

Earmolds

OPERATIONS MANUAL

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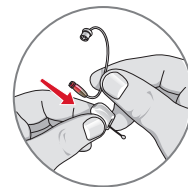
Your Earmold

The earmold is a key factor in your ability to gain optimal benefit from your hearing aid. Your earmold(s) have been crafted directly from the ear impressions taken from your ears by your hearing professional. Every effort has been made to preserve and ensure an effective and comfortable fit.

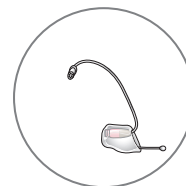
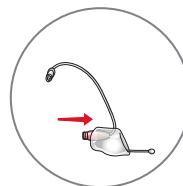
Assembly

To assemble 40-gain RIC Receiver on Earmold:

1. 40-gain receiver enters from the end of the canal - opposite of the larger receivers. Line the receiver wire with the channel in the mold.

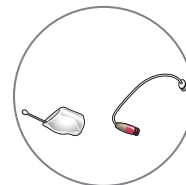
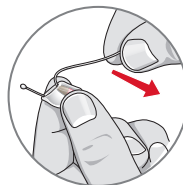


2. Pull backwards through the canal until the end of the receiver is at the end of the earmold.



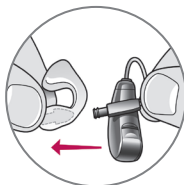
To remove 40-gain Receiver from Earmold:

1. Gently pull the receiver forward.

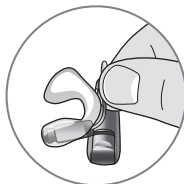


To assemble Helix RIC Earmold on Receiver:

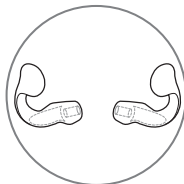
1. Put forefinger on canal of Helix RIC Earmold and gently push onto receiver.



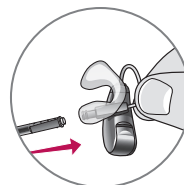
2. Helix RIC earmold successfully attached to receiver.



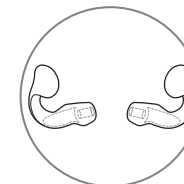
3. Helix RIC earmold (Left and Right)

**To remove Helix RIC Earmold use Hear Clear Wax System (Part #12522-000):**

1. Hold the tip of the Helix RIC mold between thumb and forefinger.
2. Gently push Hear Clear into receiver and Helix RIC earmold will release.



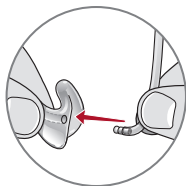
3. Helix RIC earmold (left and right)



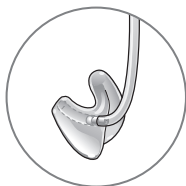
Please Note: Hear Clear can be removed without removing helix RIC earmold.

To assemble Snap Connect Tube to Earmold:

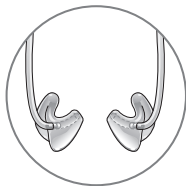
1. Put forefinger on canal of earmold and gently push tube base into earmold.



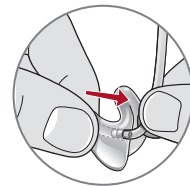
2. Will feel slight click when tube base is successfully connected to earmold. Tube base should be secure within earmold.



3. Snap connect tube with earmold (Left and Right).

**To remove Snap Connect Tube from Earmold:**

1. Using forefinger and thumb, grasp earmold in one hand and base of tube in other hand. Pull tube away from earmold to remove.



2. Tube will release from earmold.



Insertion and Removal

To insert the custom earmold and hearing aid:

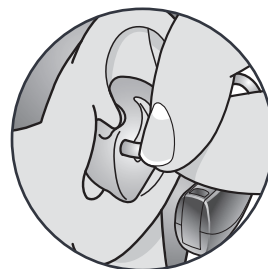
1. Hold the custom earmold with your thumb and forefinger on the outer side near the tubing.
2. Tilt your hand slightly forward and gently insert the canal tip of the custom earmold into your ear canal.
3. Rotate the custom earmold backwards.
4. Softly press the custom earmold into place with your fingertip.
5. Carefully place the BTE behind your ear wrapping the earhook over the top of your ear.

To remove the hearing aid and custom earmold:

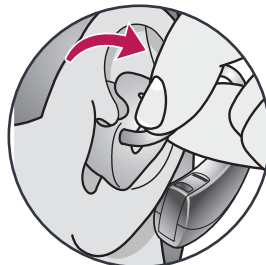
Take the hearing aid from behind your ear and gently pull the custom earmold outward. Pulling lightly down on the ear lobe may help loosen the custom earmold as it is removed.



