

Your Way to Better Hearing

Model: DigiFocus Compact
DigiLife Compact

User Instructional Brochure



oticon



The Human Link

Hearing instruments as individual as your hearing loss

You are in possession of some of the world's most advanced hearing technology by through your new fully automatic, digital hearing instruments developed and manufactured by Oticon. These instruments have been carefully adjusted by your hearing care professional using a computer. This is designed to tailor the instruments' performance as close as possible to your needs and hearing loss.

These sophisticated instruments should provide some improvements to your hearing ability almost immediately but for you to benefit fully from them will depend on you adapting to the new sound and learning to interpret it. This can take a little time.

If you follow the instructions in this booklet on using your Oticon hearing instruments, you will gain the maximum possible help from them in achieving better hearing. The information about care and maintenance of your hearing instruments will help prolong their life and usefulness.

We wish you well with your new instruments. We are confident that they will bring you success and improve the quality of your life.

Note: Before fitting this hearing aid the following parameters must be programmed by your hearing health care specialist to compensate for your individual hearing impairment:

SSPL 90

Full on gain

Frequency response

Compression ratio

Compression threshold

Induction coil frequency response

The programming is accomplished via computer software (OtiSet) using the NOAH standard platform. Additionally, DigiSound can be programmed from Oticon's dedicated programming box, "Easy fit".

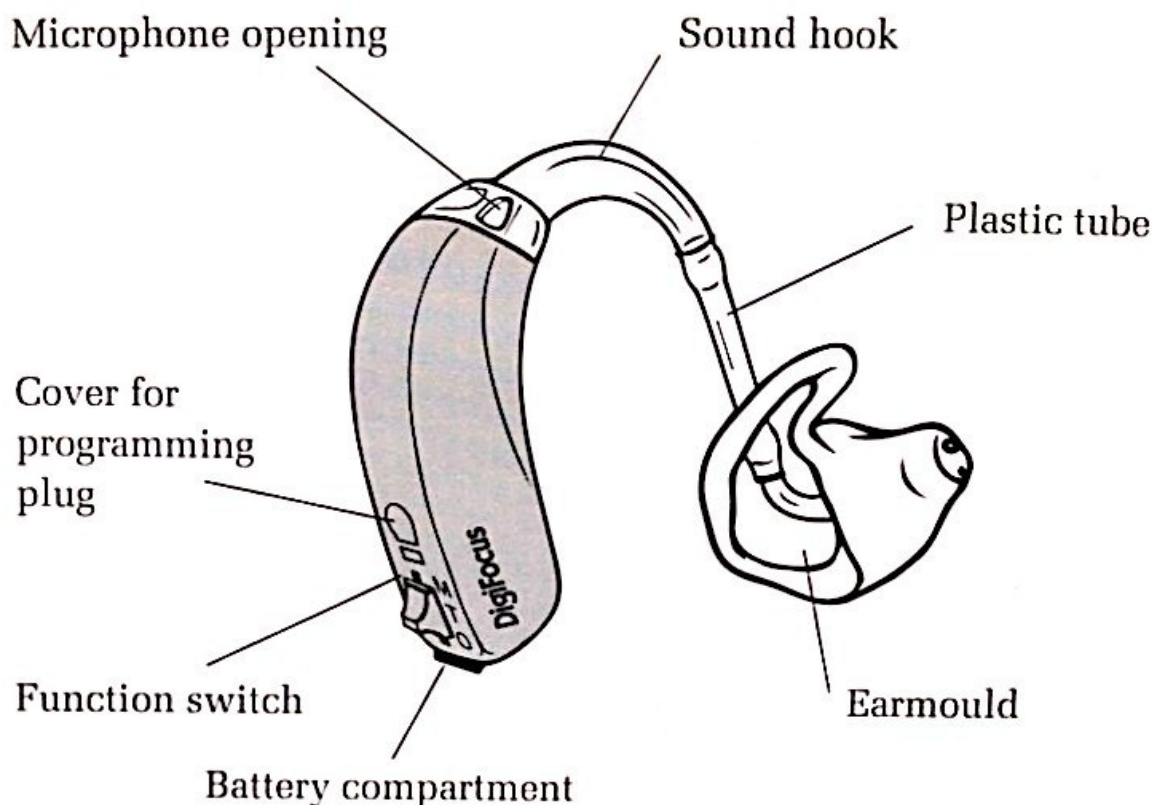
The use and care of your digital hearing instruments

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Important Notice

Please familiarize yourself with the entire contents of this booklet before using your hearing instruments. It contains various statements, safety instructions and important information about the use and handling of your hearing instruments and batteries.

