

# HEARING AID MADE WEIGHING 3 OUNCES

Device Only Little Bigger Than  
Match Box Is Announced  
by Sonotone Corp.

What is said to be the world's slimmest hearing aid, slightly larger than a box of safety matches, about as thin as a package of chewing gum, using vacuum tubes no thicker than a lead pencil and weighing about the same as a pack of cigarettes and a lighter, has been developed by the Sonotone Corporation.

Dr. Irving I. Schachtel, its president, said yesterday that it is the smallest such instrument yet produced by the company, world's largest manufacturer and distributor of hearing aids.

Called "Sonotone 988," the instrument uses the smallest tubes ever incorporated in a hearing aid. Despite their size, they are able to boost the power of a signal up to one billion times. The tubes are of the low-drain variety, thus extending the life of the instrument's "A" batteries, which are smaller than a thimble, by as much as 50 per cent.

## Tiny Parts Used

Capable of hearing the slightest whisper, the new aid can be worn invisibly by women and inconspicuously by men. Dr. Schachtel calls it a "miracle of miniaturization." He explained that "we called upon the watchmaker's precision craftsmanship and ability to deal with the minute in developing the hearing aid. Indeed, some of its parts are so tiny that a magnifying glass must be used in order to handle them."

Transformers in the instrument are about one-half the size of those previously used and are wound with wire less than one-fourth the diameter of human hair, "yet they are as effective as the older and larger models," he said.

## Three Ounces in Weight

Noting that its outside microphone eliminates noises created by the rubbing of clothing against the instrument, he showed that the entire assembly, including batteries, weighs only slightly more than three ounces.

The new aid can be concealed in a woman's hair-do or inside clothing, or can slide into a man's pocket with scarcely a bulge. Yet it does the work which formerly only a much larger instrument could do, the executive added.

**The New York Times**

Copyright © The New York Times  
Originally published December 12, 1952