

# **BTE** (behind-the-ear)

*mini BTE*

*BTE*

*Power BTE*

*Power Plus BTE*



OPERATIONS MANUAL

**avail**™



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# Overview

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## Features, Controls and Identification

Your hearing instrument controls include:

1. Earhook
2. Microphone
3. Control surface: Volume and/or Memory control
4. Battery compartment (on/off control)
5. Side indicator **RED** is for **RIGHT** ear,  
**BLUE** is for **LEFT** ear.
6. Tamper resistant battery compartment lock  
(BTE, Power BTE and Power Plus BTE only)

Your hearing instrument can be identified by:

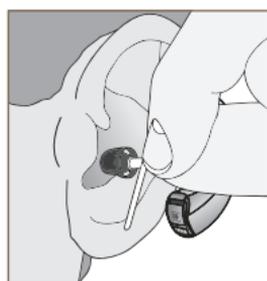
7. Location of serial number
8. Location of manufacturer's name and model name

**Comfort Fit Solutions:**

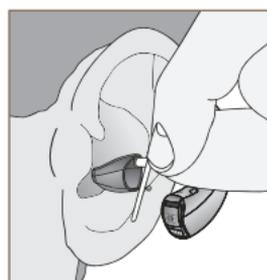
9. Standard Earmold with tubing
10. Thin tube with Instant Fit Earbud
11. Thin tube with Custom Eartip



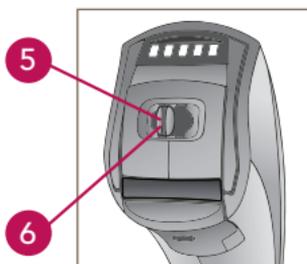
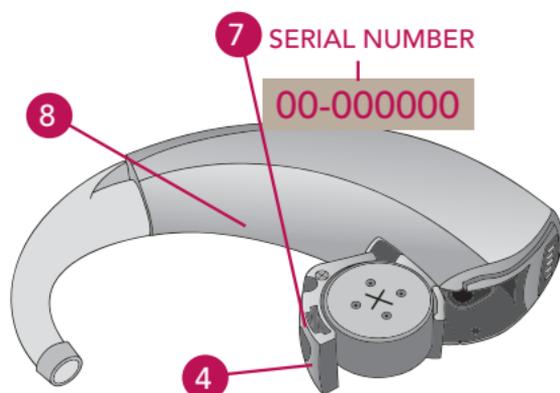
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10



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## Preparation

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### Batteries

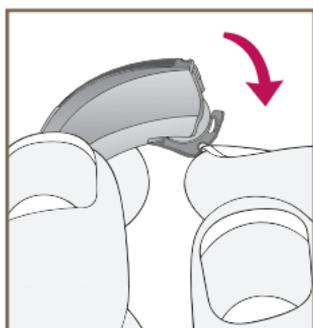
Your hearing system uses a battery as its power source. The battery size can be identified by the brown (312) or orange (13) color code on the packaging.

My hearing instrument uses a:

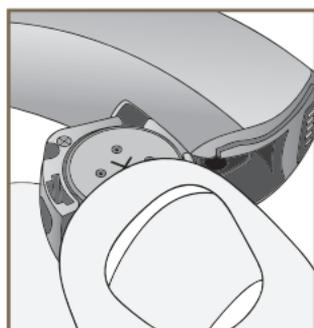
- 312 Battery (mini BTE) – Brown
- 13 Battery (BTE, Power BTE, Power Plus BTE) – Orange

**To insert or replace the battery:**

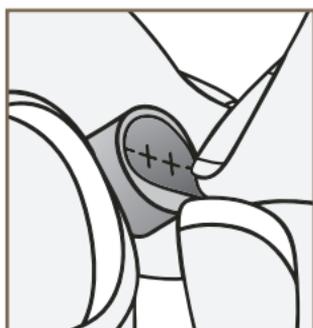
1. Use the nail grip on the battery door.
2. Open the battery door gently and remove the old battery.
3. Remove the tab from the new battery.
4. Line up the battery's plus "+" sign (flat side of the battery) with the battery door "+" sign.
5. Close the battery door.