Operating your hearing instruments

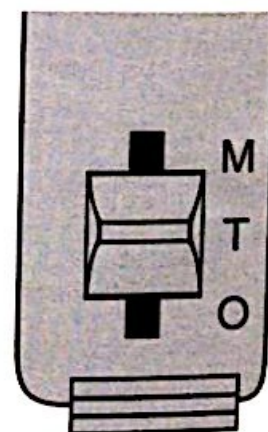


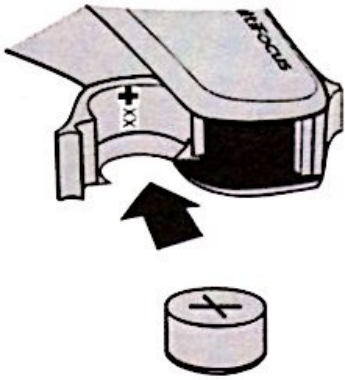
Function switch

M: Hearing instrument switched **on** and microphone connected. **Normal use.**

T: Hearing instrument switched **on** and telecoil connected. Where a telemagnetic loop system has been installed or when you talk on the phone (in many countries), you may then be able to use your hearing instruments with minimum disturbance from background noise.

O: Hearing instrument switched **off.**





XX: Year of manufacture. Shown in the battery drawer are the last two digits of the year of manufacture.

Battery Replacement

Worn down batteries will result in reduced performance in your hearing instruments and must be replaced immediately.

- Open the battery compartment by pushing back the raised edge and remove the old battery.
- Insert the new battery (size 13) so that its + sign faces the + sign printed on the inside of the battery compartment cover. Remember to remove the sticky label from the + side of the battery before you insert it.

When you change batteries, it may take a few minutes before the new battery works to its full effect. Please remember to remove the battery and *leave the battery compartment open* when you are not using your hearing instruments. Any moisture on the battery should be wiped off.

Checking your battery

Cup your hand around the hearing instrument. A whistling sound indicates that the battery is working properly. You can also use a battery tester.

NOTE: Low battery indicator

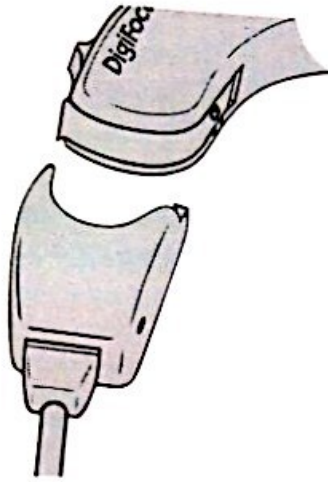
When battery power is low, the instrument will automatically turn itself off and on. This is your indication that it is time to change the battery. It is not an indication of malfunction.

Disposal:

- Check with your hearing care professional about arrangements for battery disposal. There may be a system for disposing of them.
- Never try to charge non rechargeable batteries.
- Never put batteries with household waste, they cause environmental pollution.
- Never dispose of batteries by burning them. There is a risk that they will explode and cause serious injury.

Cover for programming plug

Dust and dirt may damage the plug. Please do not attempt to open it.

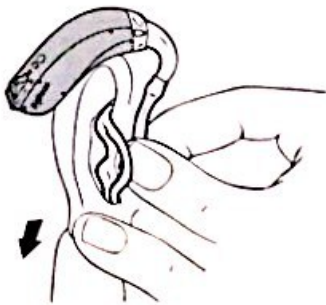
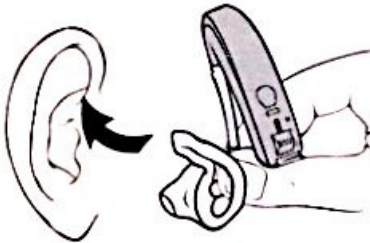


Direct Audio Input socket (optional)

Your hearing instruments may have a Direct Audio Input socket (shoe). This facility allows signals from external sound sources to be received directly by your hearing instruments. These sources include radio, cassette player, TV, auditory training equipment and assistive listening devices.

