



Hear Better with FM Technology

A Situational Guide

PHONAK

life is on

Solutions for difficult hearing situations

In this brochure you will discover how FM Systems have positively affected the lives of hearing aid users, just like you, in a variety of every day listening situations. Most importantly, you will learn how an FM System can help you participate more fully in the things that are important to you.

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Hearing Help

Do you still have trouble hearing even with your hearing aids in the following situations?

- In noisy restaurants
- In places of worship
- In conference rooms
- In cars
- At the telephone or cell phone

If yes, then an FM system may be right for you!

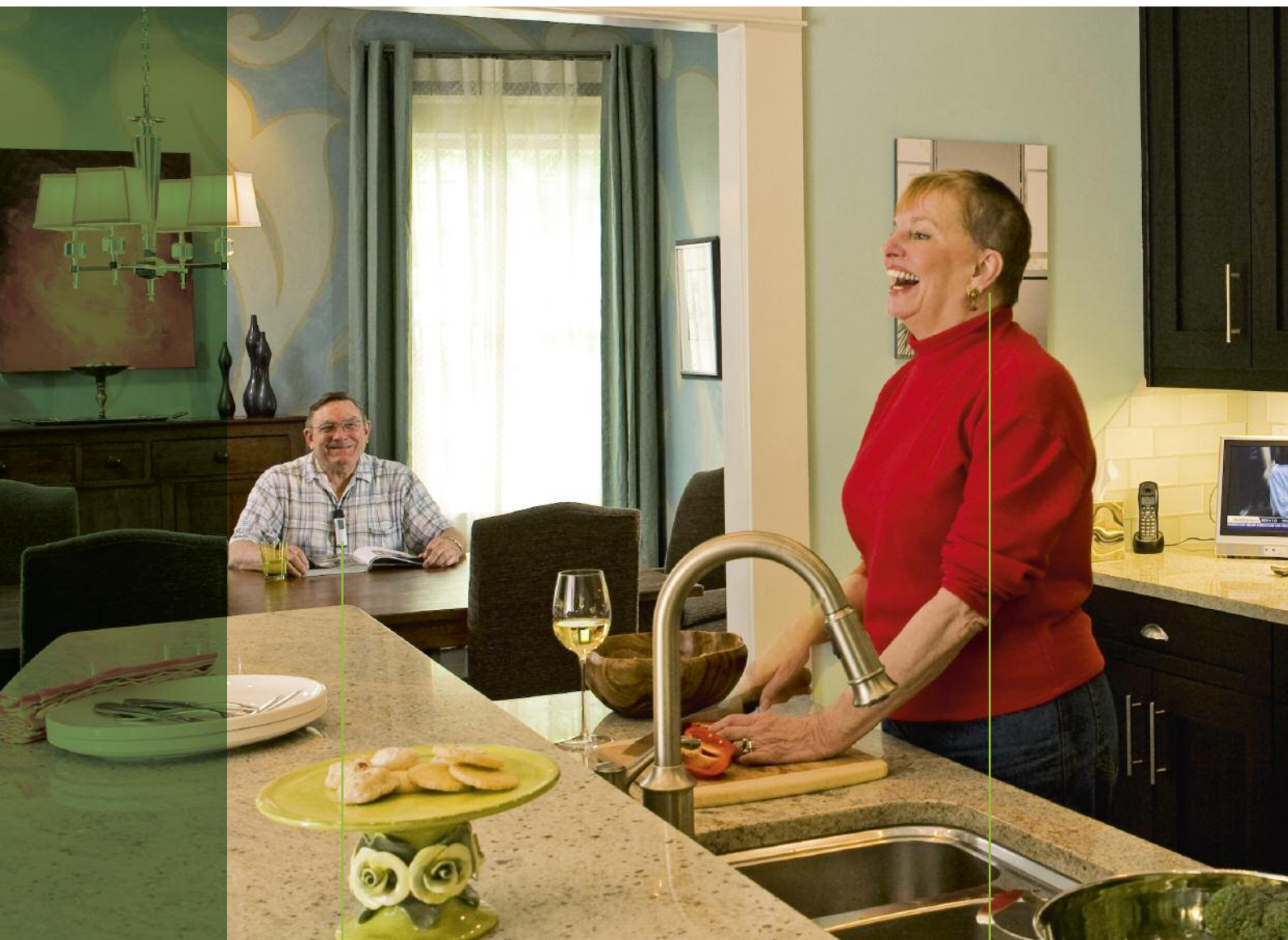
What is an FM System?

