



Loop System **LA240**

User manual



A C C E S S T O S O U N D

Introduction

The LA240 Loop System provides a practical solution for hearing aid users to listen more easily to their TV or Audio equipment via the “T” or “Loop” program of their hearing aid.

With no direct connection between the user and a TV or Audio equipment the user is able to move freely within the looped area and listen comfortably to a TV or audio equipment without the distractions of normal listening.

The Loop System is used in conjunction with a hearing aid with a “T” or “Loop” program found on many ‘behind the ear’ or ‘in the ear’ hearing aids. The Loop system picks up the sound from a TV via a direct connection or microphone and feeds it to the amplifier. The sound is then passed to a loop of wire around the listening area, which in turn transmits the sound inductively, “magnetic sound waves”, to a hearing aid with the loop facility. The user may then adjust the loop volume or tone to suit their own hearing preference without affecting others.

The Loop System is supplied with either Loop Cable or Loop Pad.

Loop cable is placed around a room that you want to listen in. The sound can be heard anywhere inside the “looped” area and sometimes just outside the loop as well.

A Loop Pad is an alternative to loop cable and is used to create a localised or portable system to avoid interference with other systems or where confidentiality is required.

Quick Setup

1. Check contents of package. Note: Some accessories are not included in all countries
2. Place amplifier near TV or Audio equipment vertically or horizontally.
3. Connect audio leads between TV or Audio system and Loop Amplifier.
4. Place loop cable around room and connect both ends of cable to the connectors on the rear of the loop amplifier.
5. Plug the power supply unit lead into the amplifier. Connect the mains lead to the power supply unit.
6. Plug mains lead into mains socket. Switch on TV / Audio equipment and Loop Amplifier.
7. Select the source button(s) on front of amplifier corresponding to your audio inputs.
8. Switch hearing aid to “T” or Loop program.
9. Adjust loop amplifier volume/tone to suit listening level.

Important Safety Instructions

The manufacturer cannot be held responsible for damage which is caused by not using this Loop System in compliance with these safety instructions.

IF IN ANY DOUBT SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

1. Read and follow these instructions taking note of any warnings. Keep these instructions for future reference.
2. Do not use the system or accessories near water.
3. Do not expose the system or accessories to rain or any other source of moisture.
4. Should the amplifier require cleaning only do so with a dry cloth.
5. Ensure that there is enough room around the Loop Amplifier for ventilation purposes.
6. Do not cover the ventilation holes of the amplifier with anything.
7. Do not place the Loop Amplifier close to sources of heat, such as radiators.
8. Place all connecting and power leads where they will NOT be a hazard or become damaged.
9. Do not open casing of Loop Amplifier at any time; there are NO user serviceable parts.
10. Servicing must be referred to qualified service personnel.
11. Batteries should not be exposed to excessive heat such as sunshine or fire.

CAUTION: Ensure mains power is disconnected BEFORE any audio connections are made to the Loop Amplifier.
To completely disconnect the system from the mains, remove the mains plug from the wall socket.

CAUTION: The top surface of the amplifier may become hot when operating this system continuously.
Do not touch the top surface during use or block the ventilation holes.

United Kingdom - connection to mains supply

This apparatus must be protected by a 3amp fuse if a 13amp(BS1363) plug is used. Be sure to replace the fuse only with an identical approved type, as originally fitted, and to replace the fuse cover.

IMPORTANT: The wires in this mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code :

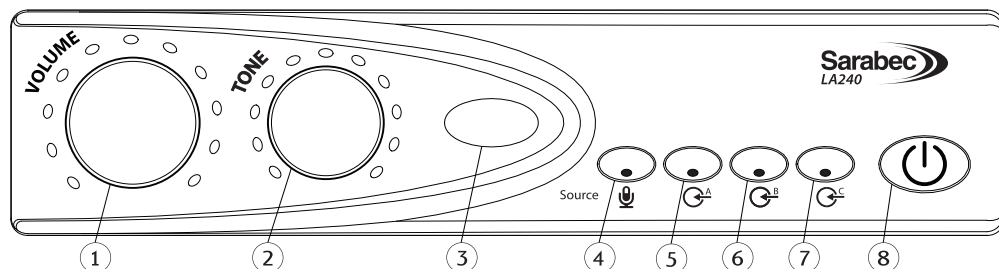
Blue: Neutral Brown: Live.

If you need to change the mains plug supplied, the colours of the wires in the mains lead of this apparatus may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in your plug. Proceed as follows:
The wire coloured BLUE must be connected to the terminal marked with the letter N or coloured BLACK. The wire coloured BROWN must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter L or coloured RED. DO NOT make any connection to the terminal which is marked with the letter E or coloured GREEN.