You will hear the external signal when the function switch is set to the "M" position.

NOTE: When the DAI is connected to mains operated equipment, this equipment must apply to IEC-65, IEC-601 or equivalent safety standards.



Putting on your hearing instruments

- Switch off the hearing instrument.
- Hold the plastic tube as shown.
- Place the tip of the earmould in your ear canal, twisting slightly, making sure that the top part of the earmould (A) is pushed behind and under the fold (B) of your ear.
- Gently pull down your ear lobe and press the earmould in the direction of the ear canal.
- With the earmould positioned correctly in your ear, place the hearing instrument behind your ear by lifting its lower part and sliding it over the top of your ear.
- Switch on the hearing instrument.

Taking care of your hearing instruments

Daily care

When handling your hearing instruments, hold them over a soft surface to avoid damage if you drop them.

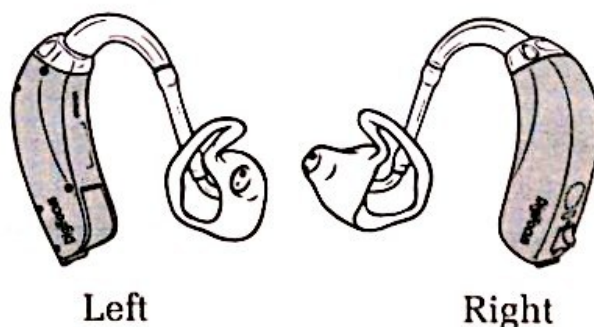
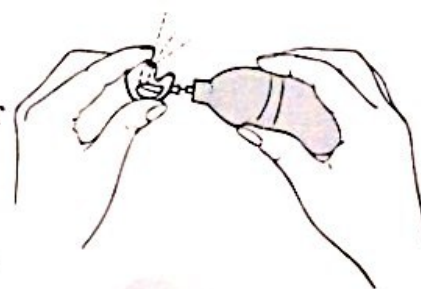
Before retiring for the night:

- Wipe the hearing instruments and the earmoulds clean with a dry soft cloth.
- Make sure that there is no ear wax in any of the earmould openings which might reduce the hearing instruments' efficiency.
- Open the battery compartments to allow air to circulate when you are not using the hearing instruments, especially at night.

Cleaning your earmoulds

The earmoulds should be washed occasionally:

- Disconnect the earmould and tubing from the hearing instruments.
- Wash the earmould in lukewarm water using a mild soap. Please do not use strong detergents. *The hearing instruments themselves must never be washed!*
- Rinse with water.
- Dry the earmould with a cloth.
- Any water drops inside the earmould or tubing should be blown out. A special blower for this purpose is available from your hearing care professional.
- Make sure the earmould and tubing are completely dry before they are reconnected to the hearing instruments as shown in the drawing.



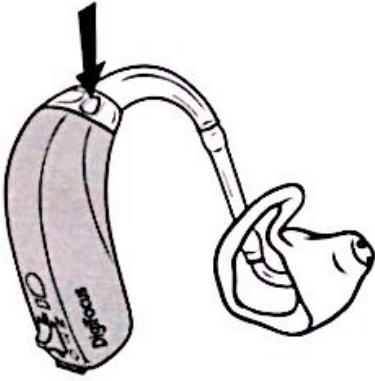
Replacing the tubes

The tubing between the earmould and the hearing instrument should be replaced when it is yellow or stiff. Consult your hearing care professional in relation to this.



Microphone openings

If the microphone openings become filled with dirt, the performance of your hearing instruments will deteriorate dramatically and they will need to be cleaned by your hearing care professional. Never attempt to clean the microphone openings with water or detergents!



Warning

Hearing instruments and batteries can be dangerous if swallowed or improperly used. Such actions can result in severe injury, permanent hearing loss or even be fatal.

You should fully familiarize yourself with the following general warnings and the full contents of this booklet before using your hearing instrument.