An FM system works together with your hearing aids to specifically help improve speech understanding in difficult listening situations. The system delivers sound directly to the ears. If you use an FM system, it will cut through the background noise, making sure you never miss a moment of what you want to hear.

These easy-to-use systems consist of a small FM transmitter and an FM receiver. When sounds enter the transmitter, it picks up the voice from the speaker and then sends the sound wirelessly to a tiny radio (FM) receiver that is connected directly to your hearing aids. The result is a direct and clear link from the source of the sound you want to hear into your ears.



One-on-one conversation



Transmitter



Hearing Instruments & Receivers

At Home

With the addition of an FM System, you'll quickly notice how much closer and clearer speech becomes and how much your understanding improves.

"Before I had my FM system, I often felt isolated in my own home because I couldn't hear my husband unless he was standing right in front of me. Now, I can easily communicate with him from anywhere in the house." – Sara S.

Riding in a car with a friend

With an FM system you can easily carry on a conversation while driving.

"Road noise while driving is terrible and I often found myself turning my head to try to read the lips or facial expressions of my passenger to better understand what was being said. This was distracting and even dangerous. With my FM System, speech in the car is crystal clear, so I can focus on the road." – Amy F.



Talking with someone in a social setting

At Parties

An FM system enables you to carry on a conversation with one person at a time without having to strain to hear through background noise.

"Even with my hearing aid, I had a really hard time understanding conversation at social events. All of the background noise made it nearly impossible to enjoy myself. Now, I can zero in on one conversation and block out everything else." – Amy F.

Guided tour, shopping, doctors office

Pass the FM transmitter to the speaker and you will hear much more clearly.

"When we go shopping in a big store and he goes one way and I go another, the FM system makes it easy to find each other. People probably think I am crazy because I look like I'm talking to myself, but it is a great thing to be able to communicate like that." – Diane C.





Talking with someone in a social setting

Hearing difficulty at work, conversation with a co-worker

Use the FM transmitter to hear those around you more clearly and to greatly enhance your overall awareness.

"For me, the technology has really made a difference. I'm a consultant, working in a professional environment and it is not an option for me to miss important information. I need to be able to hear what's going on to be responsive; it's critical to my work." – Keith G.