Product Overview

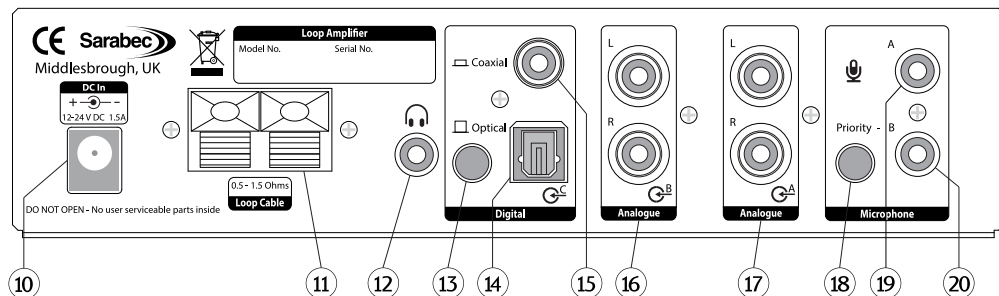
An enhanced microprocessor controlled loop amplifier with outstanding sound quality designed to be used with modern audio and video products to transmit the sound direct to your hearing aid. Your hearing aid must be switched to the "T" or Loop function to use the loop system. You can also enjoy the benefits of the loop amplifier by simply plugging a set of headphones into the headphone socket on the rear of the amplifier. For best results connect the amplifier directly to your TV or other sound source using leads from the kit supplied.

Front view



- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Volume Control | 4) Microphone input select | 7) Digital Audio input select |
| 2) Tone Control | 5) Line input A select | 8) Power On/Standby |
| 3) Loop Level indicator | 6) Line Input B select | |

Rear view



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10) DC power socket | 14) Optical Digital audio | 18) Microphone Priority |
| 11) Loop cable connectors | 15) Coaxial Digital audio | 19) Microphone Input A |
| 12) Headphone socket | 16) Line Input B | 20) Microphone Input B |
| 13) Digital Audio Input Select | 17) Line Input A | |

Setting Up

The loop system is supplied ready for use with the following items

- Loop Amplifier.
- Power Supply with amplifier lead and Mains lead with fitted plug.
- Digital audio optical TOSlink lead.
- Analogue audio lead kit : phono - phono lead, 3.5mm stereo jack - phono adaptor.
- 1 Microphone with Velcro™ pads.
- 40m(130ft) Loop Cable and pack of 50 cable clips OR Loop Pad with 5m (15ft connecting cable)
- Guarantee Card & Operating Instructions

Note: Some accessories are not included in all countries.

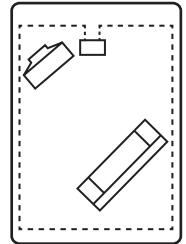
IMPORTANT: Always disconnect from mains supply before making connections

Loop Amplifier

Place amplifier in a convenient well ventilated area near to the TV or other audio source such that all necessary connection leads can reach the relevant device.

Place Loop Cable around listening area

Run the loop cable around the room starting and ending at the amplifier. The cable may be tucked under the edge of the carpet, or fixed to either a picture / dado rail or skirting board with the clips provided. Where the cable passes a door or other obstacle, either fix the cable around the frame or tuck under the carpet. The cable only has to go round the area to be looped, it does not matter about going up and over doors/windows or round fireplaces etc.



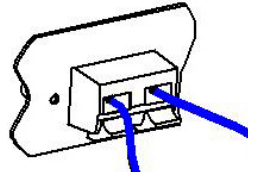
Excess loop wire may be cut off, provided a MINIMUM of 11 metres (35 feet) is left connected to the amplifier. DO NOT leave spare cable coiled on the drum.

Or if using a Loop Pad

Place the loop pad in a suitable position on the chair to be used for listening, either on the chair back or under the seating area. Lay the connecting lead from the Pad to the back of the Amplifier. Make sure that the connecting lead is kept out of the way to prevent injury or obstruction.

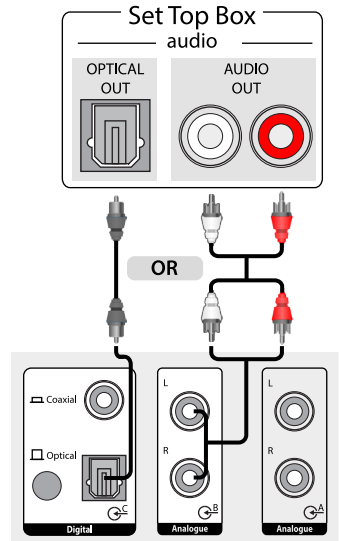
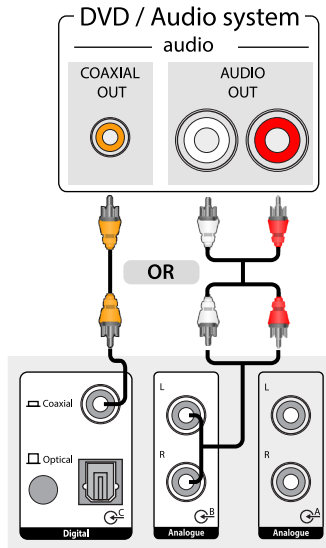
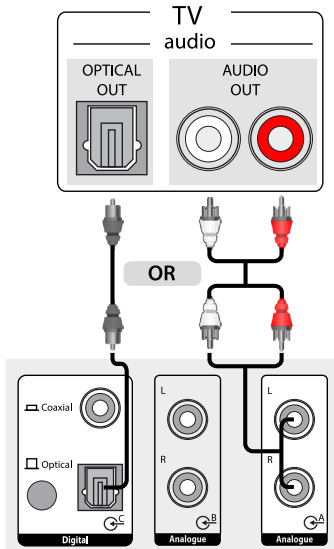
Connect Loop Cable or Loop Pad to the amplifier

When the loop cable connector (11) buttons are pushed a hole will appear. Push the bare wire into the hole. Ensure that only the bare wire and not the plastic insulation goes into the hole, then release the button to lock the cable in place.



