



Unison™
Digital
BTE Guide

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Your Unison™ Digital Hearing Aids

Hearing Healthcare Professional: _____

Telephone: _____

Model: _____

Serial Number: _____

Replacement Batteries: Size 10 Size 13 Size 675

Warranty: _____

Use Program 1 for: _____

Use Program 2 for: _____

Use Program 3 for: _____

Date of Purchase: _____

Practical Solutions to Everyday Problems

Congratulations on choosing your new BTE (Behind-the-Ear) digital hearing instruments. For 40 years, Unitron Hearing has been committed to making life better for people with hearing loss. This means a commitment to developing high-quality hearing solutions that incorporate special features to solve the everyday problems and concerns you have with hearing loss and hearing aids.

The best choice of hearing instrument is different for everyone: it comes down to your individual hearing loss, lifestyle, preferences and budget. The Unison™ series meets your unique needs with three high-quality digital hearing instrument models. Your hearing healthcare professional helped you choose the right Unison model and style for your needs.

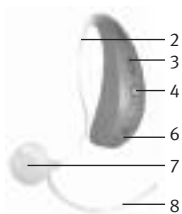
Getting the Most Out of Your Unison™ Hearing Instruments

Adjusting to your new hearing instruments will take some time. In the beginning it is important that you do not use the hearing aids for longer than is comfortable. Depending on your previous experience with hearing instruments, a few hours a day may be enough and then you can increase wearing time gradually. Once you have become accustomed to your hearing aids, you should wear them all day every day since infrequent use will not permit you to adapt to your hearing aids and enjoy their full benefits. The quicker you get used to the everyday sounds around you, the less you will notice that you are wearing hearing instruments.

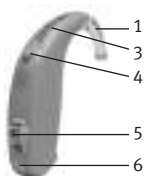
Using the Unison™ Digital BTE Guide

Refer to the table of contents for a complete listing of the topics covered in this guide.

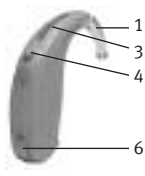
There are several different styles of BTEs available. The diagrams below identify some of the components on your hearing aids. Have your hearing healthcare professional place a check beside the diagram that best describes your BTE style.



BTE with
Slim Tube



BTE with
Volume Control



BTE without
Volume Control

Legend

- 1 Earhook
- 2 Slim Tube
- 3 Microphone and
Microphone Shield
- 4 Program Button
- 5 Volume Control
- 6 Battery Door/On &
Off Switch
- 7 Dome
- 8 Retention Piece

Turning Your Unison™ Hearing Aids On and Off

Your hearing aids have a three-position battery door that acts as an off/on switch and that allows access to the battery compartment.

To turn the hearing aid on, close the battery door fully. *Note: If the start up mute is activated, your hearing aids will not turn on until the program button is pushed.*

To turn the hearing aid off, partially open the battery door. This position allows excess moisture to vent away from the battery compartment. *Note: If you have a high power BTE with a 675 battery, you also have an on/off switch in the volume control.*

To replace the hearing aid battery, fully open the battery door for access to the battery compartment.



on



off



open



Note: When turning your hearing aid on and off, grasp the top and bottom of the aid with your index finger and thumb. Use your thumb to open and close the battery door.

Putting Your Unison™ Hearing Instruments on Your Ears

BTEs with Slim Tubes

1. Place the hearing instrument over the top of your ear.
2. Hold the slim tube where it attaches to the dome and gently push the dome into your ear canal. The slim tube should lie flush against your head and not stick out.
3. Place the retention piece in your ear so it rests at the bottom of the opening of your ear canal.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 for your other ear if you wear two hearing aids.

BTEs with Earhooks

1. Place the hearing instrument over the top of your ear.
2. Carefully insert the earmold in your ear. The earmold should fit into your ear snugly and comfortably.
3. Repeat steps 1-2 for your other ear if you wear two hearing aids.

