

Beyond Hearing Aids Newsletter

Helping Professionals Provide Successful Solutions with ALDs

April 2009

www.beyondhearingaids.com



April showers
bring
May flowers

Becky has taken over
Judy's Blog on the
website. Check it out!

President's Message

Becky Morris, President

Inline Phone Amplifiers - A Primer

It's always good to refresh the basics and inline phone amplifiers offer an economical and effective solution for amplifying work phones and some corded phones for home use. This has been a static category for awhile but there have been some new players entering the field so I hope you find this newsletter useful.

ALDs are now – more than ever – a practical solution to many of the daily challenges our clients face. Economical and effective are two worthy adjectives to describe ALDs that may help a client 'get by' until they can afford the best amplification to meet their hearing needs.

I'm sure you will join me in looking for a great Spring Season.

This month we are comparing our telephone inline amplifiers.

In-line amplifiers add amplification to a **non-amplified corded telephone**. The curly phone cord is unplugged from the base, the amplifier is plugged into that outlet on the base, and the curly cord (with handset) is plugged into the amplifier. An inline amplifier allows you to use all the functions of your work phone. In-line amplifiers will **not work** with Trimline telephones or telephones with a dial pad in the handset.

Most of the amplifiers have a boost button that maximizes amplification while blocking out feedback and background noise. Usually, the boost button must be released when you talk. In-line amplifier ratings of **25-30dB are for mild hearing loss**. Ratings of **40-45dB are for moderate loss**. **The Speech Adjust-A-Tone is for severe loss, or for speech discrimination problems**. We also have information on inline amplifiers that accommodate headsets.

What is VOIP and what does it matter?

Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) is digital phone service running over high-speed internet connection, as opposed to traditional telephone service. Some in-line phone amplifiers claim compatibility with VOIP, but our research has not confirmed these claims. We have run into compatibility issues from time to time with various amplifiers. You may have to try more than one amplifier if you experience problems. Three in-line amplifiers have compatibility switches that may solve the issue without exchanging products: HC-UA45, HC-UA50, HC-IL95 – all found on page 19 of the catalog.

Serene Innovations UA-45 Universal Phone Amplifier

Battery powered or AC powered amplifier (9V battery not included; optional AC power adapter available - \$14.95 HC-UA/ADAPT). This is our new favorite phone amplifier. **Up to 45dB** amplification with very clear sound. It is in a class by itself with two-way conversation while in Boost mode. Digital Sound Processing technology eliminates distortion, echo effects and unwanted static. Digital Tone Enhancement. Volume Control. Auto shutoff.

One year warranty.



HC-UA45
\$39.95

HA40 In-Line Amplifier by Clarity

Battery powered amplifier (9V battery included). This was our longtime favorite inline amplifier, before the UA-45. **(Up to +40 dB)** amplification. Has excellent sound with slide controls for both volume and tone. Boost button. Small and portable for use on multiple phones. Compatible with most home and office telephones and is easily connected between handset and phone base. The one drawback on this amplifier is the battery-saving feature: sometimes the incoming voice loses the first sound, forcing the listener to have to ask the speaker to repeat. **One year warranty.**



AMER-HA40
\$34.95

Other 40dB inline amplifiers are the ClearSounds IL95 and the Geemarc PAMP-40, found on page 19 of the catalog.

W10 In-Line Phone Amplifier by Clarity

AC-Powered In-Line Amplifier. This has been an office favorite for years for those with mild hearing loss. Compatible with multi- or single-line standard or electronic phones. **Up to +19dB** amplification with variable volume control. Automatic bypass allowing the user to hear in case of power failure. Easy set up. Available in four colors: ash, black, ivory or pearl. **One year warranty.**



WE-W10
\$35.95

More inline amplifiers for mild loss are the Clarity CE225 (28dB) and the Clarity CE125 (25dB), found on page 18 of the catalog.

Serene Innovations UA-50 Business Phone Amplifier for use with a Headset and/or Handset

AC powered or battery powered amplifier (AC power adapter included; 9V battery not included.) Similar to UA-45 above, with exception of **ability to add headset** and **comes with AC adapter**. Headset must have a RJ9 or quick disconnect plug. We have three headset/UA-50 kits available. Call us for information on compatible Plantronics headsets.



HC-UA50
\$79.95

A similar inline amplifier for use with headset is the Vista M22 on page 18 of the catalog, retail \$120.00. 2 AA batteries included.

As always, please feel free to call us at Beyond Hearing Aids, Inc. if you need assistance in choosing an in-line phone amplifier for yourself or your client/patient. We can help you sort out which one might be the best choice for a particular person and situation. We have a lot of experience in solving phone and headset issues in the work place.



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