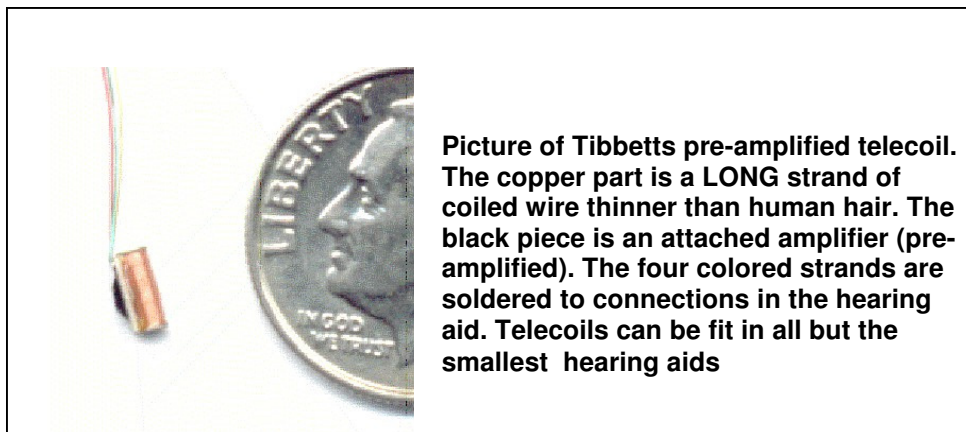


Hearing Loss and Telecoils in Hearing Aids

20 REASONS WHY YOUR HEARING AIDS OUGHT TO NEVER BE WITHOUT TELECOILS © Revised 8/2010



Picture of Tibbetts pre-amplified telecoil. The copper part is a LONG strand of coiled wire thinner than human hair. The black piece is an attached amplifier (pre-amplified). The four colored strands are soldered to connections in the hearing aid. Telecoils can be fit in all but the smallest hearing aids

This research was reported in the American Journal of Audiology, Vol. 3, No. 2 July 1994

“Programmable Telecoil Responses: Potential Advantages for Assistive Listening Devices and Telephones including Cellular Phones.” (Editor added to the title)

Ten experienced hearing aid users were tested to evaluate an assistive listening device inductively coupled to three different hearing aids—their own BTE hearing aid and associated telecoil, a programmable hearing aid with the telecoil programmed using the manufacturer's algorithm, and the same programmable hearing aid with the telecoil programmed so that the real ear gain obtained with the hearing aid-assistive listening device combination matched a prescriptive target.

Results indicated that modifying the telecoil response to match a prescriptive target can result in enhanced speech understanding and higher preference rankings. This means that your audiologist must have the know-how to go around the manufacturers algorithm to effectively program the

Question and Answer Format about Telecoils:

- 1) What is a Telecoil?** A Telecoil is a small coil of wire placed inside a hearing aid.
- 2) Is that also called a Telephone Switch?** Yes. It is commonly used to listen on the telephone. Thus the name TELEPHONE SWITCH. But it is an all-around versatile addition to your hearing aid. **DON'T LEAVE THE DISPENSER WITHOUT IT!**
- 3) Why Should I Be Sure a Telecoil Will Fit the Type of Hearing Aid I Want to Buy?** It can turn any hearing aid, from the lowest quality to top quality manufacture, into a Cadillac hearing fitting. It increases the versatility of a hearing aid a thousand-fold!
- 4) What Makes it so Effective?** It shuts off the microphone of the hearing aid.
- 5) What Good Is That?** Well, that eliminates all the noise you don't want to hear. (Something even the best digital hearing aids cannot do).
- 6) How is the Telecoil Activated?** You move the position of your hearing aid switch. Or use your remote control unit.
- 7) OK. Now the Microphone is Shut Off, Then What Will I Hear?** You will hear, clearly, and crisply, what you want the Telecoil to pick up.
- 8) How Crisp and Clear?** As good as your audiologist has programmed it. Ideally if you hear well with the hearing aid in quiet situations you ought to hear equally well in noisy situations when the telecoil is used in conjunction with ALD's or on a telephone or cellular phone. And you can use the volume control in your

conjunction with ALD's or on a telephone phone. And you can use the volume control in your hearing aid! In essence: it is fit for your hearing loss.

9) What Will the Telecoil Pick-Up?

Anything that is being radiated magnetically. A common form is the sound from a telephone handset. Or a room LOOP. Or a Neckloop. Or a silhouette. These work with all quality Assistive Listening Devices.

10) What are Other Common Uses of the Telecoil?

Use it for ALL Hearing Aid Compatible Assistive Devices that help you hear the TV, at Movie Theaters, in places of Public Assemblies such as BINGO, Museum, Tours, Dental and Doctor, Hospital, Banks, Town Hall meetings, Schools, colleges Universities, Automobile, Luxury Cruise, and Hotel.

11) WOW. That's Super! What's the catch?

The catch is that other than the telephones, all the places mentioned above need an Assistive Listening Device in place. But for the places that have them, you can sit anywhere and hear wonderfully! You can also, purchase your own. All QUALITY devices allow you to use the Telecoil in your hearing aids.

12) Is the Telecoil Something New?

Absolutely not. It has been perfected and used in Europe with superior result for over 50 years! In fact, every church in Denmark has an Assistive Device that works with the Telecoil in your hearing aid. Attend church there and hear every word! It is equally available here. Insist on it!

13) What does a Telecoil Cost?

\$50 is a reasonable fee towards overall cost of your \$1500 to \$3500 hearing aids.

14) Are All Telecoils Equal? (hint: Tibbets) No! Demand the best Telecoil. These can be programmed separately from the hearing aid.

15) What else should I ask for in a Telecoil? Insist that it be pre-amplified. That means it has its own circuitry that allows it to be closely matched to the microphone of the hearing aid. Be sure it is positioned properly, in the hearing aid, for ease-of-use

16) Can every Size of Hearing Aid have Telecoils? They can be fit into all but the smallest of aids.

17) Can Hearing Aids be Retrofitted with Telecoils? Yes. But better to have it included during the manufacturing of the hearing aid.

18) Is it True that Sometimes the Telephone Handset has to be Held in an Awkward position? Yes. But that is because the Telecoil is not positioned properly. Ask that it be repositioned! Or just hold the handset in an awkward position. At least you are hearing!

19) Is it True that Sometimes there is a Buzzing Sound that Interferes with the Telecoil Operation? It is true. Often though, the hearing will compensate for the buzzing-- you are still better off using it.

20) What Things Cause This Interference? Any heavy-duty electrical gizmo will cause a buzzing. But you need to be close enough for the buzzing to interfere so much as to make the Telecoil useless. Some examples are: Fluorescent lighting, electrical boxes and fixtures, microwave ovens, Computer monitors.

Hearing aid manufacturers and cell phone manufacturers have been working together to eliminate interference when the telecoils is being used. Look for the "M4" or/and "T4" rating. A rating of 4 offers the most interference free signal.

In buildings look for this symbol which tells you is building has been looped and you can use your hearing aids telecoils.

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conductive loss in both ears. He has spent the last 20 years
hearing-impaired issues for the consumer.

Extra Resources: Curtis strongly advises you to join the support group that offers what we need most—EMOTIONAL SUPPORT. Join the [www.GlobalingHearing Lossalliance](http://www.GlobalingHearingLossalliance), a free non-profit internet club.

For advocacy and a contentious Bulletin Board go to www.HOHAdvocates.org.

To get involved with changing the current closed hearing aid dispensing protocol to an open shopping experience join our controversial "change the hearing aid dispensing protocol anyway possible" website at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HearingAids-TheScam>

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