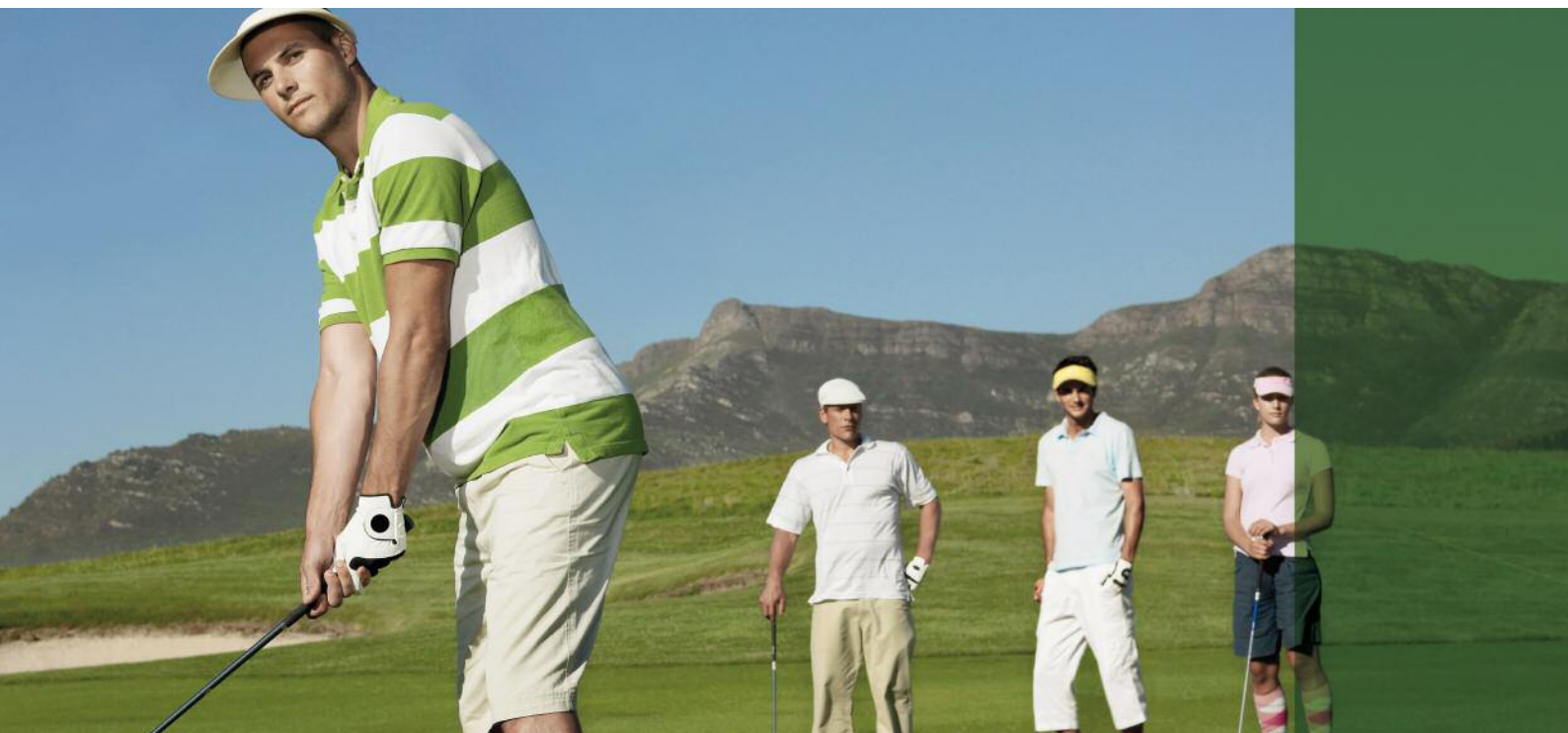


Walking on a noisy street with a friend

Using an FM system within the hustle and bustle of a busy street will enhance overall awareness as well as your ability to carry on a conversation.

"When I first lost my hearing, it was recommended that I try an FM System. At the time, I wasn't interested because I thought, 'I do well with my hearing aids, so what do I need that for?' But, my hearing professional helped me realize how an FM System works with my hearing aids to enhance my hearing in all types of challenging situations. Now I'm hooked. The benefits are amazing and I don't like to be without it." – Jaimee L.





