

CHOICE OF EARWARE FOR WIDEX SUPER



With the introduction of the super-power WIDEX SUPER hearing aid, hearing care professionals have a new solution for fitting people with severe to profound hearing loss.

This bulletin explains the earware options available for SUPER, considerations to bear in mind when choosing earware, and how these options can be selected using the Compass fitting software.

Fitting persons with severe to profound hearing loss is a challenge that requires in-depth audiological skills. Often, these users have years of experience of wearing hearing aids, and have specific preferences with regard to the hearing aid sound and the physical fit of the earmoulds. In addition, the powerful sound pressure levels needed by these users will influence the choice of earware.

The amplification required for hearing aid users with severe to profound hearing loss is highly dependent on the in-situ acoustics of a RIC ear-tip or RITE earmould. With powerful amplification, even small leakages can greatly increase the risk of feedback. To provide high SPL in all important frequency bands requires minimal adjustments by the feedback cancelling system.

These acoustic considerations should be seen in relation to the comfort needs of the hearing aid user. Is it possible to achieve the required level of amplification with a given choice of earware? Is less amplification preferable to a client's frustration with an uncomfortable fit in the ear, or even difficulty in inserting it?

THE OUTPUT EXTENDER

For hearing-impaired persons accustomed to classic behind-the-ear hearing aids with hooks and tubing, SUPER represents an interesting alternative. Although these users often have conservative sound preferences, SUPER, in combination with the Output Extender, will provide a BTE-like sound quality.

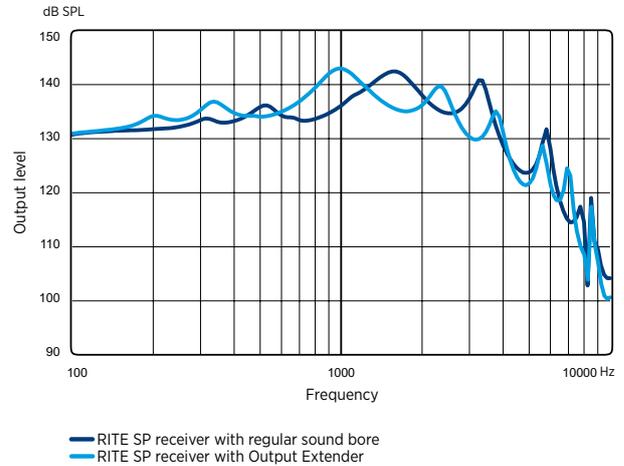
An example showing a RITE earmould with receiver housing and Output Extender sound bore:



SUPER RITE SP solutions are available with a soft earmould, a hard earmould, and a hard earmould with Output Extender.

Classic BTEs use the hook and tube for sound transmission. This long sound bore introduces resonances which provide beneficial amplification behaviour for severely hearing-impaired persons. The Output Extender is a 60 mm sound bore within the RITE earmould designed to

yield the same frequency response as the classic BTE solution. You can see the difference in maximum output for the RITE SP solutions below, with and without the Output Extender:



The Output Extender provides greater output, especially around 1 kHz, but also in the lower frequencies. For clients with a left-hand-corner audiogram, the Output Extender can meet their needs for powerful amplification in the low frequencies.

In the following comparisons of ear-tips with RIC P and RITE SP receivers for SUPER hearing aids, you will find descriptions of their acoustic performance, fit in ear, comfort, insertion and repeatability.

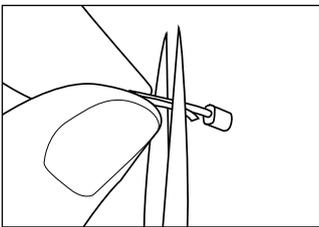
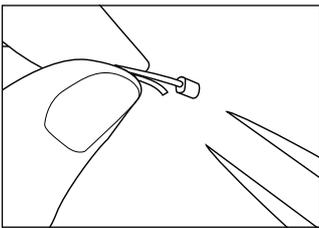
RIC P	Acoustic performance	Insertion and repeatability	Fit in ear	Comfort
Instant receiver tulip ear-tip 	Mainly for hearing losses that require relatively little amplification in the low frequencies.	The placement of the ear-tip may vary from insertion to insertion. People with poor dexterity might find handling difficult.	In some ears, the fit may not be sufficiently tight to ensure adequate acoustic performance. Because there is only one size, not all users may benefit from a tulip ear-tip.	Very comfortable. For an optimal fit, it is recommended to use an anchor.
Instant receiver double ear-tip 	Vented ear-tip for hearing losses that require amplification across the entire frequency range. Possibility of blocking the vent to make it acoustically closed.	Easy to insert. Good repeatability. People with poor dexterity may find handling difficult.	Due to the choice between three sizes it is possible to find a good physical fit for many different ear canals.	Comfortable. Stays in the ear.
Custom receiver soft ear-tip 	For hearing losses that require powerful amplification across the entire frequency range.	Easy to insert. Good repeatability.	The custom solution ensures a good fit.	Comfortable. Stays in the ear. Available with a concha lock. Available with a comfort vent.
Custom receiver hard ear-tip 	For hearing losses that require powerful amplification across the entire frequency range.	Easy to insert. Good repeatability.	The custom solution ensures a good fit.	Comfortable. Stays in the ear Available with a concha lock. Available with a comfort vent.

