

Hearing Aide Specs

How it works:

Hearing aids typically work by using a microphone to pick up sound waves in the air and convert the sound waves to electronic signals. These signals are amplified as needed and converted to an audible sound for the user to hear. A hearing aid's microphone does not always work well with telephone handsets or headsets. The acoustics between the units, at times, may be poor quality or the sound may be distorted. Often, the surrounding sounds are also picked up and amplified, making hearing the desired sounds more difficult.

What is M-rating?

Microphone standards, adopted by the Federal Communications Commission, were set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for hearing aid compatible standards. Handsets that meet or exceed the ANSI standards are rated at M3 or M4, respectively.

The higher the M-rating the handset has, the lower the Radio Frequency emissions level, and the higher signal quality of the handset. Knowing the handset M rating along with the M rating of the hearing aids will help our customer determine the best available solution for them. The hearing aid must be in the microphone mode in order to replicate the mode that was used with the handset when the rating was determined.

The M-rating and a brief description of what the M-rating means will be on the outside of the box and included with the information within the box.

What is T-rating?

ANSI also set the Telecoil standards which were adopted by the FCC. Handsets that meet or exceed the ANSI standards are rated at T3 or T4, respectively.

A telecoil is a small device that is built into some hearing aids for use with a telephone or other devices to assist listening. Not all hearing aids have a telecoil. To use a telecoil, the hearing aid must be switched to "T" or the button pushed to the telecoil setting.

How can I tell which handset will be best for me?

First check with your hearing aid provider about your specific hearing aid:

Does it have an M-rating? How does it deal with interference?

Lack of a rating does not mean the handset will not work with your hearing aid. Remember that everyone's hearing loss is different and may change from time to time. What works for someone else may not work for you. Only you can make the best decision for your hearing compatible needs.