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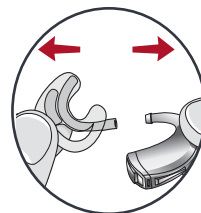
Please consult with your hearing professional and/or hearing aid's operations manual for information regarding the use of the specific hearing aid.

If feedback occurs after the earmold has been inserted correctly, contact your hearing professional.

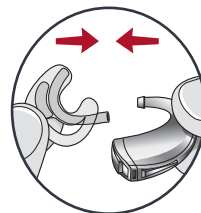
Hearing Aid and Earmold Care

Keep your hearing aid clean at all times. Heat, moisture and foreign substances can result in poor performance.

- Use a cleaning brush or soft cloth to clean debris from around the switches, microphone and battery compartment
 - Never use water, solvents, cleaning fluids or oil to clean your hearing aid
1. Separate the custom earmold from the BTE by gently pulling the tubing away from the earhook.
 - Use a soft, damp cloth or a cleaning brush to clean debris from the custom earmold
 - Wash the custom earmold with warm soapy water
 - Never use solvents
 2. Slide the custom earmold tubing onto the BTE earhook when completely dry.



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Your hearing professional can provide further information on additional maintenance procedures for your hearing aid if needed.

Helpful Hints

- Make sure the custom earmold and tubing are completely dry before reconnecting to your hearing aid earhook
- When not wearing your hearing aid, open the battery door to allow any moisture to evaporate
- When not in use, remove the batteries completely; place your hearing aid in the storage container and store:
 - In a dry, safe place
 - Away from direct sunlight or heat to avoid extreme temperatures
 - Where you can easily find them
 - Safely out of reach of children and pets
- Do not take apart your hearing aids or insert the cleaning tools inside them

Service and Repair

If, for any reason, your hearing aid does not operate properly, do NOT attempt to fix it yourself. Not only are you likely to violate any applicable warranties or insurance, you could easily cause further damage.

Should your hearing aid fail or perform poorly, check the guide on the next page for possible solutions. If problems continue, contact your hearing professional for advice and assistance. Many common problems may be solved in your hearing professional's office or clinic.

Earmold Replacement

Even with the best care, the condition and fit of your earmold is likely to be affected by several factors:

- A rapid or significant change in body weight can affect the fit of your earmold
- Children's earmolds may need replacement more frequently because of rapid growth
- A change in hearing loss. A new earmold design may be more beneficial due to the natural changes that occur with most hearing losses over time
- The ear tissue's physical adaptation to the earmold may require a new fitting to reestablish an adequate seal
- Replacement may be necessary due to damage or deterioration over time

Consult your hearing professional for information regarding your earmold's condition and performance.

Troubleshooting Guide

SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE CAUSES	SOLUTIONS
Hearing Aid Sounds Weak	Wax obstruction in earmold or ear canal	Clean wax from mold, contact your hearing professional
Hearing Aid Intermittent	Earmold tubing bent, collapsed, moisture	Contact your hearing professional
Hearing Aid Dead	Collapsed or blocked tubing, moisture, wax	Contact your hearing professional
Feedback or Whistling Sound	Punctured tubing, wax in earmold, ear canal	Clean wax from mold, contact your hearing professional
Weak Sound, Feedback	Improper earmold insertion	Review instructions, contact your hearing professional
Feedback	Tubing too short, inadequate seal	Contact your hearing professional
Soreness or Irritation	Improper earmold insertion	Review insertion instructions, contact your hearing professional
	Physiological changes in ear	Contact your hearing professional

Your hearing professional will recommend an appropriate schedule to help you adapt to your new hearing aid. It will take practice, time and patience for your brain to adapt to the new sounds that your hearing aid provides. Hearing is only part of how we share thoughts, ideas and feelings. Reading lips, facial expressions and gestures can help the learning process and add to what amplification alone may miss.

Please review the following simple communication tips:

For You

- Move closer to and look at the speaker
- Sit face-to-face in a quiet room
- Try different locations to find the best place to listen
- Minimize distractions
- Background noises may be frustrating at first; remember, you have not heard them for a while
- Let others know what you need; keep in mind that people cannot “see” your hearing loss
- Develop realistic expectations of what your hearing aids can and cannot do
- Better hearing with hearing aids is a learned skill combining desire, practice and patience

For Your Family and Friends

Your family and friends are also affected by your hearing loss. Request that they:

- Get your full attention before beginning to speak
- Look at you or sit face-to-face in a quiet room
- Speak clearly and at a normal rate and level; shouting can actually make understanding more difficult
- Rephrase rather than repeat the same words; different words may be easier to understand
- Minimize distractions while speaking

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