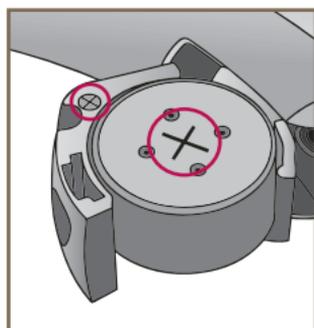
1



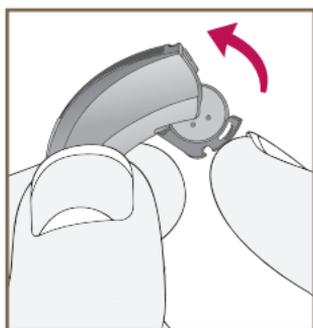
2



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## Preparation

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### Battery Indicators

An indicator will sound when the battery's voltage is low. You have approximately 5 minutes\* to replace the battery. An indicator will sound just before the battery stops working.

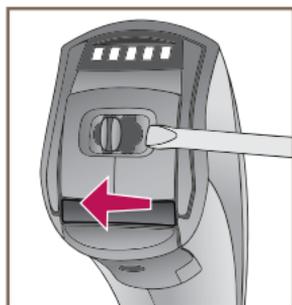
*\* Actual time between low battery indicator and shut down will vary depending on environmental noise levels and brand of battery used.*

- My hearing instrument has a tamper resistant battery compartment. See below.

### Tamper Resistant Battery Compartment (BTE, Power BTE, Power Plus BTE only)

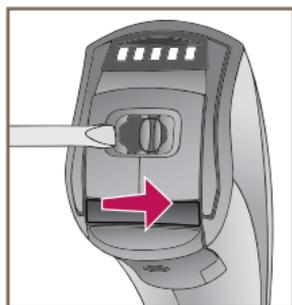
To lock the battery door:

Use an appropriate tool to slide the recessed switch to the left until it "clicks" and the colored mark is visible.



To unlock the battery door:

Slide the recessed switch to the right until it "clicks" and the colored mark disappears.



Locking the door is not required for operation.

### Helpful Hints

- NEVER FORCE THE BATTERY DOOR SHUT; this could result in serious damage; if the door will not close securely, check that the battery is inserted correctly.
- Do not open the battery door too far or damage is likely to occur.
- Dispose of used batteries immediately in the proper waste or recycling container.
- Because batteries vary in size and performance, your hearing care professional is your best source for lifespan estimates and verification that you are using the proper size and type.

### Warnings

Batteries are dangerous if swallowed. To help prevent the accidental ingestion of batteries:

-  Keep out of reach of children and pets.
-  Check your medications before taking them – batteries have been mistaken for pills.
-  Never put batteries in your mouth, as they can easily be swallowed.

 **National Button Battery Ingestion Hotline:  
202-625-3333**

## Insertion and Removal

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### Custom Earmold

My hearing instrument uses:

- A Custom Earmold. See below.
- An Earbud or Eartip. See page 10.

**To insert the Custom Earmold and hearing instrument:**

1. Hold the Custom Earmold with your thumb and forefinger on the outer side near the tubing.
2. Tilt your hand slightly forward and gently insert the canal tip of the Custom Earmold into your ear canal.
3. Rotate the Custom Earmold backward.
4. Softly press the Custom Earmold into place with your fingertip.
5. Carefully place the BTE behind your ear wrapping the earhook over the top of your ear.

**To remove the hearing instrument and Custom Earmold:**

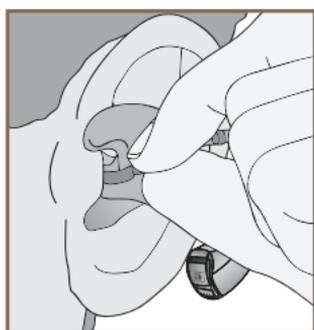
Take the instrument from behind your ear and gently pull the Custom Earmold outward. Pulling lightly down on the ear lobe may help loosen the Custom Earmold as it is removed.

## Insertion and Removal

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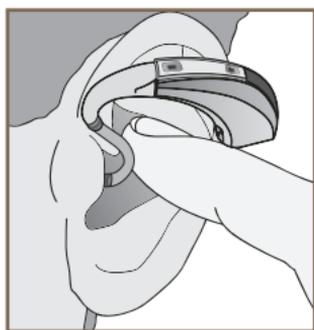
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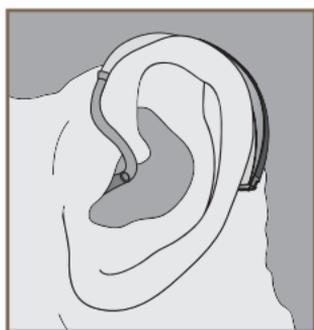
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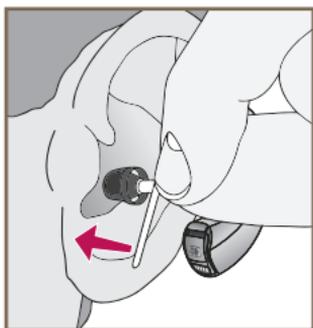
## Insertion and Removal