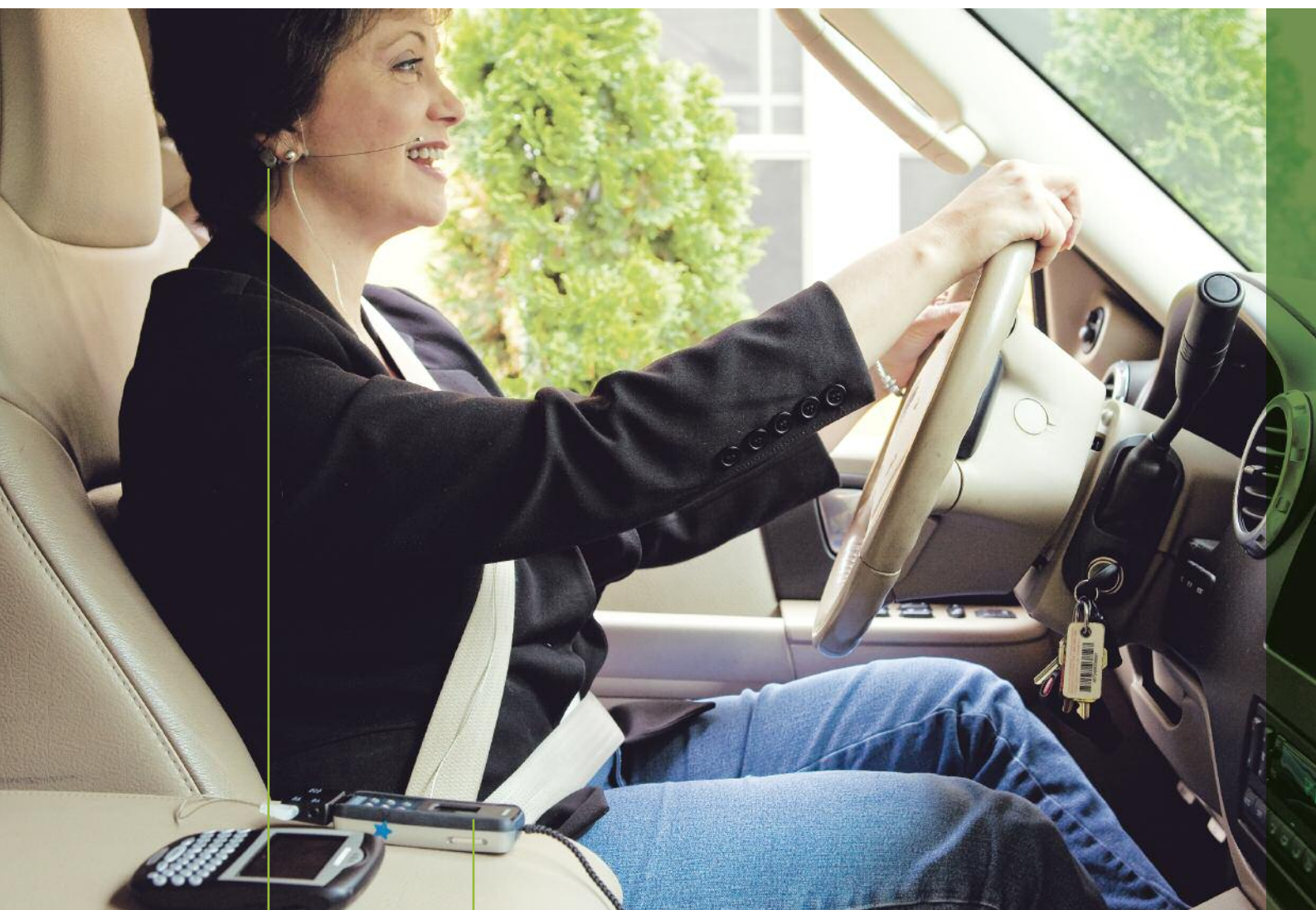
Transmitter with lapel mic

Sports

Wearing the FM transmitter with the external lapel microphone provides the freedom and comfort needed for physical activity.

"If I don't have it with me or it's not visible, friends, family members and colleagues ask, 'where is your little machine?' They really appreciate my being able to hear them." – Keith G.

Telephone use




Hearing Instruments &
Receivers



Transmitter

"I always had trouble hearing my cell phone in the car as well as communicating in noisy situations. With my FM System and Bluetooth technology, the voice of the caller is right in my ear. It truly makes me feel like I have no hearing loss at all." – Amy F.



Using your FM system with the telephone will greatly enhance your ability to carry on conversations. Depending on your phone, there are a number of solutions available. Consult your phone's instruction manual for more details.

With the exception of Bluetooth capable phones, the phone used with an FM system must have a headset jack. If your phone does not have a headset jack or if you cannot receive a dial tone, you may need to purchase a new phone.

If you need assistance, your hearing professional can make recommendations for specific products tested by Phonak for compatibility.

User tips:

- Please check your user manual for pairing and activation information.
- Implementation of Bluetooth technology in cell phones vary by model and manufacturer. Please consult with your mobile phone dealer if you are uncertain if your phone is Bluetooth capable and/or if it provides reliable connections.