Feedback-Free Listening

Your hearing aids may have an optional start up mute that can be activated by your hearing healthcare professional. If the start up mute is activated, your hearing aids will not turn on until the program button is pushed, even if the battery door is in the ON position. The hearing aids return to the start up mute position each time you turn your hearing aids on. This allows you to insert your hearing aids without experiencing whistling.

If you wear hearing aids now, you may have experienced whistling from your hearing aids when you talk, chew, use the telephone or hug someone. Unison's feedback technology dramatically reduces this uncomfortable whistling before you or anyone else can perceive it.

Operating Instructions

Changing Programs on Your Unison™ Digital Hearing Aids

Your Unison digital hearing aids may have up to three programs. Each program has been individually tailored by your hearing healthcare professional to meet your particular listening needs.

Your hearing aids are equipped with a push-button for switching between programs. Each time you push the program button, you will move to a new program. Your hearing aids beep to indicate which program you are in (i.e. one beep for program 1, two beeps for program 2, etc.) If you prefer, your hearing healthcare professional can adjust the pitch and loudness of the program beep or turn it off entirely.

Adjusting the Volume

The volume on your hearing aids may adjust automatically in response to the loud or quiet sounds around you. If you have a manual volume control, you can further adjust the volume on your hearing aids. The manual volume control dial is numbered one to four. One indicates that the volume is at the minimum level and four indicates that the volume is at the maximum level. Rotate the volume control upward to increase the volume or downward to decrease the volume. Note that

your volume control may be disabled by your hearing healthcare professional and, therefore, could be inactive.

Setting Your Ideal Volume

Unison digital hearing instruments equipped with manual volume control have an ideal volume indicator. A single beep indicates when the volume control has reached its ideal level for your particular hearing loss, as pre-set by your hearing healthcare professional.

Listening in Quiet and Noisy Environments

Your Unison digital hearing aids have a directional microphone system which focuses on sounds in front of you (e.g., speech) while reducing sounds from the sides or behind you (e.g., noise). Your directional system is activated by the push of the program button. Your hearing healthcare professional will tell you which program(s) contain the directional microphones.

Replacing the Microphone Protectors

Your Unison digital hearing aids have a shield to protect the microphones from dirt and debris. Debris on the microphone protector reduces the sound quality of the instrument. You should have the microphone protectors replaced by your hearing healthcare professional approximately every three months to ensure optimal sound quality.

Using Unison™ with Telecoil for the Telephone

Unison hearing aids come equipped with an optional telecoil that can help you listen on the telephone. The telecoil program is selected with the program button. When using the telecoil, center the telephone receiver on the hearing aid and move the receiver along the hearing aid to locate the clearest, strongest signal. You may have to increase the volume of your hearing aid slightly. To return to normal listening, push the program button. Your hearing aid will beep to indicate which program you are in.

Assistive Listening Devices

Listening in Public Places

Unison's telecoil can also help you listen in public places equipped with telecoil compatible assistive listening devices such as a loop system. If your hearing aids do not operate when the telecoil is on, the loop system may not be operating or you may be in a "dead" spot. Try positioning yourself in a different part of the looped area or return your hearing aids to the microphone position and sit as close to the speaker as possible.

Connecting to External Audio Sources

Your Unison hearing aids may feature optional direct audio input (DAI) to connect to other audio sources such as a stereo or television. You will need to purchase

the direct audio input system and a connector cord from your hearing healthcare professional before you can connect to external audio sources.

DAI can also be used to fit your hearing aids with an assistive listening device, such as a FM system, which you may purchase to improve listening in difficult situations.

Note: If your hearing instruments are the small BTE Moda (see “Using the Unison Digital BTE Guide”), your digital hearing aids are not compatible with direct audio input, MicroLink MLx or an FM system.



Listening Over Distance

Your Unison hearing aids may be compatible with Phonak’s MicroLink™ Receiver Module, a wireless FM system that improves listening over distance. The MLx FM receiver module connects to the direct audio input system and is powered by the hearing aid battery.

See also “Direct Audio Input”

Using FM and Infrared Systems

Some FM systems consist of a teleloop worn around the neck, which is connected to the FM receiver worn on a belt or in a shirt pocket. To listen through the FM system, select the telecoil program and turn on the FM receiver. To keep the signal clear, you may need to adjust the volume control on your hearing aids, as well

as on the FM receiver.