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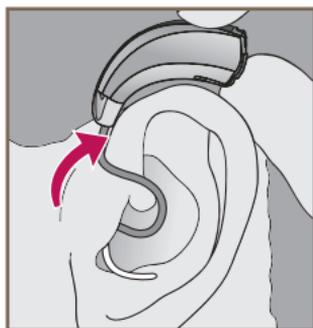
### Earbud or Eartip

To insert the Earbud or Eartip and hearing instrument:

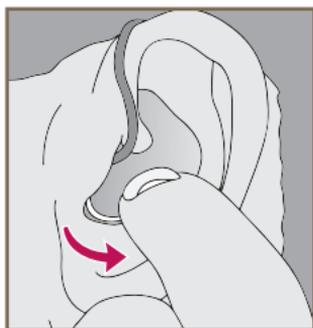
1. Insert the Earbud or Eartip into your ear canal.
2. Gently wrap the BTE over your ear until it rests securely behind your ear.
3. Place the lock in the concha bowl of your ear.



1



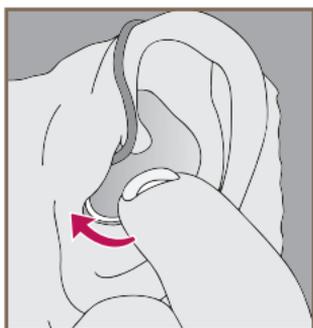
2



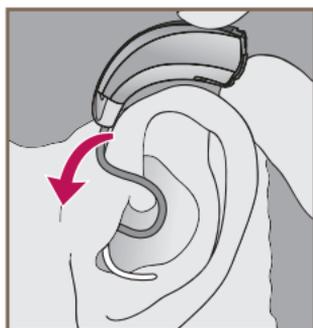
3

To remove the hearing instrument and Earbud:

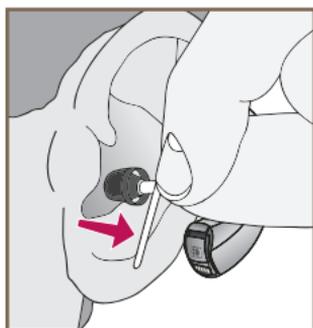
1. Remove the lock from the concha bowl of your ear.
2. Remove the hearing instrument from behind your ear.
3. Gently grasp the tubing at the opening of the ear canal and pull outward.



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2



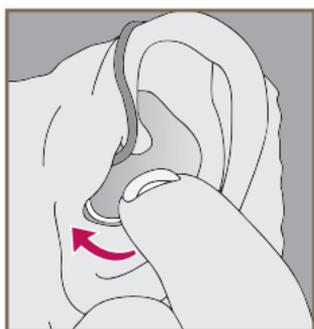
3

## Insertion and Removal

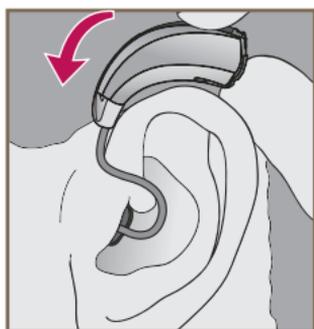
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To remove the hearing instrument and Eartip:

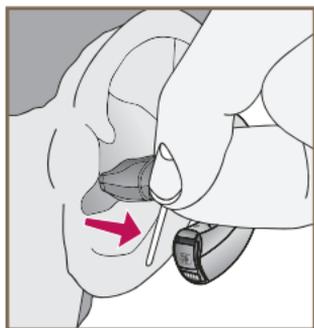
1. Remove the lock from the concha bowl of your ear.
2. Remove the hearing instrument from behind your ear.
3. Gently grasp the tubing at the Custom Eartip and pull outward.



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### Helpful Hints

- Minor irritation and inflammation may occur as your ear becomes accustomed to having an object in it; if so, please contact your hearing care professional.
- If an actual allergic reaction occurs, alternative earmold materials are available; contact your hearing care professional.
- Severe swelling, discharge from the ear, excessive wax, or other unusual conditions warrant immediate consultation with a physician.

