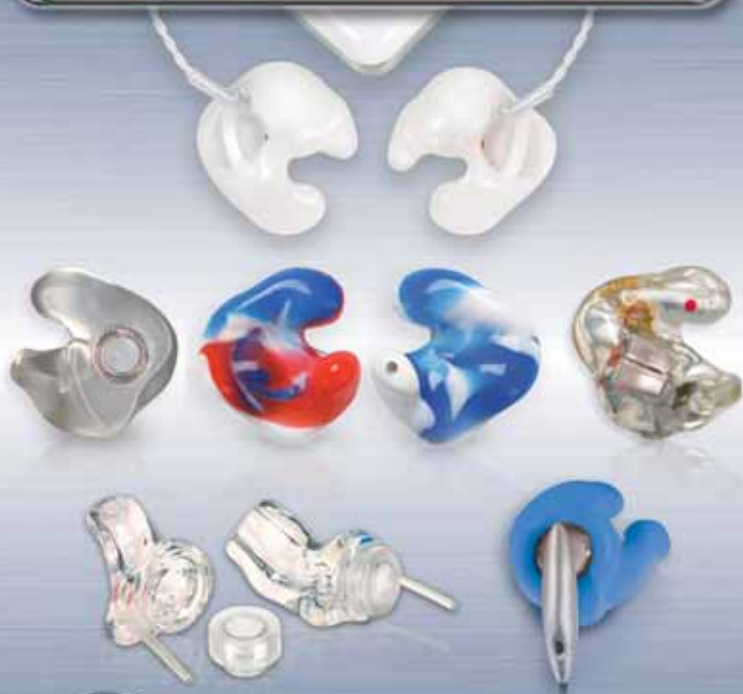


# **USER'S GUIDE: Custom Earmolds and Ear Plugs**




 **EAR, Inc**  
SPECIALIZED HEARING SYSTEMS

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

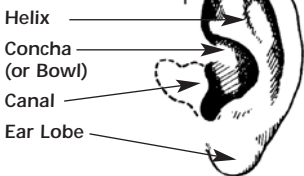
An **ear plug** may be defined as a standalone item which plugs the ear canal to block out noise or water.

An **earmold** connects to an electronic device such as a radio receiver, sound enhancer or hearing aid. The earmold component of your Specialized Hearing System is a key factor in realizing its optimal performance.

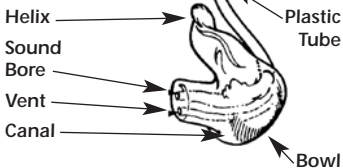
Your new earmold or earplug has been professionally crafted from your ear impression, assuring you of an effective and comfortable fit.

 When you see this symbol in this manual, the corresponding text will refer to earmolds only.

### EAR



### EARMOLD




Every human ear is unique. Just as with eyeglasses, you may have to allow a little time to adjust to your new earmold or ear plug. Should circumstances require, our policy is that earmold modifications or replacements will be made during your adjustment period (30 days) without charge.

## INSERTION OF THE EARMOLD OR EAR PLUG

Each earmold or ear plug is custom-crafted to fit the contours of a particular ear. This results in a secure, inconspicuous fit. Be sure to insert the earmold or ear plug into the ear for which it was made. They are usually marked with a dot: red, right and blue, left.

If there is only one mark, it will indicate the left ear.

 1. If your earmold is connected to a hearing aid or similar device, turn it off or set the volume control to its lowest level.

2. Hold the earmold or ear plug between the thumb and forefinger. The clear plastic tubing should face away from your ear canal.




To Insert

3. Insert the mold or plug by placing its canal portion into your ear canal. Gently twist it between your fingers to insert it in your ear. To assure a snug fit, pull the earlobe outward with your thumb and forefinger while pressing the earmold or ear-plug inward with the forefinger of the other hand.



