

Hearing Device Styles to Fit Your Needs

Hearing technology has experienced rapid and considerable change in recent years. That change has made hearing devices:

- More cosmetically appealing than ever before
- Provide a higher quality of sound due to the use of digital rather than analog processing
- More automated and easy to use
- Provide more comfort and many options

STYLES OF HEARING DEVICES

Many of today's hearing devices are much smaller than they used to be. Some are virtually invisible! Even the more powerful hearing devices that traditionally sit behind one's ear are available in "miniature" styles. Your hearing professional will help you choose the size that is correct for you based on your level of hearing loss, your lifestyle and your manual dexterity.



RECEIVER-IN-THE-EAR (RITE)/OPEN-FIT OR OVER-THE-EAR DEVICES (OTE)

This style of hearing device is the most popular today due to their inconspicuous nature, comfort and excellent sound quality. For the RITE device, the receiver is built into a soft open dome and placed inside the ear canal with thin electrical wires replacing the acoustic tube of conventional BTEs.



INVISIBLE-IN-THE-CANAL DEVICES (IIC)

IIC hearing devices are wireless, custom-fit and inserted further into the ear canal so it becomes completely invisible when worn. The devices can be removed and reinserted daily by the user.



COMPLETELY-IN-THE-CANAL DEVICES (CIC)

CIC hearing devices are custom-made to fit deep within the ear canal and are nearly invisible. However, they are not suitable for those who have severe hearing loss or who would have difficulty handling a tiny battery.



IN-THE-CANAL DEVICES (ITC)

Slightly larger than the CIC, ITC devices are also custom-made and fill the bottom half of the external ear. Only barely noticeable to those in face-to-face conversation, the ITC uses a slightly larger battery than the CIC style.



IN-THE-EAR DEVICES (ITE)

ITE hearing devices fit in the bowl of the outer ear (concha) and are custom-fit for the individual. Usually visible when facing another person, ITEs can accommodate larger sound amplifiers and offer more features. Their size makes them easier to handle and allows the use of a longer lasting battery.



BEHIND-THE-EAR DEVICES (BTE)

In general, BTEs are more powerful than smaller hearing devices due to the stronger amplifier and larger battery. In BTE devices the electronics sit behind the ear and the sound is directed through a tube into the ear canal. BTEs are also offered in a miniature size.