With some infrared systems you may need to remove your hearing aids and wear the system's headset receiver. If the volume on the infrared receiver is not loud enough, use your hearing aids instead.

Replacing the Battery

1. Gently swing out the battery compartment door with your fingernail.
2. Grasp the battery with your thumb and index finger and remove.
3. Insert the new battery into the battery compartment with the plus (+) sign on the battery facing the same way as the plus (+) sign on the edge of the battery door. This will ensure that the battery door closes properly.

Note: If the battery is inserted incorrectly, the door will not close.

4. Close the battery compartment door.

Low Battery Warning

When you hear one long beep, your digital hearing aids are warning you that their batteries are low. You will hear the warning approximately every 30 minutes until you change the batteries or the batteries die. After the first warning, you may experience some reduction in

sound quality. This is normal and can be remedied by inserting fresh batteries in the hearing aids. If you prefer, your hearing healthcare professional can change the pitch and loudness of the low battery beep or turn it off entirely.

Caring for Batteries

- Always discard batteries carefully.
- To prolong battery life, remember to turn your hearing aids off when not in use.
- Remove the batteries and keep the battery door open while hearing aids are not in use. This will allow internal moisture to evaporate.

Battery Warnings

- Never leave hearing aids or batteries where small children and pets can reach them.
- Never put hearing aids or batteries in your mouth. If a hearing aid or battery is swallowed, call a physician immediately.

Caring for Your Hearing Aids

- Always remove your hearing aids when using hair care products. The hearing aids can become clogged and cease to function properly.
- Protect your hearing aids from excessive heat (hair dryer, vehicle glove box or dashboard) and moisture (bath or shower). Do not immerse the hearing aids in water.
- If your hearing aids do become wet, do not attempt to dry them in an oven or microwave. Do not adjust any controls. Open the battery doors immediately, and allow your hearing aids to dry naturally for 24 hours.
- Regular use of a dehumidifier, such as a Dri-Aid kit, can help prevent corrosion. See your hearing healthcare professional for more information.
- Do not drop your hearing aids or knock them against hard surfaces.

Cleaning Your Unison™ Hearing Aids

Ear wax is natural and common. Ensuring your hearing aids and earmolds are free of ear wax is an important step in your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

- Never use alcohol to clean your hearing aids or earmolds.
- Do not use sharp tools to dislodge ear wax. Sticking household items into your hearing aids or earmolds can seriously damage them.

Cleaning the Earmolds

If your Unison hearing aids have earhooks (see “Using the Unison Digital BTE Guide”), your hearing healthcare professional fit you with customized earmolds.

Earmolds send amplified sound from the hearing aids into the ears. They must fit into your ears snugly and comfortably. If amplified sound leaks out of your ear, you may hear whistling.

Always ensure earmolds are clean and free of ear wax and moisture. Do not use alcohol to clean your earmolds. If the earmolds become plugged, clear the opening with a wax loop or pipe cleaner. If your physician prescribes eardrops, clean any moisture that may get into the earmolds or tubing to prevent plugging.

If the earmolds require further cleaning, disconnect the

plastic tube from the hook of the hearing aids. Wash only the earmolds in warm water with a mild soap. Rinse them with cool water and allow them to dry overnight. Make sure the earmold tubes are dry before reconnecting them to each hook on your hearing aids.

Cleaning the Slim Tubes and Domes

If your hearing instruments have slim tubes (see “Using the Unison Digital BTE Guide”), you need to ensure that the tubes and domes are free of ear wax and moisture. You should have the slim tubes and domes replaced by your hearing healthcare professional approximately every three months or when they become stiff or brittle. Clean the domes daily with a damp cloth. You should also clean the slim tubes periodically, with the cleaning pin provided, when you begin to notice debris in and around the tubes.

