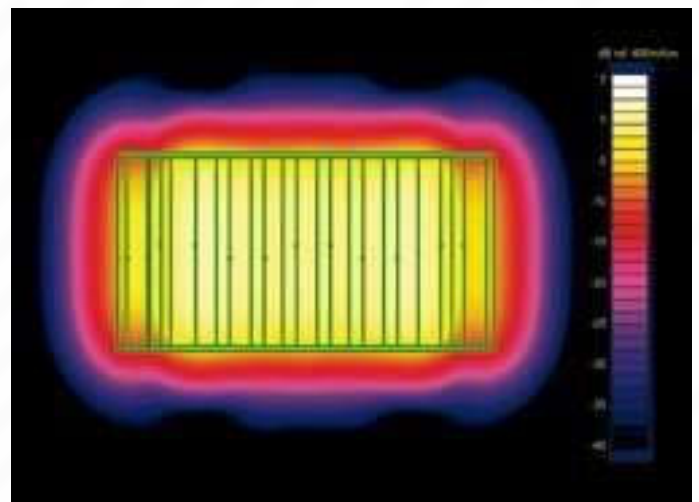
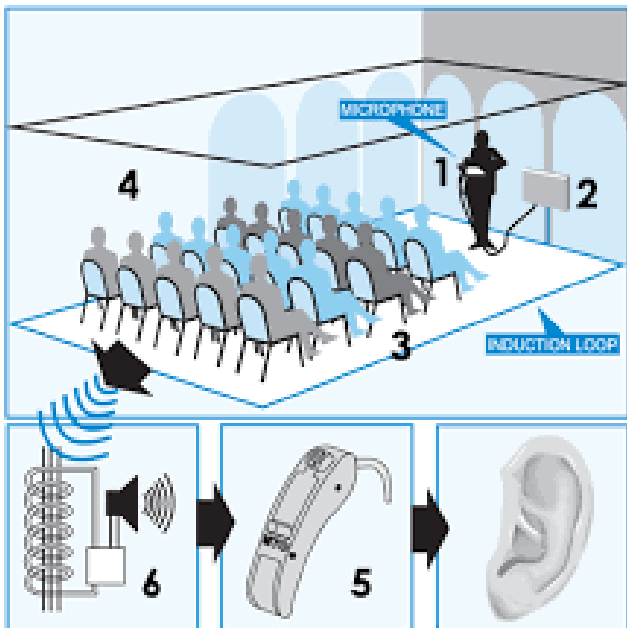
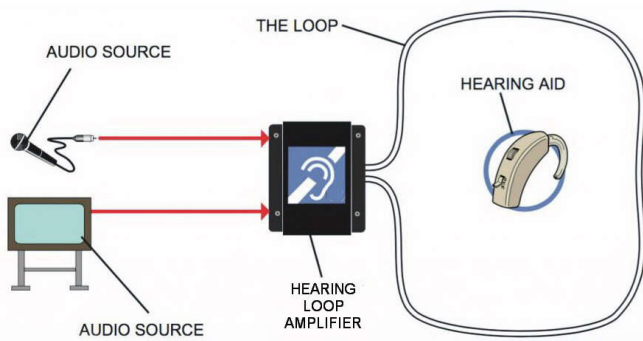


Hearing Connections

HEARING BETTER

HEARING LOOPS



COMPARISON CHART

| | Hearing Loop | FM/Digital | Infrared | SoundField with Receivers Note 1 | SoundField no Receivers Note 2 | Public Wifi including Smartphones | Personal Assistive Listening Roger Note 3 |
|--|--------------|------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Complies with NCC Legal Requirements without receivers Note 4 | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Complies with NCC Legal Requirements with receivers Note 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No Note 6 | No Note 3 |
| Connected to venue's Audio System | Yes | Yes | Yes | Note 1 | Note 2 | Yes | No Note 6 |
| User Preferred | Yes | 2nd Option | No | | | | No |
| Venue Preferred | Yes | 2nd Option | | Note 2 | | | No |
| Lowest Maintenance | Yes | | | | | | No |
| Easiest to Install | | Yes | | | | | No |
| Maximum Privacy | | | Yes | | | | No |
| Range | Various | Up to 750m | Various | 20m Note 5 | 20m Note 5 | Various | 10m/20m Note 7 |

The Roger system is designed for, and is excellent as a personal microphone system, not as a Hearing Augmentation System.

