

Beyond Hearing Aids Newsletter

Helping Professionals Provide Successful Solutions with ALDs

June 2007

www.beyondhearingaids.com



Upcoming Schedule

**6/6/07 Mid America Conference
on Hearing – Lexington, KY**

**6/21/07 Hearing Loss
Association of America
Convention – Oklahoma City**

President's Message

Becky Morris, President

Thank you all for your patience as we completed our office move. All the contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

TV Listening: Our Link to Life

It is difficult enough to have problems communicating with family, friends, and co-workers. Add to this the inability to understand TV, and the sense of isolation becomes profound.

Fortunately, TV listening systems make it possible for people with hearing loss to hear and understand what is being said on TV. Watch a person using a TV listening system for the first time – you'll see pure joy.

TV Listening Systems: Types

TV listening systems carry sound to your ears in several different ways:

- Infra-red (light waves)
- FM (radio waves)
- Loop system (electromagnetic waves)

The most popular TV listening systems use infrared light waves. However, one of the newest systems (Sennheiser's Set 820) uses FM. The FM signal travels farther so that you can hear TV in other rooms.

TV Listening Systems: Comparisons

Companies frequently come out with new benefits and features. Because comfort is important, we tested 2 new infra-red systems by Sennheiser (IS 410 and the Set 50) that are advertised as having "ultra-lightweight headsets." However, we found that the weight difference of these two TV listening systems is negligible when compared to the TV Ears, Williams Sound WIR 238 and Sennheiser Set 100 (the lightest) and Set 810.

Another advertised comfort feature is Sennheiser's cone-shaped, silicone eartips (on the IS 410 and Set 50). TV Ears advertises mushroom shaped tips and foam tips that are much smaller so that the customer can choose what feels best.

In conclusion, we think that all of the infrared systems are comparable in the areas of weight and sound quality. Here's a detailed look at the features of the newest TV listening systems:

- Sennheiser's IS 410, Set 50, Set 820 (Set 820 is Plasma TV compatible)
- TV Ears Pro (Plasma TV compatible)

Sennheiser's IS 410

An ultra-lightweight infra-red stereo stethoset headphones system that allows the user to individually adjust the volume of TV sets, radios and hi-fi systems. The transmitter has a compression button for a clearer speech signal. The volume level can be set separately for the right and left ear. The IS 410 includes a rechargeable battery pack and headphones that automatically switch on and off when they are put on/removed. (2.3/2.8 MHz carrier frequencies).



IS 410 \$199



Set 50 \$119

Sennheiser's Set 50

The Set 50 consists of an infra-red mono stethoset receiver and infra-red transmitter. It's an excellent value. Like the IS 410, the volume level can be set separately for the right and left ear and includes a rechargeable battery pack. (Set 55 is a variant that is delivered with 2 rechargeable accupacks).

Sennheiser's Set 820

The Set 820 incorporates the latest in RF (radio frequency) technology. The receiver has automatic frequency tuning and a large, easy to use volume control. There is a compression system for a clearer speech signal, stereo/mono operation, and a quick charge feature. A hearing professional can adjust the maximum volume and bass. This system is compatible with Plasma TV screens. Note: For the Flat panel TV screen, you must turn off the internal speakers UNLESS you purchase a TV microphone.



Set 820 \$259

TV Ears Pro

The exact same product as the original TV Ears plus an input/output jack in the headset which will accept the music cord, cell phone cord, voice cord, t-coil and neck loop accessories:

- Music cord connects to computers, CD players, and other audio devices
- Cell phone cord connects to most cell phones, wireless home phones and (with an additional adapter) even corded home phones
- Voice Cord turns the headset into a simple hearing device for one-on-one or group communication
- T-Coil module works like a t-coil to receive audio from looped facilities and phones
- Neckloop allows the headset to communicate directly with t-coil equipped aids



TV Ears Pro
\$249.95

Note: If you have a satellite dish (or cable box), connect the TV listening system audio cords to the audio output jacks on the satellite dish or cable box (not the TV). This prevents static.



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