- Hearing instruments should be used only as directed and adjusted by your trained Hearing Specialist. Misuse can result in sudden and permanent hearing loss.
- Hearing instruments, their parts and batteries are not toys and should be kept out of reach of anyone who might swallow these items or otherwise cause themselves injury.
- Never change the battery of the hearing instrument in front of infants, small children and persons of mental incapacity.
- Discard batteries carefully in a place where they cannot be reached by infants, small children or persons of mental incapacity.
- Always check medication before swallowing, as batteries have been mistaken for pills.
- Never put your hearing instruments or batteries in your mouth for any reason, as they are slippery and could be swallowed.
- Never allow others to wear your hearing instruments, as they could be misused and permanently damage another's hearing.
- Hearing instruments may stop functioning, for instance if the batteries go dead. You should be aware of this possibility, in particular when you are in traffic or otherwise depend on warning sounds.

- Always use batteries recommended by your trained hearing care professional. Batteries of low quality may leak and cause bodily injury.

If a battery or hearing instrument is swallowed, see a doctor immediately and call the **National Button Battery Hotline, collect (202) 625-3333.**

Warning to hearing instrument dispensers

A hearing instrument dispenser should advise a prospective hearing instrument user to consult promptly with a licensed physician (preferably an ear specialist) before dispensing a hearing instrument if the hearing instrument 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.

Important notice for prospective hearing instrument 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 instrument. 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 ensure that all medically treatable conditions that may affect hearing are identified and treated before the hearing instrument 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 instrument.

The physician will refer you to an audiologist or a hearing instrument dispenser, as appropriate, for a hearing instrument evaluation.

The audiologist or hearing instrument dispenser will conduct a hearing instrument evaluation to assess your ability to hear with and without a hearing instrument. The hearing instrument evaluation will enable the audiologist or dispenser to select and fit a hearing instrument 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 instrument dispensers now offer programs that permit you to wear a hearing instrument for a period of time for a nominal fee, after which you may decide if you want to purchase the hearing instrument.

Federal law limits the sale of hearing instruments 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.

Possible side effects:

A hearing instrument may cause an accelerated accumulation of cerumen (ear wax).

The otherwise non-allergenic materials may in rare cases cause a skin irritation. Consult with a doctor or a physician if any of these side effects occur.

Children with hearing loss

In addition to seeing a physician for 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 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.

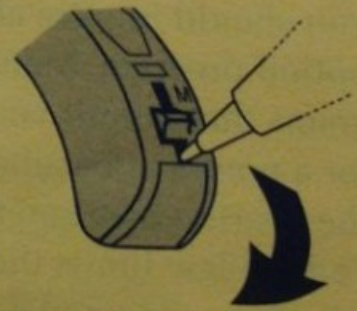
If the user is an infant, small child or person of mental incapacity, it is recommended that the hearing instrument be modified with a tamper-resistant battery compartment.

Optional tamper-resistant battery compartment

This is strongly recommended if the hearing instruments are for a small child or a person with a mental disablement.

Instructions: To open the battery compartments, simply insert the end of a ballpoint pen or the like into the small recess and apply pressure in the direction of the arrow.

Important: Do not force the battery drawer beyond its fully open position. Insert the battery correctly. Excessive strain can deform the battery drawer, which will reduce its tamper resistant effectiveness.



Avoid heat, humidity and chemicals.

Your hearing instruments must never be placed close to extreme heat including being left inside a parked car in the sun. They must never be exposed to excessive moisture e.g. steam baths, showers or heavy rain. If your hearing instruments have been exposed to moisture or very humid conditions you are recommended to place them, after removing the batteries, in a dry-storage kit to extract any moisture which may be inside them. Wipe the battery carefully if moisture is present.

The chemicals in cosmetics, like hairspray, perfume and aftershave lotion as well as in mosquito repellent, can have detrimental effects on hearing instruments. You should always remove your hearing instruments before applying such products and allow time for the products to dry before reinserting your instruments.

Never apply suntan lotion to areas of the skin against which the hearing instruments will rest.

Using your hearing instruments

When you have new glasses, you see better immediately. Hearing instruments also have an immediate effect but the benefit will often become much greater over the following months.

How long this adjustment takes differs from person to person. It will depend on a number of factors such as whether you have had hearing instruments before and the degree of your hearing loss.