# Operation

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## On & Off

### To turn ON:

Insert a battery and completely close the battery door.

### To turn OFF:

Open the battery door until the battery is no longer touching the battery contacts.

Your instrument has a Power-On delay and may require a few seconds to power on. You may hear a tone series indicating that your device is fully powered on.

### Control Surface: Volume and Multimemory

Your hearing system features a Control Surface which adjusts multiple features depending on the setting.

My Control Surface is set for:

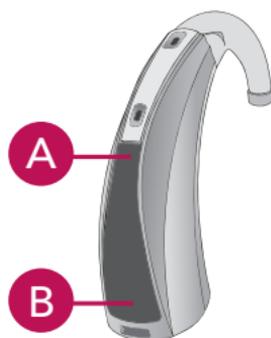
- Sweep volume control. See **Section A** – page 16.
- Touch and Release volume control.  
See **Section B** – page 16.
- Automatic volume control. See **Section C** – page 17.
- Multimemory. See **Section D** – page 17.
- Sweep volume control and multimemory.  
See **Section E** – page 17.

## Operation

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### Section A – Sweep Volume Control

Your volume control is a Sweep volume control. To make sounds louder, sweep your finger from B to A. Each sweep increases the volume one step until you reach the desired volume or the maximum setting. To make sounds softer, sweep your finger from A to B. Each sweep decreases the volume one step until you reach the desired loudness or the minimum setting.



### Section B – Touch and Release Volume Control

Your volume control is configured as a Touch and Release volume control. Each time you touch anywhere on the control surface the volume of your hearing instrument changes.

The Touch and Release volume control is configured to automatically decrease in volume before it increases. To make sounds louder, touch and release the control surface. Repeat this motion until you are at the minimum setting. The next time you touch the control surface, the volume will increase one step. Continue to touch and release until you reach the desired loudness. NOTE: If 10 minutes or more have passed since the last volume change, the volume will automatically decrease before it increases.

For more information on Touch and Release Volume Control Settings, see page 18.

## **Section C – Automatic Volume Control**

Your hearing instruments have been set to a specific volume level by your hearing care professional. If sounds are generally too loud or soft, please contact your hearing professional for advice and adjustment.

## **Section D – Multimemory**

Your hearing care professional can set up to four hearing memories for you. These additional programs are accessed by touching and releasing anywhere on the control surface.

Ask your hearing professional about your specific hearing programs.

## **Section E – Sweep Volume Control and Multimemory**

Your control surface is set up to allow changes for both volume and memory/program. To make sounds louder, sweep your finger from B to A. To make sounds softer sweep your finger from A to B. To change memory/program, touch anywhere on the control surface.

## Operation

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### Touch and Release Volume Control Settings

Your device will always power-on to the optimal volume setting determined by your hearing care professional. The minimum and maximum steps will have an additional tone following the beeps.

Ask your hearing professional about your specific hearing programs.

Volume Level	Tone
Level 5 <b>(More volume)</b>	Five beeps plus tone
Level 4	Four beeps
Level 3 <b>(Power on volume level)</b>	Three beeps
Level 2	Two beeps
Level 1 <b>(Less volume)</b>	One beep plus tone

### Directional Settings

Your hearing system has directional microphones to help improve speech understanding in noisy situations.

Ask your hearing care professional about your particular directional settings.

### Telephone Use

Your hearing instruments are equipped with tools to help you effectively communicate on the telephone. Ask your hearing professional about your telephone solution.

My hearing instruments have the following telephone setting(s):

- Automatic Telephone. See below.
- Automatic Telecoil. See below.
- Telecoil and Manual Switching. See page 20.  
(Program # \_\_\_\_\_).

#### **Automatic Telephone and Automatic Telecoil:**

Place the telephone handset in a normal position and then shift it slightly back. When correctly positioned, you will hear an indicator for the automatic activation of the telephone program. When finished, the hearing instrument will automatically return to the previous setting.

