

## Table of hearing aid features and benefits

### LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY

Entry Level	Mid Level	Advanced	Premium	Feature	Benefit
✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Digital Technology</b>	Improved sound clarity as they analyse wide range of frequencies, providing enhancement to the frequencies that are synonymous with speech. More advanced solutions break sound up into more bands (channels) to better match the wearer's unique pattern of hearing loss and provide a richer sound quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry level: – 4 – 6 channel digital</li> <li>• Mid level: 6 – 9 channels</li> <li>• Advanced: 9 – 16 channels</li> <li>• Premium: 24 channels</li> </ul>
✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Speech weighted expansion</b>	Quiets soft background noise and circuit noise by providing less amplification to low-level sounds creating a less annoying listening experience in quiet environments.
✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Directional Microphones</b>	This technology emphasises sounds that are coming from the front whilst de-emphasising noise from the sides and behind the wearer. This allows people to focus their attention on people who are they are facing and conversing with directly. Great in noisy environments.
		✓	✓	<b>Directional Focus</b>	More advanced solutions are able to further narrow the field of focus on sounds coming from the front – down to as little as 30° – 50°. This provides a great deal of assistance to the wearer in noisy environments such as busy restaurants, parties and large gatherings.
✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Multiple listening programs</b>	Allows the hearing aid to be set up for the wearer's lifestyle and individual needs. Programs could be set for quiet rooms, noisy environments, telephone, meetings and more – whatever the client requires.
✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Noise reduction</b>	Recognises the difference between oscillating sound (i.e. speech) and steady-state sounds (e.g. machinery, traffic, crowds, and air-conditioners). The hearing aid reduces amplification of steady-state noise, providing improvement in speech understanding in noise and listening comfort in all environments.
	✓	✓	✓	<b>Adaptive Feedback cancellation</b>	Automatically detects and cancels any whistling that many wearers experience with cheaper models. Works by creating a mirror image of the feedback, subsequently cancelling the feedback and making it inaudible. (NB: Entry-level hearing aids have simpler and less effective approach to feedback.
✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Open-fit (thin tube) configuration</b>	When the wearer has a high-frequency (sloping) hearing loss, we can now prescribe a solution that leaves the ear canal unobstructed – providing a far more natural listening experience, without the 'talking in a barrel' sensation that occurs when the ear canal is blocked. An additional benefit is that these hearing aids are almost invisible due to the use of a clear, thin plastic tube.
		✓	✓	<b>Automatic program settings</b>	Rather than require the wearer to think about a situation and then select the best 'pre-set' program on their hearing aids to match that situation, advanced and premium hearing aids can remove the guesswork. They listen to the environment and adapt to provide the best listening experience – without the need to think about or change settings on the hearing aid
			✓	<b>Voice alerts</b>	Premium solutions will "talk" to the user to provide important information about program selection, low battery and other settings. On more basic solutions, these things are represented by beeps, which some people find harder to interpret.

✓ Available in some models

✓ Available as standard