

Please, Get Me Out of the 2-Meter 'Hearing Bubble'!

By Bill Droogendyk

Hearing devices have a 2-meter limit! Must you stay within it? The challenge of distinguishing sound from noise is most evident in the space beyond 2 meters from the sound source. World-class venues with the best acoustics and best sound systems do not significantly enlarge the 2 meter 'bubble'. Noise and noisy environments remain a hindrance to hearing.

Is there a solution? Yes: reduce the distance between the desired sound and the hearing device and get 'inside the bubble'. But I'm 25 meters from the podium! Well, what if your hearing device microphone was (virtually) on stage? Easily done? Read on.

With a hearing loop, sound from a microphone is sent as an electrical current through a wire, instead of through an acoustic speaker system. The wire is 'looped' around an area, creating a magnetic field which can be 'heard' by any telecoil-equipped hearing aid. No headsets! No wires to connect! No pairing! Any telecoil-equipped hearing aid becomes a miniature personal

speaker. The microphone on the stage 'replaces' the microphone in the hearing device. The acoustic distance is now less than 25 centimeters and noise has been immensely reduced. Effective? Here's a testimonial: "It sounded like the presenter was inside my head!"

Achieving such results requires matching systems. Like hearing aids, hearing loops have industry performance standards. To meet the standard, the hearing loop signal volume level must be uniform within the listening area and must cover the range of the hearing frequencies uniformly. Similarly, the hearing device provider should set the hearing device telecoil to the appropriate standards.

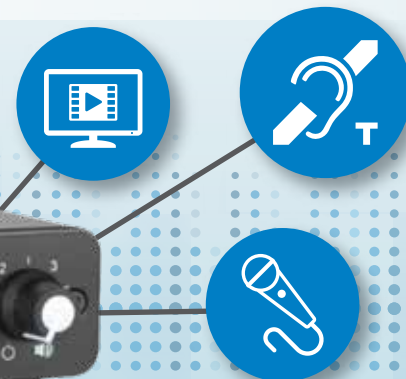
Get yourself out of the 2-meter hearing bubble! A hearing loop is the only solution that works directly with the hearing aid in virtually every place you go to hear, be it music or speech. Try it at the HEAR QUEBEC office today! Do it again at the CHHA 2019 National Convention! Loops are planned for the check-in desk and workshops. Experience it, then advocate for it!



Bill Droogendyk of Better Hearing Solutions specializes in assistive listening systems. Bill tirelessly promotes the underutilized and highly beneficial hearing loop system in Canada. He is a key player and partner in the Let's Loop Canada initiative and an active member of CHS and CHHA.

This article was adapted from "Breaking the 2 meter hearing 'bubble'", originally published in the Spring 2017 issue of HEARHEAR Magazine. Past issues of the magazine are available on the HEAR QUEBEC website.

**HEAR QUEBEC's
Lily Bernstein
Resource Centre
is now looped!**



If you need your telecoil activated, or if you'd like help reaching out to a venue or community space that might be interested in looping, just ask HEAR QUEBEC! We have pre-written letters for you to bring to your acoustician or community group.