



**USER GUIDE:
CUSTOM EARMOLDS
AND EAR PLUGS**

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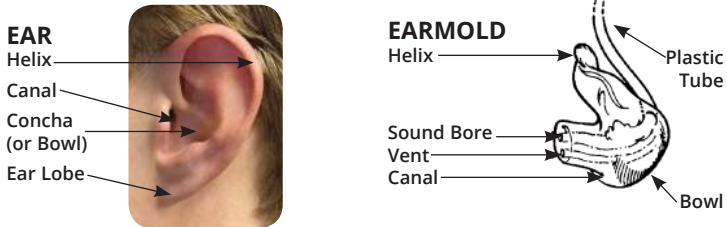


DEFINITION OF TERMS

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.

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



Just as with eyeglasses, you may have to allow a little time to adjust to your new earmold or ear plug. Earmold modifications or replacements will be made during your adjustment period (30 days) without charge.

NOTE:

iPlugz® and other custom monitors are intended for listening to audio/communication devices. Please be aware of the dangers of listening to these devices at a loud volume level (85dB+). OSHA regulations state a volume of 80-85dB is safe for an eight hour period of time.


INSERTION AND REMOVAL

Each custom earmold or ear plug is crafted to fit the contours of your particular ear, resulting 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 usually be red and indicate the right ear.

1. Insert the mold or plug by placing its canal portion into your ear canal and gently twisting it between your fingers. 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.



To Insert

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



Properly Inserted

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.



To Remove

Note: Do not pull on the cord or cable to remove the earmold or ear plug from the ear.

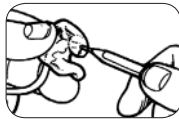
CARE AND MAINTENANCE

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

1. Inspect the earmold or noise blocker daily for earwax which may be obstructing the sound bore or vent. See instructions, below, for using the Wax Loop.
2. Wipe earmold or plug clean with moist (non-bleach) cleaning wipe or soft cloth to eliminate any buildup of residue. Earmolds without electronics can also be cleaned with general hand soap.
3. Moisture may accumulate in the earmold or clear plastic tubing. This could completely block the sound coming from your hearing aid. Consult your hearing provider for solutions to this problem.
4. If the clear plastic tubing that connects the earmold to your hearing aid becomes cracked, damaged, discolored or hardens, it should be replaced by your hearing provider.
5. After you have secured the earmold in place, adjust the volume to a comfortable level. If you hear a whistling or squealing sound, readjust the earmold. If whistling persists, check with your provider.

USE OF THE "WAX LOOP"

To remove wax from the ear canal portion of your earmold, insert the loop, at a slight angle, into the opening of the canal to gently lift wax out. If your earmold has a vent hole located along the sound channel, this opening should also be cleaned with the Wax Loop.



OTHER CUSTOM PRODUCTS

If you are satisfied with the fit provided by your custom ear impressions, you can send them to our lab or to your hearing provider to have other custom products made.

Acoustic Filtered Ear Plugs. Patented filters inserted into a custom mold allow safe sounds like conversation to pass virtually unattenuated. Sounds above 80 dB are reduced to OSHA-regulated requirements.

Communication Earmolds. Used by operatives in undercover occupations like FBI, SWAT, police and security teams, as well as broadcast professionals.

Electronic Earplugs. Featuring digital technology and programming for a natural quality of sound, they reduce loud noise while amplifying quiet sound. Comfortable custom-fit for increased wearability.

Sleep Plugs. Soft comfortable fit for sleeping, studying, and working in noise.

Water Sports Earplugs allow some hearing in the conversational range, but keep water and cold air from entering the ear.

Z Series™ Professional Music Monitors are designed with precision and accuracy to help stage professionals hear their music without distortion, providing precision highs and lows, and a better overall enhancement to their musical performance.



Acoustic Filtered Plugs



Communications



Electronic Earplugs



Sleep Plugs



Watersports Plugs



Z Series Monitors

6 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 physician/provider.
Soreness or irritation	Improper placement Obstruction in ear Poor fit	Review insertion instructions. Remove obstruction, reinsert. 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.

MUSIC MONITORS TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Symptom	Problem	Solution
No sound/intermittent sound	Obstruction in sound port Broken wiring	Clean with Wax Loop. Consult provider.
Sound is diminished	Obstruction in sound port Moisture in sound port Moisture damage to speaker	Clean with Wax loop. Consult provider. Consult provider.
Soreness or irritation	Improper placement Obstruction in ear Poor fit	Review insertion instructions. Remove obstruction, reinsert. Consult provider.
Allergies	See above	

REPLACEMENT OF YOUR EARMOLD OR EAR PLUG

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

- If you have a marked change in body weight, your earmold or ear plug may need to be replaced.
- New technology may be introduced that could significantly increase performance.
- Many times, children's molds and plugs may need replacing to allow for rapid growth rate.
- Physical adaptation of the ear tissue to the earmold or ear plug may occur over time, requiring a new fitting to secure an adequate seal.

Replacement may be necessary due to damage or discoloration over time. For more info, visit our product return request page at www.earinc.com/support/rmreturn-information/