To clean the slim tubes and domes:

1. Hold the slim tube in one hand and the hearing instrument in the other hand.
2. Gently turn the hearing instrument until it detaches from the slim tube.
3. Use a damp cloth to clean the outside of the slim tube and the dome.
4. Using the black cleaning pin provided in the kit, gently insert the cleaning pin where the slim tube

attaches to the hearing instrument and push the pin all the way through the tube and out through the dome.

Note: The slim tubes and domes should never be rinsed or submerged in water as water drops may become lodged in the tube, block sound or damage the electrical components of the hearing instrument.

5. Once the slim tube has been cleaned, reattach the slim tube to the hearing instrument using the tool provided.

Warnings

- Hearing aids should only be used as directed by your physician or hearing healthcare professional.
- Hearing aids will not restore normal hearing and will not prevent or improve a hearing impairment resulting from organic conditions.
- Do not use your hearing aids in explosion hazard areas.
- Allergic reactions to hearing aids are unlikely. However, if you experience itching, redness, soreness, inflammation or a burning sensation in or around your ears, inform your hearing healthcare professional and contact your physician.
- Remove your hearing aids for CT and MRI scans or for other electromagnetic procedures.
- Only plug the DAI cables into devices that produce safe voltages of less than 3 volts.
- Special care should be exercised in wearing hearing aids when maximum sound pressure levels exceed 132 decibels. There may be a risk of impairing your remaining hearing. Speak with your hearing healthcare professional to ensure the maximum output of your hearing aids is suitable for your particular hearing loss.

Precautions

- The use of hearing aids is only part of hearing rehabilitation; auditory training and lip reading instruction may be required as well.
- In most cases, infrequent use of hearing aids does not provide full benefit. Once you have become accustomed to your hearing aids, wear your hearing aids everyday all day.
- Your hearing aids use the most modern components to provide the best possible sound quality in every listening situation. However, communication devices such as digital cell phones can create interference (a buzzing sound) in hearing aids. If you experience interference from a cell phone being used close by, you can minimize this interference in a number of ways. Switch your hearing aids to another program, turn your head in a different direction or locate the cell phone and move away from it.

Labeling

The serial number and year of manufacture are located inside the battery door.

Troubleshooting Guide

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	POSSIBLE REMEDY
No sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not turned on• Low/dead battery• Poor battery contact• Battery upside down• Earmolds/slim tubes blocked with ear wax• Plugged microphone protector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turn on• Replace battery• Consult your hearing healthcare professional• Insert battery plus (+) side up• Clean earmolds. See “Cleaning the Earmolds”. Consult your hearing healthcare professional. Use cleaning pin to dislodge ear wax in slim tubes. See “Cleaning the slim Tubes and Domes”. Consult your hearing healthcare professional.• Consult your hearing healthcare professional
Not loud enough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low volume• Low battery• Earmolds/slim tube not inserted properly• Change in hearing• Earmolds blocked with ear wax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See hearing healthcare professional• Replace battery• See “Cleaning the Earmolds” or “Putting Your Unison Hearing Instruments on Your Ears”. Reinsert carefully.• Consult your hearing healthcare professional• Clean earmolds. See “Cleaning the Earmolds”. Consult your hearing healthcare professional. Use cleaning pin to dislodge ear wax in slim tubes. See “Cleaning the Slim Tubes and Domes”. Consult your hearing healthcare professional.

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	POSSIBLE REMEDY
Not loud enough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plugged microphone protector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult your hearing healthcare professional
Intermittent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low battery • Dirty battery contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace battery • Consult your hearing healthcare professional
One long beep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low battery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace battery
Whistling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earmolds/slim tubes not inserted properly • Hand/clothing near ear • Poorly fitting earmolds/slim tubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove and reinsert • Remove hand/clothing from ear • Consult your hearing healthcare professional
Not clear, distorted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly fitting earmolds/slim tubes • Earmolds/slim tubes blocked with ear wax • Low battery • Plugged microphone protector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult your hearing healthcare professional • Clean earmolds. See “Cleaning the Earmolds”. Consult your hearing healthcare professional. Use cleaning pin to dislodge ear wax in slim tubes. See “Cleaning the Slim Tubes and Domes”. Consult your hearing healthcare professional. • Replace battery • Consult your hearing healthcare professional
Earmolds/slim tubes falling out of ear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly fitting earmolds/slim tubes • Earmolds/slim tubes not inserted properly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult your hearing healthcare professional • See “Cleaning the Earmolds” or “Putting Your Unison Hearing Instruments on Your Ears”. Reinsert carefully.