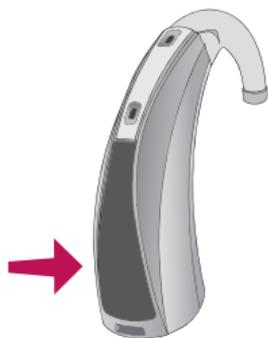
## Operation

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### Telecoil and Manual Switching

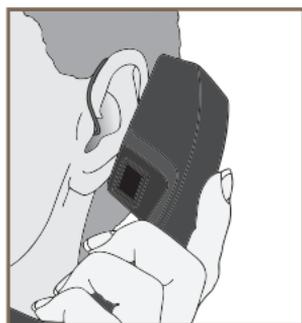
Hearing instruments with a manual telecoil allow you to switch the devices to telephone mode when needed.

Manually switched telecoils are activated by choosing the telecoil setting using the control surface.



### General Telephone Use

Some hearing instruments work best by holding the phone close to, but not fully covering, your ear. In some instances, if you encounter whistling (feedback), tilt the receiver at an angle until the whistling stops. Your hearing professional can provide instructions and techniques for your specific needs.



DISCLAIMER – Some hearing aid users have reported a buzzing sound in their hearing aids when they are using cell phones, indicating that the cell phone and hearing aid may not be compatible. According to the ANSI C63.19 standard (ANSI C63.19-2006 American National Standard Methods of Measurement of Compatibility Between Wireless Communications Devices and Hearing Aids), the compatibility of a particular hearing aid and cell phone can be predicted by adding the rating for the hearing aid immunity to the rating for the cell phone emissions. For example, the sum of a hearing aid rating of 2 (M2) and a telephone rating of 3 (M3) would result in a combined rating of 5. Any combined rating that equals at least 5 would provide “normal use”; a combined rating of 6 or greater would indicate “excellent performance.”

The immunity of this hearing aid is at least M2/T2. The equipment performance measurements, categories and system classifications are based upon the best information available but cannot guarantee that all users will be satisfied.

NOTE: The performance of individual hearing aids may vary with individual cell phones. Therefore, please try this hearing aid with your cell phone, or, if you are purchasing a new phone, be sure to try it with your hearing aid prior to purchase. For additional guidance, please ask your cell phone provider for the booklet entitled “Hearing Aid Compatibility with Digital Wireless Cell Phones.”

## Operation

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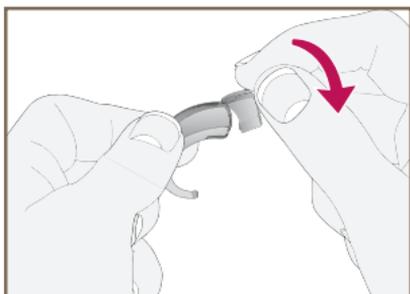
### Direct Audio Input (DAI)

- My hearing system is set up for DAI use.  
See below.
- My hearing system is not set up for DAI use.  
See page 24.

Your hearing system has full direct audio input (DAI) capability. This allows you to connect your hearing system to an electronic sound source such as a wireless FM system, computer audio or an MP3 player. DAI can improve communication and sound quality when reverberation, distance and background noise compete with what you want to hear.

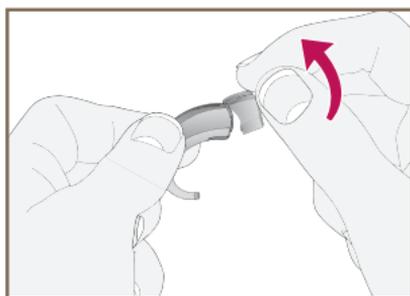
#### To attach the DAI shoe:

Snap the DAI shoe on the bottom of the BTE.



To access, remove the battery with the DAI shoe attached:

Hold the BTE and DAI shoe and press the lower part of the DAI shoe, then open the battery door.



To remove the DAI shoe:

Turn the BTE on the side. Grasp the BTE in one hand and the DAI shoe in the other. Gently bend at the seam between the DAI shoe and the hearing aid.

There are many FM systems available to help improve communication in challenging environments. Ask your hearing healthcare professional about personal FM systems.

# Hearing System Care

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## Instrument Care

Do your best to keep your hearing instrument clean at all times. Heat, moisture and foreign substances can result in poor performance.

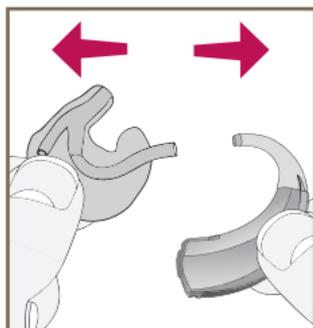
- Use a cleaning brush or soft cloth to clean debris from around the switches, microphone and battery compartment.
- Never use water, solvents, cleaning fluids or oil to clean your instrument.

