

Points to Consider in Connection with Looping a Facility

1. How large of an area are you looping? The size and cost of the loop amplifier is determined primarily by the size of the area.
2. What are the dimensions? Most large areas are done with a double loop (each looping one-half). Normally, the width (width only—not length) cannot exceed 35' without needing to create two loops. Installation can usually be accomplished relatively easy by maintenance staff. Your amplifier supplier should be able to provide any necessary layout advice from the manufacturer.
3. What is the floor made of? Wood floors are best and sometimes the loop can be installed under the floor (in the ceiling of the lower floor/basement or crawl space). Concrete floors must have the loop installed on the floor or in the ceiling. If wire is installed on a concrete floor a stronger amplifier may be needed (to compensate for the reinforcement steel “sapping” some of the field strength).
4. Is there carpet over the floor? The loop wire around the edges of the room can be put under the baseboards (or carpet edge). If the wire must go under carpet (due to having both a concrete floor and high ceiling) and wires for the two loops must go down the middle, it may be necessary to have a carpet layer create a seam in the carpet to install the wire and then sew the carpet back together. (If just the center aisle is carpeted install wire under the carpet edging). Use flat wire under carpet.
5. How high is the ceiling and what kind is it? For instance, if it is a drop ceiling about 10 ft. high, the loop wire can easily be installed by laying it above the dropped ceiling.
6. Before purchasing, test the area for electrical interference by having someone walk around the proposed area with their t-coils in the “ON” position or use a loop receiver. This will determine the existence of any electromagnetic spillage that would interfere with a good loop reception. These are typically mechanical in nature and often an easy fix (such as a bad ballast in a fluorescent light nearby). Other times it is the air conditioning or heating unit which you cannot remove or fix (other than possibly turning it off during the time the loop is being used).
7. The beauty of a loop is that the sound goes directly into your ears. Also, no one needs to know you need additional help beyond your hearing aids (as no headwear is required). Many people appreciate being able to be inconspicuous.

8. Although most people will use the telecoil ("T-coil") in their hearing aids, you can purchase loop receivers for those not wearing hearing aids, or having hearing aids which do not contain telecoils.
9. The advantage of the loop for the facility manager is that there is virtually no maintenance, upkeep or adjustment required.