Cellular phone – Bluetooth

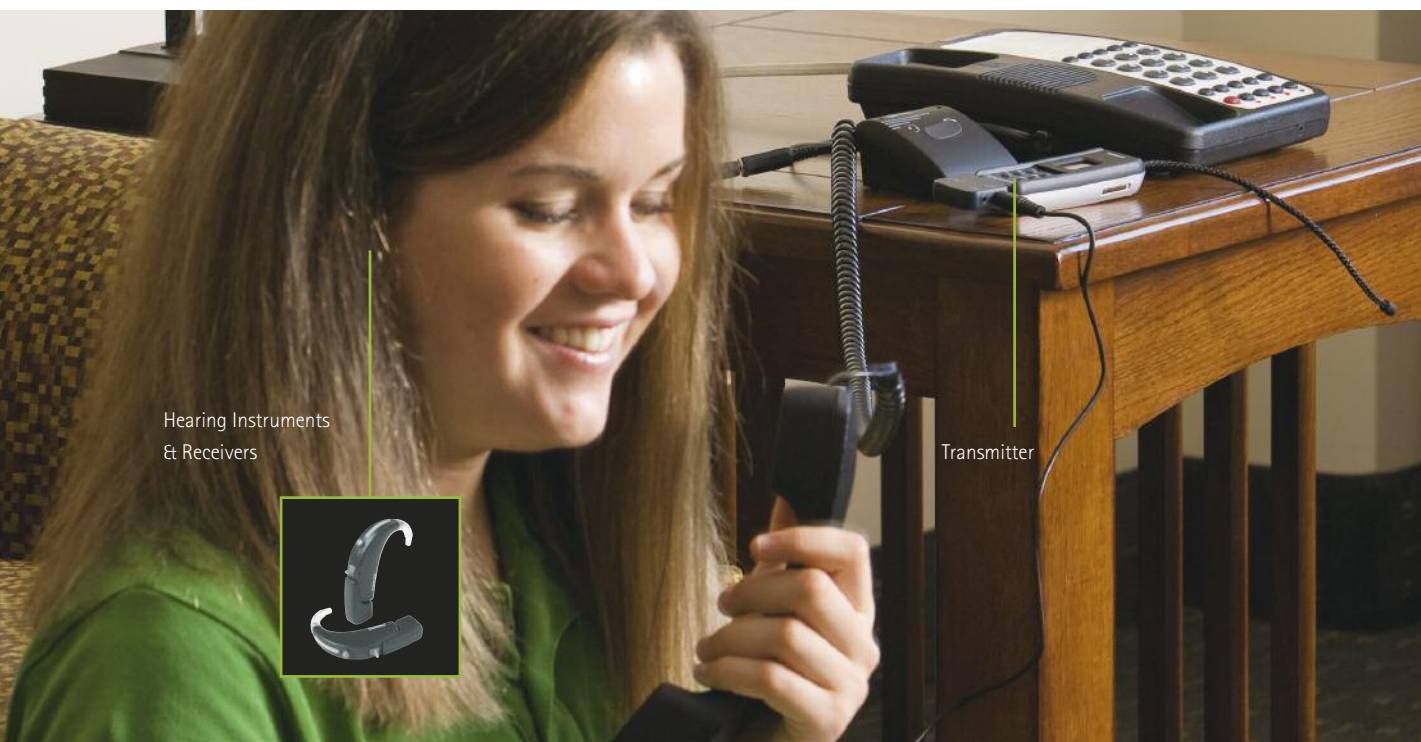
Smart calling with Bluetooth

The SmartLink FM transmitter is compatible with current Bluetooth headset and handsfree profiles.

Bluetooth phones, in combination with SmartLink, facilitate two-way wireless, totally hands-free delivery of cell phone signals to your hearing aids.

In very noisy environments, like the car or at the airport, the MicroBoom external microphone option provides ease-of-use and clear listening for you and the person with whom you are talking.

Telephone use



Cellular phone, cordless phone, fixed line phone

Attaching the FM transmitter to a phone provides only a one-way wireless connection. You will still need to talk into the telephone handset microphone.