My hearing instrument has:

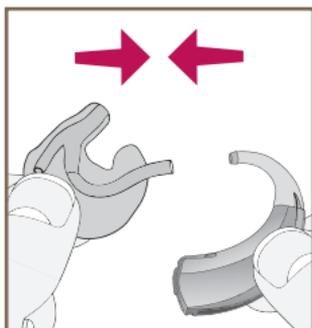
- Standard Tubing. See below.
- Thin Tubing. See page 26.

### Standard Tubing Care

1. Separate the Custom Earmold from the BTE by gently pulling the tubing away from the earhook.
  - Use a soft, damp cloth or a cleaning brush to clean debris from the Custom Earmold.
  - Wash the Custom Earmold with warm soapy water.
  - Never use solvents.
2. Slide the Custom Earmold tubing onto the BTE earhook when completely dry. Your hearing care professional can provide further information on additional maintenance procedures for your hearing instrument if needed.



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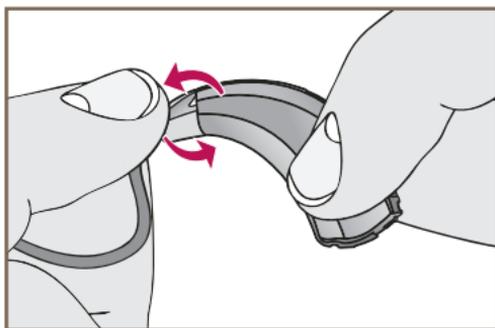
2

# Hearing System Care

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## Thin Tubing Care

1. Unscrew the tubing from the tip of the hearing instrument.



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2. Thread the cleaner through the tubing, starting at the end just removed from the hearing instrument, until it extends from the other end of the tubing.
3. Brush the debris off prior to removing the cleaner.
4. Clean the Earbud/Eartip with a dry cloth or brush.
5. If necessary, the Earbud/Eartip may be washed in warm, soapy water. Remove the Earbud/Eartip from the tubing prior to washing. Allow the Earbud/Eartip to dry overnight.

### Helpful Hints

- The control surface on your hearing aid is very sensitive and is designed to work with a clean, dry finger. If your finger is sweaty, gloved or if you just applied lotion, the control surface may not react as well.
- If you accidentally touch the control surface with a wet finger and your hearing aid does not react correctly, wipe your finger and the control surface with a dry cloth and try again.
- Make sure the Custom Earmold/Earbud/Eartip and tubing are completely dry before reconnecting to your hearing instrument earhook.
- When not wearing your hearing instrument, open the battery door to allow any moisture to evaporate.
- Do not take apart your hearing instruments or insert the cleaning tools inside them.

# Hearing System Care

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## Helpful Hints (continued)

- When not in use, remove the batteries completely; place your hearing instrument in the storage container and store:
  - In a dry, safe place.
  - Away from direct sunlight or heat to avoid extreme temperatures.
  - Where you can easily find them.
  - Safely out of reach of pets and children.

## Service and Repair

If, for any reason, your hearing instrument does not operate properly, do NOT attempt to fix it yourself. Not only are you likely to violate any applicable warranties or insurance, you could easily cause further damage.

Should your hearing instrument fail or perform poorly, check the guide on the next page for possible solutions. If problems continue, contact your hearing care professional for advice and assistance. Many common problems may be solved right in your hearing care professional's office or clinic.

## Troubleshooting Guide

SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE CAUSES	SOLUTIONS
Not Loud Enough	Low battery	Replace battery
	Blocked earmold/tubing/earbud	Remove blockage and clean
	Hearing change	Contact your hearing care professional
	Debris buildup	Clean both microphone and receiver with brush
Inconsistent Performance	Low battery	Replace battery
	Blocked earmold/tubing/earbud	Remove blockage and clean
Unclear, Distorted Performance	Low battery	Replace battery
	Blocked earmold/tubing/earbud	Remove blockage and clean
	Defective hearing instrument	Contact your hearing care professional
Dead	Low battery	Replace battery
	Blocked earmold/tubing	Remove blockage and clean
	Crimped tubing	Contact your hearing care professional

## Tips for Better Communication

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Your hearing care professional will recommend an appropriate schedule to help you adapt to your new hearing system. It will take practice, time and patience for your brain to adapt to the new sounds that your hearing system provides. Hearing is only part of how we share thoughts, ideas and feelings. Reading lips, facial expressions and gestures can help the learning process and add to what amplification alone may miss.