RITE SP

Custom hard earmould (Output Extender) 	For hearing losses that require very powerful amplification. The acoustic resonances are similar to those introduced by tube and hook with classic BTE models.	Easy to insert.	The custom solution ensures a good fit.	Comfortable. For users accustomed to the sound of classic BTEs. For users accustomed to hard earmoulds. Easy to insert. Stays in the ear.
Custom hard earmould (regular sound bore) 	For hearing losses that require very powerful amplification across the entire frequency range.	Easy to insert.	The custom solution ensures a good fit.	Comfortable. For users accustomed to hard earmoulds. Easy to insert. Stays in the ear.
Wired custom soft earmould (regular sound bore) 	For hearing losses that require very powerful amplification across the entire frequency range.	Easy to insert.	The custom solution ensures a good fit.	Comfortable. For users accustomed to soft earmoulds or new RITE-style hearing aid users. Stays in the ear.

THE EARWIRE CUFF

For users of SUPER, mounting the earwire cuff on the earwire may improve wearing comfort. The earwire cuff is clicked onto the earwire to provide support where the earwire rests on the outer ear.



You can attach the earwire cuff using tweezers or round nose pliers.

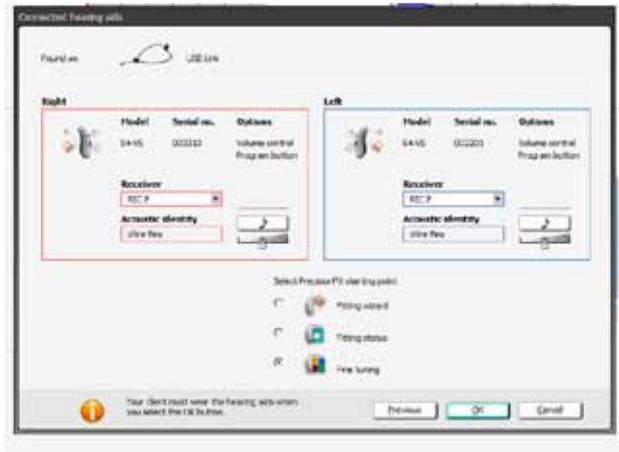
SELECTING THE EARWARE SOLUTION IN COMPASS:

Make sure the hearing aids are switched on and positioned close to the connected interface. Push the 'Detect wireless' button and the 'Connected hearing aids' window will open.

Select the receiver: RIC P (Instant and custom ear-tip solutions), RITE SP (hard RITE earmould) or Wired SP (soft RITE earmould).



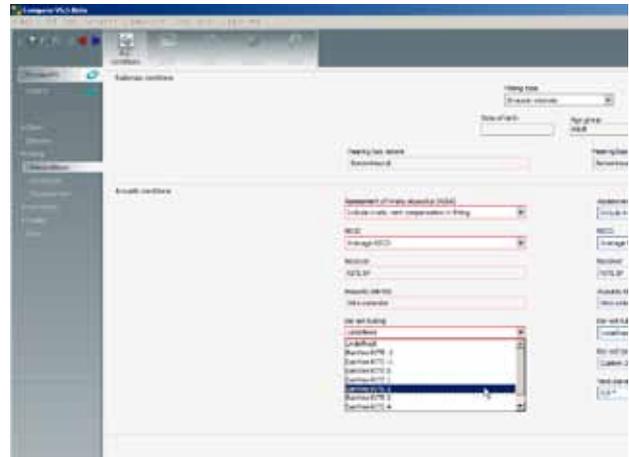
If you select RIC P, the acoustic identity will be defined as Wire flex:



If you select RITE SP, the acoustic identity must be manually defined. Choose between 'Wire reg. hard' or 'Wire extender' for a RITE solution with Output Extender.



You can also define the length of the chosen earwire for future reference in the 'Preconditions' window, under 'Ear-set tubing' in the 'Acoustic conditions' panel.



If you select Wired RITE SP, the acoustic identity will be defined as Wire reg. soft:

