

What is a hearing loop?

A hearing loop (sometimes called an audio induction loop) is a special type of sound system for use by people with hearing aids.

The hearing loop provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.



The hearing loop consists of a microphone to pick up the spoken word; an amplifier which processes the signal which is then sent through the final piece; the loop cable, a wire placed around the perimeter of a specific area i.e. a meeting room, a church, a service counter etc to act as an antenna that radiates the magnetic signal to the hearing aid. Personal loop systems are also available (fits round the neck) and can be used with e.g. MP3 players, TV and some landline telephones.

Why use a hearing loop?

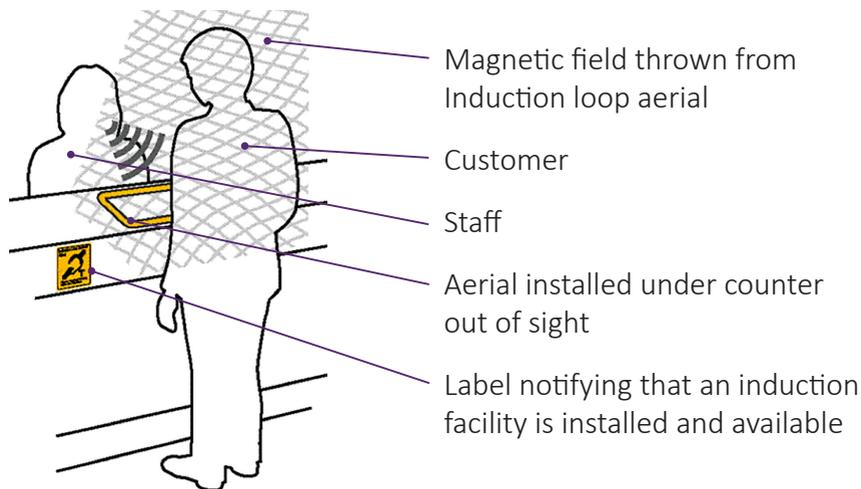
- Cuts out unwanted background noise
- No need to use a receiver/headset
- Sound goes directly into the hearing aid
- Can be used by anyone with a compatible hearing aid
- Any number of users can use the system

Please note: most hearing aids are compatible with the loop system; however this is not switched on as standard. Please ask your Audiologist to activate.

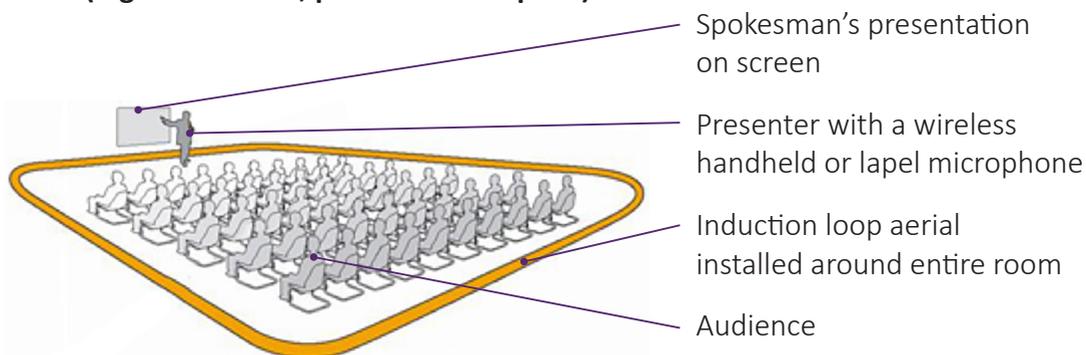
Infrared systems

Infrared systems are an alternative to loop systems. They consist of a transmitter and receiver (or a number of receivers). The transmitter sends the signal to the receiver which converts it to an audio signal that is fed into either a headset or a neck loop.

Below is a diagram of a hearing loop at a shop counter or bank



Below is a diagram of a room hearing loop (e.g. at an event, place of worship etc)



Information and diagrams from Hearing Link – available at www.hearinglink.org