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	POSSIBLE REMEDY
"Motorboating"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low battery • Dirty battery contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace battery • Consult your hearing healthcare professional
Weak on the telephone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone not positioned properly • Hearing aid requires adjustment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move telephone receiver around ear for clearer signal. See "Using Unison with Telecoil for the Telephone". • Consult your hearing healthcare professional

For any problems not listed in the guide, contact your hearing healthcare professional. If you do not have a hearing healthcare professional, please contact the nearest office listed on the back page of this booklet.

Warning to Hearing Aid Dispensers

A hearing aid dispenser should advise a prospective hearing aid user to consult promptly with a licensed physician (preferably an ear specialist) before dispensing a hearing aid if the hearing aid dispenser determines through inquiry, actual observation, or review of any other available information concerning the prospective user, that the prospective user has any of the following conditions: (i) Visible congenital or traumatic deformity of the ear. (ii) History of active drainage from the ear within the previous 90 days. (iii) History of sudden or rapidly progressive hearing loss within the previous 90 days. (iv) Acute or chronic dizziness. (v) Unilateral hearing loss of sudden or recent onset within the previous 90 days. (vi) Audiometric air-bone gap equal to or greater than 15 decibels at 500 hertz (Hz), 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz. (vii) Visible evidence of significant cerumen accumulation or a foreign body in the ear canal. (viii) Pain or discomfort in the ear. Special care should be exercised in selecting and fitting a hearing aid whose maximum sound pressure level exceeds 132 decibels because there may be risk of impairing the remaining hearing of the hearing aid user. (This provision is required only for those hearing aids with a maximum sound pressure capability greater than 132 decibels (dB).)

Important Notice for Prospective Hearing Aid Users

Good health practice requires that a person with a hearing loss have a medical evaluation by a licensed physician (preferably a physician who specializes in diseases of the ear) before purchasing a hearing aid.

Licensed physicians who specialize in diseases of the ear are often referred to as otolaryngologists, otologists or otorhinolaryngologists. The purpose of medical evaluation is to assure that all medically treatable conditions that may affect hearing are identified and treated before the hearing aid is purchased. Following the medical evaluation, the physician will give you a written statement that states that your hearing loss has been medically evaluated and that you may be considered a candidate for a hearing aid. The physician will refer you to an audiologist or a hearing aid dispenser, as appropriate, for a hearing aid evaluation. The audiologist or hearing aid dispenser will conduct a hearing aid evaluation to assess your ability to hear with and without a hearing aid. The hearing aid evaluation will enable the audiologist or dispenser to select and fit a hearing aid to your individual needs. If you have reservations about your ability to adapt to amplification, you should inquire about the availability of a trial-rental or purchase-option program. Many hearing aid dispensers now offer programs that permit you to wear

a hearing aid for a period of time for a nominal fee after which you may decide if you want to purchase the hearing aid. Federal law restricts the sale of hearing aids to those individuals who have obtained a medical evaluation from a licensed physician. Federal law permits a fully informed adult to sign a waiver statement declining the medical evaluation for religious or personal beliefs that preclude consultation with a physician. The exercise of such a waiver is not in your best health interest and its use is strongly discouraged.

Children With Hearing Loss

In addition to seeing a physician for a medical evaluation, a child with a hearing loss should be directed to an audiologist for evaluation and rehabilitation since hearing loss may cause problems in language development and the educational and social growth of a child. An audiologist is qualified by training and experience to assist in the evaluation and rehabilitation of a child with a hearing loss.

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unitronTM
hearing A stylized graphic of a human ear, composed of a spiral shape that tapers to a point, representing the ear canal and eardrum.



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