

**Advanced
technology.**

**Experienced
audiologists.**

Improved hearing.



CHRISTIE CLINIC

Medicine for Your Life

Do hearing aids really help?

Hearing aids are highly sophisticated electronic devices that can markedly improve ease of listening for individuals with hearing loss. Success depends on appropriate choice of aids, type and degree of hearing loss, motivation, practice, and individual factors.

Can hearing aids eliminate background noise?

Hearing aids can limit the excessive volume of certain sounds and reduce the interference of some background noises. Most background noises should be audible, such as the sound of sirens, approaching footsteps, or the turn signal on the car. No hearing aids will completely eliminate all background noise.

What should they do for me?

Hearing aids should improve your ability to hear speech clearly. Speech sounds should be audible, yet comfortable. The sound quality should be clear and not distorted. What you actually hear will depend on the nature of your hearing loss.

When you first use your hearing aids, there will be a period of adjustment. You must relearn to use the sounds that become available to you through the hearing aids. A positive attitude and family support are critical during this learning period.

Hearing aids that fit your lifestyle

Thanks to rapidly advancing technology, hearing aids provide users higher fidelity and greater reliability. Likewise, improvements in the area of miniaturization allow for more fitting options than ever. Despite these improvements, when it comes to fitting, one fundamental principle of hearing aids has not changed: Hearing aids must be selected and adjusted to match the needs of the individual.

Hearing aid styles

Behind-the-Ear (BTE)

- \$2,400 - \$4,500 per digital pair
- Powerful, flexible, and durable
- Includes telecoils for telephone use
- Attaches to separate earmold
- Battery life of two to three weeks
- Easy adjustment with larger controls

Open Fit

- \$3,000 - \$5,000 per digital pair
- Similar to BTE but smaller
- Natural “open” feel and sound
- Battery life of one to two weeks

In-the-Ear and In-the-Canal (ITE/ITC)

- \$2,400 - \$5,000 per digital pair
- Custom shell fits precisely
- Mild to moderate power
- Battery life of one to three weeks
- Easy insertion, removal, and adjustment

Completely-in-the-Canal (CIC)

- \$3,000 - \$5,000 per digital pair
- Smallest size available
- Natural sound quality
- Easy to use with most telephones
- Requires clean, dry, healthy ear
- Battery life about one week

One hearing aid or two?

People hear better with two ears than one. Both ears are needed to locate sounds and to distinguish among similar sounds in noisy environments. Usually, two hearing aids restore these abilities better than one, but your audiologist can determine what is most appropriate.



Behind-the-Ear (BTE)



Open Fit



In-the-Ear Full Shell (ITE)



In-the-Canal (ITC)



Completely-in-the-Canal (CIC)

Photos courtesy of Phonak

Circuit options

Hearing aid shells look similar, but the circuitry inside varies significantly between them. The type of circuit chosen will depend on the hearing loss, previous history of hearing aid use, availability, and cost. Hearing aids do **not** simply make all sounds louder. They process sounds for maximum clarity. Here are some common designs:

Digital High End

These are the most advanced designs available. They can automatically limit many types of background noise. They offer multiple channels of noise reduction, digital feedback suppression, and remote controls if desired.

Digital Mid Level

These models offer high-end performance but fewer adjustable features and less automation. They typically use a push button program selector instead of remote control.

Digital Entry Level

These are true digital aids but have fewer features. They usually have only a manual volume control.

Directional

This special design feature is available on all except the smallest hearing aids. Two microphones are used to enhance speech arriving from the front of the listener and suppress sounds coming from the side and rear. This improves speech understanding in noisy environments.

Bluetooth and Wi-Fi

High-technology hearing aids now use Bluetooth to link hearing aids to cell phones. Wi-fi is used for hearing aids to communicate with each other. Christie audiologists also make earmolds for iPod use or for swim plugs, musicians' high-fidelity plugs, noise protection plugs, or in-ear monitors.

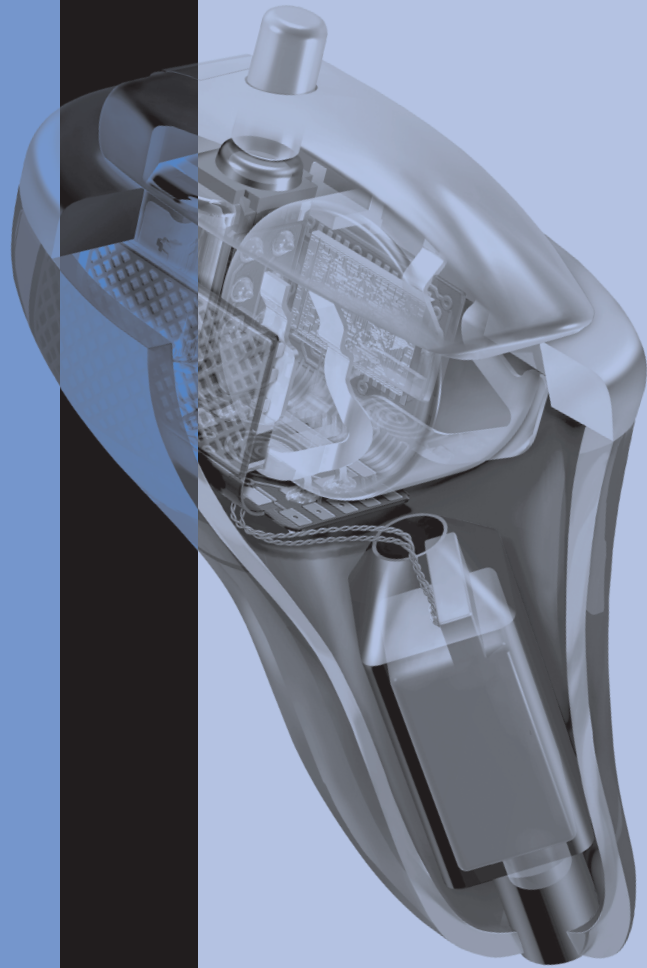


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Christie audiologists are experienced at determining individual hearing needs and can help select the most appropriate hearing aids. No hearing aid can restore normal hearing, but hearing aids that are properly fit can dramatically improve the quality of life for hearing aid users and their families.

For more information about the Hearing Aid Services at Christie Clinic, call 217.366.1387. To find out about hearing testing and evaluation services, call the Department of Audiology at 217.366.1243.



Hearing Aid Services

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