- The Phonak audio cord has a 3.5 mm jack for connection to the phone. To test if your phone is useable, connect the audio cord to your phone and to the FM microphone, making certain there is a dial tone and two way communication.
- Fixed line phones do not have standardized interfaces; the phone you own may not be useable. If your phone does not have a 3.5 mm headset jack, or if there is no dial tone, you will need to purchase a new phone which is compatible with the "neckloop" or "headphone" these phones are available in assistive device specialty stores or catalogs.
- If your fixed line phone is connected to a digital phone system (widely used in offices with an in-house phone system) that does not have a headset jack, contact your phone system administrator to explore further options. Sometimes a training phone with a headset jack can provide a solution.

"You won't realize how good this system is until you try it. You will be amazed!" – Lisa O.

User tips:

- Many cellular/cordless phones have a standardized 2.5 mm audio out jack. If necessary, your local electronics store should be able to provide a stereo conversion plug (3.5 mm to 2.5 mm) to match the audio cord.

Entertainment Devices



Direct Audio Input

The FM transmitter easily connects to an external audio device using the standard audio input cord for a direct connection.

User tips:

- Connect the FM transmitter with the audio cord directly into your electronic media, either via headphone or line output connection.
- Some TVs will mute the built-in speaker when the headphone jack is in use.
- You may also connect the FM transmitter via the line output (typically the red/white jacks accessible on the back of the set.) Use a Y-adapter to feed the audio into the FM microphone. This installation method will not mute your TV speakers. Since you are receiving the TV sound via FM, you can set the speakers to a comfortable volume for the people around you.



"You can connect it to your CD player, MP3 Player, laptop or sound system. It makes the device sound so much better."
– Lisa O.

Entertainment Devices



Transmitter

Entertainment Devices

Relax and clearly hear the TV, radio and other entertainment devices without affecting the experience of others in the room. When setting up an FM system with electronic entertainment devices, there are two basic options: Acoustic Coupling or Direct Audio Input. Be sure to discuss your specific needs with your hearing professional to determine which system is right for you and your family.

Acoustic Coupling

- Acoustic coupling provides a simple solution for watching television or listening to music in quiet listening environments.

User tips:

- To set up, simply turn on the transmitter and TV and place the transmitter near the TV speaker, where sound quality is best.



"I use my FM System at home to watch TV. It makes the volume level comfortable for everybody else and I feel I am getting a much fuller experience than relying on reading the captions." – Stuart C.

Group Situations



Hearing Instruments
& Receivers



Transmitter



Talking with family members or playing cards with Conference Microphone

With several people talking at the same time, even basic conversation can be a strain. The conference microphone CM-3v (PZM)* is a convenient, inexpensive option that offers easy setup and brings clarity and focus to conversations. (NOTE: This method may be less effective for listeners with very severe or profound hearing loss.)

* not available in all countries



Business meeting, senior housing facilities, bingo hall, rebroadcasting of sound system signal

For effortless hearing in rooms full of people, connect your personal FM Transmitter to the sound system (speaker box) using the standard audio input cord. The FM transmitter will rebroadcast the signal of interest directly to your ears.



Hearing Instruments & Receivers



Transmitter



Hearing Instruments & Receivers

Easy access to signal in public facilities



Recent studies have shown, that 86% of people with hearing loss want improved hearing in houses of worship. Similar demand is estimated for other public venues. Lack of access often leads to isolation and withdrawal from spiritual and social activities.

Places of Worship

Given the available data, it is safe to predict that there are many people in your congregation who need hearing help. If you experience hearing difficulties in the venue you attend, contact the facility administrator to determine if the management is aware of the latest FM sound technology available for hearing-impaired people. If necessary, your hearing professional and a representative from Phonak will work with the venue.

Ask the facility to invite a Phonak representative to perform:

- A live demonstration of wide area FM technology
- A systematic needs assessment (site visit to determine amplification needs for all function rooms)
- Interviews with members of the congregation to identify their hearing difficulties

"The value of this technology in church is wonderful. It was so difficult for me to hear and enjoy the sermon before we had this benefit. Without it, I would probably not attend services." – Maxwell E.