Please review the following simple communication tips:

### For You

- Move closer to and look at the speaker.
- Sit face-to-face in a quiet room.
- Try different locations to find the best place to listen.
- Minimize distractions.
- Background noises may be frustrating at first; remember, you have not heard them for a while.
- Let others know what you need; keep in mind that people cannot “see” your hearing loss.

## Tips for Better Communication

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- Develop realistic expectations of what your hearing instruments can and cannot do.
- Better hearing with hearing instruments is a learned skill combining desire, practice and patience.

### For Your Family and Friends

Your family and friends are also affected by your hearing loss. Request that they:

- Get your full attention before beginning to speak.
- Look at you or sit face-to-face in a quiet room.
- Speak clearly and at a normal rate and level; shouting can actually make understanding more difficult.
- Rephrase rather than repeat the same words; different words may be easier to understand.
- Minimize distractions while speaking.

## Required Information

The following additional information is provided in compliance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations:

**WARNING TO HEARING AID DISPENSERS.** A hearing aid dispenser should advise a prospective hearing aid user to consult promptly with a licensed physician (preferably an ear specialist) before dispensing a hearing aid if the hearing aid dispenser determines through inquiry, actual observation, or review of any other available information concerning the prospective user, that the prospective user has any of the following conditions:

- i. Visible congenital or traumatic deformity of the ear.
- ii. History of active drainage from the ear within the previous 90 days.
- iii. History of sudden or rapidly progressive hearing loss within the previous 90 days.
- iv. Acute or chronic dizziness.
- v. Unilateral hearing loss of sudden or recent onset within the previous 90 days.
- vi. Audiometric air-bone gap equal to or greater than 15 decibels at 500 Hertz (Hz), 1,000 Hz and 2,000 Hz.
- vii. Visible evidence of significant cerumen accumulation or a foreign body in the ear canal.
- viii. Pain or discomfort in the ear.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PROSPECTIVE HEARING AID USERS.**

Good health practice requires that a person with a hearing loss have a medical evaluation by a licensed physician (preferably a physician who specializes in diseases of the ear) before purchasing a hearing aid. Licensed physicians who specialize in diseases of the ear are often referred to as otolaryngologists, otologists, or otorhynolaryngologists. The purpose of the medical evaluation is to assure that all medically treatable conditions that may affect hearing are identified and treated before the hearing aid is purchased.

Following the medical evaluation, the physician will give you a written statement that states that your hearing loss has been medically evaluated and that you may be considered a candidate for a hearing aid. The physician will refer you to an audiologist or hearing aid dispenser, as appropriate, for a hearing aid evaluation.

The audiologist or hearing aid dispenser will conduct a hearing aid evaluation to assess your ability to hear with and without a hearing aid. The hearing aid evaluation will enable the audiologist or dispenser to select and fit a hearing aid to your individual needs.

If you have reservations about your ability to adapt to amplification, you should inquire about the availability of a trial-rental or purchase-option program. Many hearing aid dispensers now offer programs that permit you to wear a hearing aid for a period of time for a nominal fee after which you may decide if you want to purchase the hearing aid.

Federal law restricts the sale of hearing aids to those individuals who have obtained a medical evaluation from a licensed physician. Federal law permits a fully informed adult to sign a waiver statement declining the medical evaluation for religious or personal beliefs that preclude consultation with a physician. The exercise of such a waiver is not in your best health interest and its use is strongly discouraged.

A hearing aid will not restore normal hearing and will not prevent or improve a hearing impairment resulting from organic conditions. Use of a hearing aid is only part of hearing habilitation and may need to be supplemented by auditory training and instruction in lip reading. In most cases infrequent use of a hearing aid does not permit a user to attain full benefit from it.

**CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS.** In addition to seeing a physician for a medical evaluation, a child with a hearing loss should be directed to an audiologist for evaluation and rehabilitation since hearing loss may cause problems in language development and the educational and social growth of a child. An audiologist is qualified by training and experience to assist in the evaluation and rehabilitation of a child with a hearing loss.