Properly Inserted

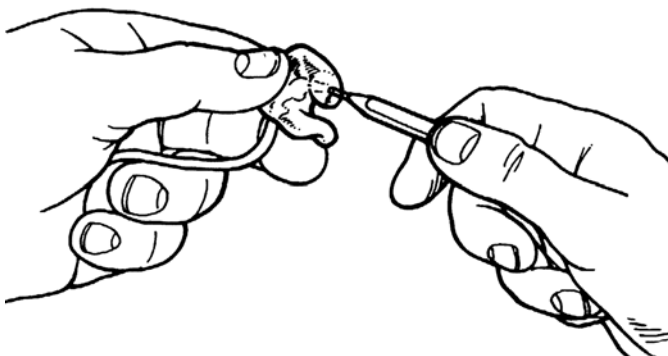
 4. After you have secured the earmold in place, adjust the volume to a comfortable level. If you hear a whistling or squealing sound, try to readjust the earmold. If the whistling persists, check with your provider.


## REMOVAL OF THE EARMOLD OR EAR PLUG

To remove, gently pull the ear until the seal is broken. Hold the earmold or ear plug between the thumb and forefinger. Rotate the earmold or ear plug slightly towards the front of the head while slowly pulling it out of the ear.



## USE OF THE "WAX LOOP"






 This device is designed for trouble-free removal of wax from the ear canal portion of your earmold and vent. You should insert the loop, at a slight angle, just into the opening of the canal to gently lift wax out. Should your earmold have a vent hole located along the sound channel, this opening should also be cleaned with the Wax Loop.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR EARMOLD OR EAR PLUG

---

Following these suggestions, you should realize optimal performance from your earmold or ear plug.

1. Inspect the earmold or noise blocker daily for earwax which may be obstructing the sound bore or vent. (See instructions, right, for using your Wax Loop.
2. Wipe the entire earmold or ear plug clean each day with a soft tissue to eliminate any buildup of residue or wax.
-  3. Periodically, a small amount of moisture may accumulate in the earmold or clear plastic tubing. This could completely block the sound coming from your hearing aid. Your hearing provider will be able to offer solutions for this problem.
-  4. If the clear plastic tubing that connects the earmold to your hearing aid becomes cracked, damaged or starts to become hard and discolored, it should be replaced by your hearing provider.
-  4. After you have secured the earmold in place, adjust the volume to a comfortable level. If you hear a whistling or squealing sound, try to readjust the earmold. If the whistling persists, check with your provider.

## **REPLACEMENT OF YOUR EARMOLD OR EAR PLUG**

For the following reasons, return to your provider for earmold or ear plug replacement.

1. If you have a marked change in body weight, your earmold or ear plug may need to be replaced to accommodate this physical change.
2. New technology in earmold or ear plug design may be introduced that could significantly increase performance.
3. Many times, children's molds and plugs may need replacing to allow for rapid growth rate.
4. Physical adaptation of the ear tissue to the earmold or ear plug may occur over time, requiring a new fitting to secure an inadequate seal.
5. Replacement may be necessary due to damage or discoloration over time.

## EARMOLD TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Symptom	Problem	Solution
Instrument appears weak.	Tubing is kinked. Wax obstruction in mold or plug Wax obstruction in ear canal	Consult provider. Clean with Wax Loop. Consult physician/provider.
Instrument is Intermittent	Tubing collapses or bends when the head is turned Moisture in tubing Mold or plug blocking canal	Consult provider. Consult provider. Consult provider.
Dead Instrument	Moisture blocking tubing Collapsed tubing Tubing blocked with wax	Consult provider. Consult provider. Consult provider.
Feedback or whistle	Punctured tubing Tubing too short, unseating mold or plug from ear canal Inadequate seal Excessive wax in ear	Consult provider. Consult provider. Consult provider. Consult physician/provider.
Soreness or irritation	Improper placement Poor fit	Review insertion instructions Consult provider.

**Allergies** It is very unlikely that you will have an allergic reaction to your earmold or ear plug. Most suspected cases are actually caused by improper fit. If you do have a true reaction to a particular type of plastic, your earmold or plug can be replaced with an alternate hypo-allergenic material.

E.A.R custom earmolds and ear plugs are available  
from your hearing protection professional:



**E.A.R./Insta-Mold, Inc. • P.O. Box 18888  
Boulder, CO. 80308 U.S.A. • (800) 525-2690  
(303) 447-2619 • E-mail: [info@earinc.com](mailto:info@earinc.com)  
[www.earinc.com](http://www.earinc.com) • [www.freehearingtest.com](http://www.freehearingtest.com)**