altogether and were not able to be used together.

The hearing aid uses a microphone along with an amplifier and receiver (speaker). Therefore, hearing aids amplify the entire environment, and although directional microphones and noise suppressing technologies help hearing aids cut through noise, sometimes those technologies are not enough to help people hear in tough hearing situations.

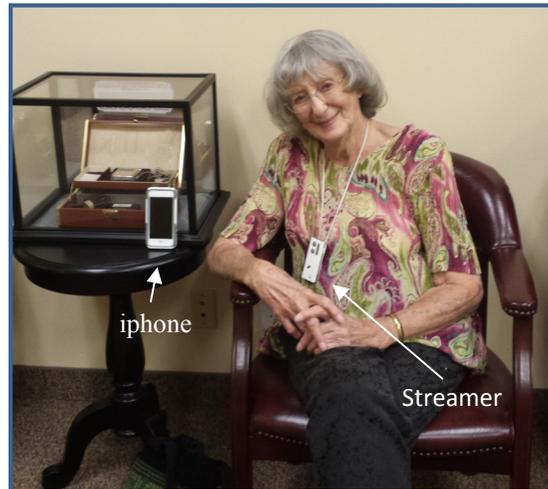
The ALD uses a microphone and a radio signal sent to earphones worn by the person who wants to hear something. The ALD works



like TV Ears. The whole purpose of the ALD is to isolate a single sound source and amplify that sound only, while not amplifying anything else in the

environment. For years playhouses used ALDs. Actors would wear microphones and members of the audience who requested hearing assistance would receive headsets. ALDs work great, even people with severe to profound hearing losses experience great results with them.

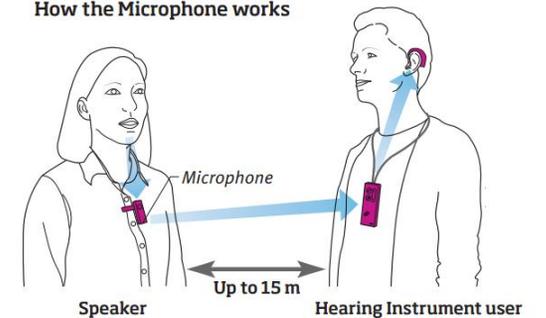
We can isolate single sound sources or we can mix a single sound source with the environment amplification of the hearing aids. Also, we can deliver the sound according to the prescriptive formula of sound that a person might need according to their hearing chart. This means a combined arrangement works much better than a stand-alone ALD.



My mother just got an iPhone. She wears a streamer (a receiver for a Bluetooth transmission) around her neck. The streamer receives a Bluetooth signal and sends it wirelessly to her hearing aids. I programmed her streamer and hearing aids to accept the iPhone telephone signal. She can talk hands free and hear much better with this system than she could have with just the telephone by itself.

She can stream her television audio signal into her hearing aids this way as well. I have mixed the signals so that she can still hear people around her when she watches TV but the TV is accentuated and she hears the TV clearly. Also, she has a remote microphone. She likes to attend college classes (my 92 year old mother is amazing). But my mother’s hearing loss is bad enough that hearing someone from a distance is still very difficult. The teacher simply wears the remote microphone which transmits the teacher’s voice to the streamer and wirelessly to my mother’s aids.

How the Microphone works



The Microphone will transmit the speech from the Speaker directly to the Hearing instrument user.

All our manufacturers now offer these systems. They are sophisticated, but we make it easy for you to use, because we set them up, show you how to use them, and make it simple to operate. Latest Technology, made usable with old fashioned care.