# Limited Warranty

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## **LIMITED WARRANTY:**

This Limited Warranty provided by Micro Ear Technology, Inc. ("MicroTech"), to you, the original purchaser of a MicroTech hearing instrument, covers your new hearing instrument when sold by a hearing professional authorized by MicroTech. The duration of this Limited Warranty begins when you first take delivery of your hearing instrument from an authorized hearing professional and ends either twelve (12) months or twenty-four (24) months later ("warranty period" depending on the product purchased:

12 months: Avail 10

24 months: Avail 20

## **LIMITATION ON DURATION OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES:**

IMPLIED WARRANTIES, IF ANY, ARISING BY WAY OF STATE LAW, INCLUDING ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE WARRANTY PERIOD. There is no warranty of any nature made by MicroTech beyond this Limited Warranty. No person has authority to enlarge, amend, or modify this Limited Warranty. MicroTech is not responsible for any undertaking, representation, or warranty (written, express, or implied) made by any hearing professional or other person beyond those expressly set forth in this Limited Warranty.

Some States do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

## **WHAT THIS LIMITED WARRANTY COVERS:**

This Limited Warranty covers only a "defect" in the workmanship performed and/or materials used to manufacture your hearing instrument. "Defect" means the failure of the workmanship performed and/or materials used to conform the hearing instrument to MicroTech's design and manufacturing specifications and tolerances.

Your hearing professional may have issued a warranty or service plan that goes beyond the provisions of this Limited Warranty. Please contact him or her for further information.

MicroTech will either replace the hearing instrument or repair any covered defect in your hearing instrument, provided that you deliver your hearing instrument to one of MicroTech's authorized hearing professionals and notify the hearing professional of the defect during the warranty period and within thirty (30) days of discovering the defect. There will be no cost to you for MicroTech's repair or replacement of the instrument itself, but the hearing professional may charge a fee for services he or she provides. Performance of warranty repairs on your hearing instrument shall not extend the duration of the warranty period. Any repairs performed on your hearing instrument after the warranty period has expired shall be considered "good will" repairs, which shall not alter the terms of this Limited Warranty.

## **HOW TO OBTAIN WARRANTY SERVICE:**

Deliver your hearing instrument (at your expense) to the MicroTech authorized hearing professional from whom you purchased it. If that professional is unavailable, visit [www.mtheating.com](http://www.mtheating.com) or call the toll-free telephone number on the back of the Operations Manual to locate another authorized MicroTech hearing professional.

# Limited Warranty

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## **WHAT THIS LIMITED WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER:**

Batteries, earmolds, accessories, or damage to your hearing instrument caused by misuse or neglect, accident, unauthorized alteration, or failure to provide reasonable and necessary maintenance and cleaning.

## **DISCLAIMER OF CONSEQUENTIAL AND INCIDENTAL DAMAGES:**

THE PURCHASER SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO RECOVER FROM MICROTECH ANY CONSEQUENTIAL OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM ANY DEFECT IN THE HEARING INSTRUMENT, INCLUDING BY WAY OF EXAMPLE ONLY, EXPENSES TO DELIVER THE HEARING INSTRUMENT TO AN AUTHORIZED HEARING PROFESSIONAL, HOTEL ROOMS, OR LOST WAGES. THIS EXCLUSION AND DISCLAIMER OF CONSEQUENTIAL AND INCIDENTAL DAMAGES SHALL BE DEEMED INDEPENDENT OF, AND SHALL SURVIVE, ANY FAILURE OF THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF ANY REMEDY OF THIS LIMITED WARRANTY.

Some States do not allow the exclusion or limitation of consequential or incidental damages, so the above exclusions may not apply to you.

## **YOUR LEGAL REMEDIES:**

THIS LIMITED WARRANTY DOES NOT "EXTEND TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE." ANY ACTION TO ENFORCE THIS LIMITED WARRANTY OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES MAY AND SHALL NOT BE COMMENCED MORE THAN 90 DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE WARRANTY PERIOD. THE PERFORMANCE OF REPAIRS SHALL NOT SUSPEND THIS LIMITATIONS PERIOD FROM EXPIRING. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL MICROTECH BE OBLIGATED TO REFUND ALL OR ANY PART OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE HEARING INSTRUMENT. Some States do not allow the reduction in the limitation period, so the above reduction in the limitation period may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights which vary from State to State.

This warranty is valid only in the United States.

## **MicroTech**

6425 Flying Cloud Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344



Wm. F. Austin House, Bramhall Technology Park  
Pepper Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 5BX  
United Kingdom

[www.mtheating.com](http://www.mtheating.com)







6425 Flying Cloud Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

800.745.4327  
[www.mthearing.com](http://www.mthearing.com)

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