

Get In the Hearing Loop Wherever You Go

By Stephen O. Frazier

Below: All new taxi cabs in New York City are now required to be the Nissan "Taxi of Tomorrow." They are equipped at the factory with a hearing loop to help passengers with hearing loss communicate with the driver. The first samples are expected on the streets of Manhattan in October this year.



The installation of hearing loops in the United States has accelerated dramatically since the creation of the Hearing Loss Association of America/American Academy of Audiology "Get in the Hearing Loop" campaign. As a result, there is fast growing interest in and awareness of induction or hearing loops nationwide.

Churches, theaters, airports and other public venues are being looped at an exciting pace. Even New York City taxi cabs and subway information booths are now being looped, making all of these facilities more hearing-friendly to people with hearing loss by the simple act of touching the telecoil button on their hearing aid or cochlear implant.

There is currently no single clearinghouse for information on the looping movement but three different firms in the looping business have mounted Internet listings of known looped venues. They have gathered the information from various sources and invite visitors to their websites to submit additions, deletions or corrections to the information they have posted. *Hearing Loss Magazine* readers are encouraged to check the listing for their community at these websites and offer any updates they can to those who maintain the lists.

Although the keepers of each list are making a good faith effort to make them accurate and up to date, there is, of course, no guarantee that they are complete or that the loop at any location on the list is in working order. It's a good bet that there are other loops in operation at other facilities that are not on the list for any community selected.

List of Facilities with Hearing Loops

If you're planning to travel and want to locate a looped church, theater or other venue in your destination city, here are the three different national listings of such facilities:

www.aldlocator.com


www.hearinglosshelp.com/loopedbuildingsbystate.htm

www.loopamerica.com/loops.aspx

The aldlocator list is the newest of the three. Mounted by Listen Technologies, a supplier of equipment to audio/visual system installers, it is planned to include not just looped facilities but those with infrared and FM listening systems. The other sites are owned and maintained by firms that specialize in the sale of induction loop equipment. All three have created and maintained the lists as a public service to those with hearing loss.

For More Information

www.hearingloss.org

Click on Hearing Help, then Technology, then Loop Technology. 

Steve Frazier is the New Mexico chapter coordinator for the Hearing Loss Association of America, Chair of the Loop New Mexico Committee, and has completed the Hearing Loss Support Specialist Training. He was a member of the joint HLAA/American Academy of Audiology Get in the Hearing Loop task force and now serves on the HLAA Hearing Loop Steering Committee. He serves on the hearing aid dispenser licensing board in New Mexico, and until recently, wrote and produced a statewide newsletter for New Mexico HLAA Chapters, and is webmaster for HLAA New Mexico websites. He can be reached at hlaanm@juno.com.



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