Notes relating to the Comparison Table

- Note 1:** SoundField may be used as an amplification system or a combined amplification and hearing augmentation system. Only when used with receivers is it a hearing augmentation system. SoundField Systems are typically used in classrooms for children with mild fluctuating hearing loss. Students requiring hearing augmentation must use receivers or connect their own personal system to the SoundField system.
Not all students own personal systems for this purpose.
- Note 2:** An installed SoundField system without receivers is an inbuilt amplification system. Not all SoundField systems are capable of having receivers. Those which are not cable of, and/or not supplied with, receivers are not hearing augmentation systems.
- Note 3:** A personal assistive listening system is not owned by the venue, and is typical owned by the user or provided by the hearing service provider to the user for their personal use, and will typically be a single microphone and a receiver. This is not a hearing augmentation system.
- Note 4:** To comply with NCC legal requirements, DP9 and D3.7.of the NCC must be met.
- Note 5:** Does not comply with DP9 of the NCC when the latency is greater than 40mS.
- Note 6:** The Personal Assistive Listening System transmitters have built in batteries, and therefore are not suitable for permanent connection to a venue's audio system (as the batteries will eventually corrode and may destroy the transmitter).
- Note 7:** When used at greater range than 20 metres, repeater units with internal batteries are required. These are not suitable for permanent connection to a venue's audio system as the batteries will eventually corrode and may destroy the repeater.

Legal Requirements

There are numerous legal requirements involving Hearing Augmentation Systems, and signs for them.

- NCC - National Construction Codes (previously BCA - Building Codes of Australia)
– DP9, and Sections D3.6 and 3.7
- DDA - Disability Discrimination Act 1992 – The Premises Standards - DP9, and Sections D3.6 and 3.7
- Fit for Purpose (each state has its own fair trading laws requiring all systems to be fit for purpose)
- Australian Standard AS 1428.5 - 2010 (applies if listed in a contract).

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, email Andrew Stewart: Managing Director of Hearing Connections at andrew@hearconnect.com.au

Other articles are available [here](#)
Sign up to receive our newsletter [here](#)

About the Author

Andrew Stewart is qualified in electronics and has been leading research into hearing augmentation systems for over 30 years – including designing, installing, testing and commissioning of Hearing Augmentation Systems. He and his team have conducted their own research of comparison methodologies of installing hearing loop systems and designed and constructed test equipment. He's been involved in installations at Sydney Opera House, First Class Qantas Club Singapore, art galleries, museums, theatres and many others.

Andrew was a key leader in the development of AS 1428.5 - 2010, the authoritative document on Hearing Augmentation in Australia. He is also a life member of Deafness Forum of Australia (the peak body for hearing impaired people in Australia) and continues to represent them, as he has on many committees for over 20 years. Andrew has been hearing impaired all his life, with a progressive loss, and now wears two cochlear implants. He has 9 other family members who wear hearing aids and/or cochlear implants.

Why choose Hearing Connections

Hearing Connections is built on experience of Andrew Stewart, who:

- Has been **wearing hearing aids** since age 7, and now wears two cochlear implants.
- Knows both sides of the story – the **lived experience**, and the **electronics qualifications**.
- Has been **specialising** in Hearing Augmentation Systems for over 33 years.
- Was **instrumental** in the writing of the definitive Australian Standard **AS 1428.5**.
- Has conducted **research and development** of Hearing Augmentation systems for improved outcomes.
- Has over **33 years of design, installation and commissioning** of Hearing Augmentation systems (loop systems, FM systems, sound field systems and public address systems) for a range of public access buildings, from small halls to significant buildings and venues, including Sydney Opera House and airports.
- **Lectures** in Hearing Augmentation for building professionals.
- Provides **training** in Hearing Augmentation for Access Consultants, Building certifiers and surveyors, and architects.
- Over 20 years of **advocating** for the needs of deaf and hearing impaired people.
- Is a **life member** of Deafness Forum of Australia.
- Has won **numerous awards** for service in advocating for the needs of deaf and hearing impaired people.

Legal

This document is not a legal interpretation of the NCC. It is the opinion of the principal of this company and is based on more than 30 years of experience with hearing augmentation. He himself is hearing impaired. The information provided is general advice only and does not take into account your building site objectives, building site design and or building materials used or other relevant factors and cannot be relied upon for your specific needs.

Therefore, Hearing Connections, its directors, agents and or employees do not accept any liability or responsibility arising in any way from the use of the information provided. The information should not be relied upon for accuracy or completeness. © Hearing Connections, 2020