Auditoriums, theaters, movie houses

Enjoy the convenience of easy access to signals broadcast on stage or from the screen. Most countries require the public facilities to have assistive devices to accommodate people with hearing loss. In the USA assembly areas (etc.) that accommodate more than 50 people must have a permanently installed sound distribution system and offer a minimum of 2 personal receivers for the hearing impaired (4% of total seating capacity).

Contact the facility administrator to determine if the management is aware of the latest FM sound technology for hearing-impaired people. If desired, a Phonak representative can conduct a live demonstration of wide area FM technology that is compatible with your personal amplification system. Your hearing care professional will work with the venue and Phonak to ensure your current hearing aids are compatible—as well as make any necessary adjustments.

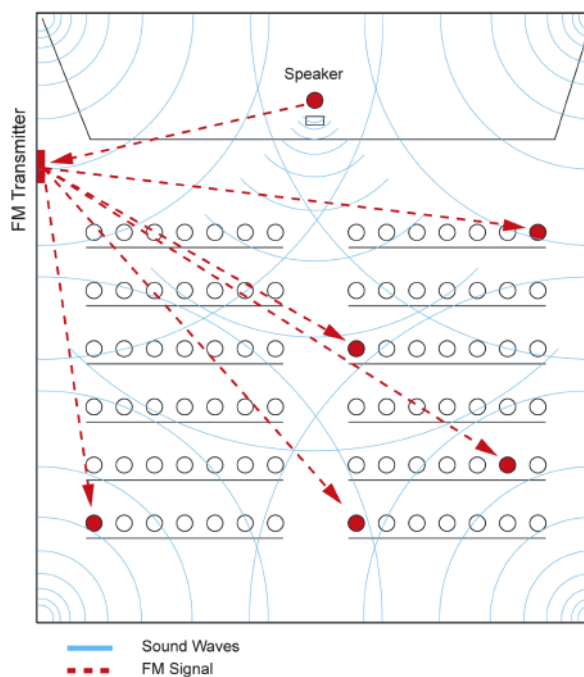


“When it comes to FM systems, there are so many options that there is something to help everyone hear better. Some of these devices are so simplified, with a little training, anyone can use them.” – Erin C.

How does it work? How will it sound?

MicroLink from Phonak represents the most advanced, miniaturized FM amplification technology available. It will outperform assistive technology traditionally provided by the venue because it is compatible with the hearing aids you already own and is programmed to match individual amplification needs. Connections are made through the existing AV system, be it infrared, inductive or FM. The system delivers a crisp, clear signal that sounds great!

“There is no way I would go back to my old way of hearing. That would be a giant step backwards.” – Fran B.



Easy access to signal in public facilities



Phonak wide area transmitter

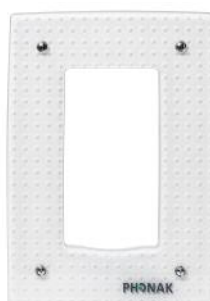
The TX-300V Large Area Transmitter is suitable for wide area sound distribution through FM radio waves.

Recommended use:

This dedicated transmitter is installed to a line level or microphone level output of a dedicated soundboard or mixer.

Features include:

- Compatible with all Phonak FM receivers
- No need to connect/use your personal FM microphone
- Install in large facilities with greater than 50 people seating capacity
- System offers freedom to choose seating location



WallPilot®

Recommended use:

Ideal for public places and meeting rooms where multiple FM users find it necessary to change their personal receiver frequencies to the frequency used in the public venue. Unit automatically synchronizes Phonak FM receivers to selected transmitting frequency.



Storage and charging suitcase.

Convenient charging/storage case for up to 10 MyLink receivers and two transmitters.

For additional information about Phonak FM Technology, please visit to www.phonak.com/consumer/products/fm

Life is on

We are sensitive to the needs of everyone who depends on our knowledge, ideas and care. And by creatively challenging the limits of technology, we develop innovations that help people hear, understand and experience more of life's rich soundscapes.

**Interact freely. Communicate with confidence.
Live without limit. Life is on.**