

another form, neck loops, users get “hands free” cell phone use or superior sound at Popejoy Hall or the Hispanic Culture center. The sound they hear is “corrected” by their digital hearing aid to fit their particular hearing loss. When the hearing aids are in this mode, the microphones in the hearing aids are turned off so the only sounds being clearly heard by the wearer are those being transmitted from the audio loop. These neck loops also work with Ipods and other types of the new “tech toys.”

When plugged into a TV set in the home, the hearing aid wearer uses the loop and his or her telecoils to hear and, more importantly, to understand programming while being able to leave the volume setting on the TV low enough that others don't complain.

Loop systems are relatively inexpensive to purchase and install and require little or no maintenance. A local assistive devices retailer - Sally Schwartz at the ADA Depot (238-0210 or handlinks@yahoo.com) - carries various types of loop equipment in stock. The equipment is also available from such catalog retailers as Harris Communications (1-800-825-6758 or www.harriscomm.com) or Weitbrecht Communications (1-800-233-9130 or www.weitbrecht.com.) Wireless Hearing Solutions of Santa Rosa, CA (707-539-3897 or info@wirelesshearingsolutions.com) will provide information on their loop systems to the public but they must be purchased through participating hearing care providers.

HLAAbq has begun an initiative entitled “Loop New Mexico,” hoping to raise awareness of audio loop technology among churches, governmental bodies and other groups where this technology can be used. In Great Britain, almost all such facilities are looped and, in addition, train stations, airports and other places where it is important for people to hear announcements or proceeding, have audio loops and signage to alert the HoH to their presence.

Among the facilities that are looped or have assistive listening devices that are t-switch compatible or that are reported to be considering installing an audio loop are:

Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living - looped

Albuquerque Marriott - portable loop available

Albuquerque Hearing Associates Office - looped

Albuquerque Little Theater - Investigating

Albuquerque Speech, Language, Hearing -
Investigating

Auditorium at the V.A. Hospital Complex - looped

Christ United Methodist Church - looped

Christ Unity Church -neck loops available

Cumberland Presbyterian - Investigating

Deaf Culture Center - looped

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church - investigating

First Presbyterian Church - investigating

First Unitarian Church - looped

Hearing Evaluation Center Offices - Investigating

Hearing Loss Assn. Of Abq. - meetings looped at
Taylor Ranch Community Center and at East
Side locations by portable equipment

HL Enterprises - ADA Depot - showroom - looped

**Journal Theater at the National Hispanic Culture
Center** - t-switch compatible neck loops

La Vida Liena - Carter Hall - Meeting room looped

Lobo Theater - Investigating

Los Alamos National Labs - portable loop
system available

Metro Court - Room 900 -Judge Clyde
DeMersseman: courtroom looped

Montgomery Church of Christ - looped

NMCDHH - looped meeting room and portable
loop system for loan

Presbyterian Healthplex - Investigating

Popejoy Hall - neck loops available at
information desk

Prince of Peace Roman Catholic Church -
sanctuary and meeting rooms looped.

Relay New Mexico - conference room looped

Saint James Episcopal-Santa Fe - Investigating

St. John's United Methodist Church - Investigating

Seventh Day Adventist Church, Corrales - Invest-
gating

Taylor Ranch Community Center - Investigating



Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque

— Providing support and advocacy for people with hearing loss —

Phone (505) 881-8824 - ask for the HLA Specialist • www.HLAAbq.com

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