The Oticon Diary is designed to help you through the rehabilitative process. It describes situations for learning to adapt to your hearing instruments. However, we have added some of those situations to this booklet as a guide.

Five easy steps to better hearing

1. In the quiet of your home

Try to accustom yourself to all the new sounds you can hear with your hearing instruments, including background sounds. Try to identify each sound bearing in mind that some will sound different to what you are used to.

Take a rest if using the instruments makes you tired. You will gradually be able to increase the amount of use until you are using the instruments all day long.

2. Conversation with another person

Enjoy the difference! Sit with someone else in a quiet room. Face each other so that you can read facial expressions easily.

3. Listen to radio or TV

Ask a normally hearing person to adjust the sound from the radio or T.V. to a listening level comfortable to them. Listen to news commentators first because they usually speak clearly, then try other programs. If you find it difficult to listen to T.V. or radio, your hearing care professional should be able to give you advice about assistive listening devices.

4. In group conversations

Group situations are usually accompanied by a greater degree of background noise. In such situations, therefore, focus your attention on the person you want to hear. If you miss a word, ask the speaker to repeat. We all miss words once in a while.

5. Telecoil use in church, theatre, or cinema (optional feature)

An increasing number of churches, theatres and public buildings have assistive listening devices installed, usually induction loops. These systems send out wireless sound to be intercepted by the telecoil in your hearing instruments. Ask your hearing care professional for details.

Use your hearing instruments all day long

You can probably cope in some situations without using your hearing instruments. However, only by practising in these very situations will you be able to wear the instruments all day for every situation. In most cases, infrequent use of hearing instruments will not enable their user to attain the full benefit.

Your hearing instruments will not restore normal hearing. Nor will they prevent or improve a hearing impairment resulting from an organic condition. What they will give you however, is help towards making better use of the hearing ability that you do have.

The use of a hearing aid is only part of hearing rehabilitation and may need to be supplemented by auditory training and instruction in lipreading.

Common maintenance issues and their solutions

<i>Effect</i>	<i>Cause</i>	<i>Solution</i>
<i>Whistling or squealing noise</i>	Ear wax accumulated in ear canals	Have ear canals examined by your doctor
	Earmoulds inserted improperly	Reinsert earmoulds
	Split or damaged tubing	Replace the tubing
<i>No sound</i>	Clogged earmoulds	Clean earmoulds
	Exhausted batteries	Replace batteries
	Instruments switched to telecoil or not switched on	Switch to M-position
	Dirty or corroded battery contacts	Open and close the battery drawers several times or replace batteries
<i>Whirring noise or "Motor-boating" fading weak</i>	Dirty or corroded battery contacts	Open and close the battery drawers several times or replace batteries
	Dirty or corroded batteries	Clean battery surfaces with dry cloth
	Exhausted batteries	Replace batteries

If none of the above solutions solve the problem, ask your hearing care professional for assistance.

Important information about low-battery indicator

When the battery has run low, the instrument will shut itself off. A fraction of a second later it will come back on and then shut off again. This rhythmic cycle will increase until the hearing instrument finally becomes silent. This is not a defect. It simply indicates that the battery has reached the end of its lifecycle and should be replaced.

International Warranty

Oticon hearing instruments are covered by a limited warranty against defects in materials or workmanship for a period of 12 months from the date of delivery. This warranty covers the hearing instruments themselves, but not accessories such as batteries, tubings, earmoulds, external microphones, cords, etc.

The warranty becomes invalid if a defect is the result of misuse or maltreatment.

The warranty is also invalid if the hearing aid has been repaired by non-authorized service personnel.

If you need service

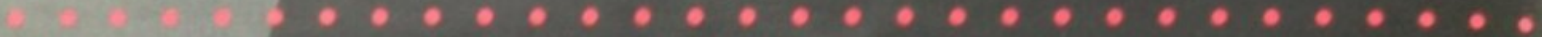
Take your hearing instrument to your hearing care professional, who may well be able to sort out minor problems and adjustments on the spot.

Alternatively, you can send your aid to Oticon. If you do, please remember to enclose a short note saying what is wrong. Make sure the aid is carefully packed, with its warranty certificate enclosed.

All mailing and insurance costs incurred in delivery of the aid to the authorized service facility are for the account of the hearing aid owner.

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