Connect Audio Inputs from TV or other Audio Source to Loop Amplifier

Some commonly found connections



Direct audio connections

The preferred method of connecting your amplifier to TV and other audio products. It will deliver the clearest sound to you without background noise affecting the clarity. This amplifier is fitted with digital and analogue audio inputs.

Digital Optical Toslink or Coaxial outputs are found on most current TVs and Audio equipment. These connections (14) & (15) will provide the clearest sound input to your system. Using the digital audio input select switch (13) choose the setting for the digital audio connection in use. You may need to alter the settings of the digital audio out on your TV to PCM so that the digital audio out signal matches the loop amplifier.

Analogue audio connections use the red/white phono audio connectors (16) & (17) on the loop amplifier . Analogue audio is widely found on all types of equipment.

Up to 3 pieces of equipment may be directly connected to the loop amplifier at any one time. One digital using either Toslink or Coaxial but NOT both at the same time and one or two pieces of equipment with analogue audio output.

If the TV or other sound source does not have a set of phono connectors then use the SCART or jack adaptors accordingly to connect the equipment. If you use the jack adaptor in conjunction with a headphone socket on your TV etc., this may turn off the internal speaker. On some TVs there may be a switch or setting that allows the TV speaker to be left on.

Microphones

If a direct connection is not possible then a microphone can be used to pick up the sound from a TV or other loudspeaker. Microphones can also be used for someone to speak directly into the loop system so they can speak directly to the hearing aid user while they listen to TV. A microphone can be used at the same time as the line inputs to monitor other sounds such as a doorbell or telephone bell.

A microphone can also be used in either a classroom or other public speaking situations.

One or two microphones can be used at the same time using sockets (19) & (20).

A priority function also exists when using a microphone in channel B (20) to override sounds from any other input to the loop amplifier.

Power

Plug the power supply lead into the socket (10) on the rear of the amplifier. Connect the mains lead to the power supply and then plug into a mains outlet. Switch on the power at the outlet.

This amplifier may also be used with DC power supplies directly connected to the amplifier such as those found in buses and coaches.

Operation

When connecting power for the first time to your amplifier the power button (8) will illuminate blue and the amplifier will be “On”. This is normal operation and is useful where remote switching of the system is required such as in buses and coaches.

Pressing the power button will change the colour to red and the amplifier will be in the standby mode which uses low power and no signal will be passed to the loop. In order to remove all power from the unit the power supply must be disconnected from the amplifier and the mains outlet.

Press the button power again and it will light up blue. The system is now ready for use.

- Set the television or other audio equipment to the normal listening level for other members of your household.
- Select the sound source required from the buttons (4) - (7).
- Set the volume control to minimum.
- Set the tone control to the normal position (12 o'clock).
- Switch your hearing aid to the 'T' or loop function.
- Adjust the volume and tone to suit your listening.

Pressing the power button will turn the amplifier off and the light will go red. The next time the power is turned on the volume, tone and source selections from the previous session will be restored.

Volume control (1)

Use to adjust the volume of the signal received by the hearing aid. As the signal increases the blue light will travel around the control indicating the volume level in use.

Tone control (2)

Use to vary the tone of the signal. Turned in the clockwise direction the higher frequencies will be emphasised and in the anti-clockwise direction the lower frequencies will be emphasised. As the tone control is moved the blue light will travel around the control indicating the tone position in use.

Loop level Indicator (3)

This indicates that a signal is being transmitted by the loop cable. It flickers with a low volume and remains steady with louder volumes. Testing the system can be done by speaking into a microphone and seeing the light flash, this will indicate that a signal is flowing round the cable.

Sound source selections (4-7)

Pressing one of these buttons will select the sound source connected to the amplifier in the corresponding sockets 13-19 on the rear of the amplifier. One or more of these can be selected at any one time. When the channel is selected a blue light will show in the button. Press the button again and the light will go out showing that channel is off.

Microphone (4)

Selecting this will allow sound from microphones connected to sockets (18) and/or (19). If a microphone is plugged into socket B (19) and the priority button (17) is pushed in then any sound received by this microphone will override all the other sounds connected to the loop system. This can be useful when used to monitor a doorbell or telephone bell or if a partner wants to talk to the hearing aid wearer through the loop.

Analogue Line Input A (5) and Analogue Line Input B (6)

Allows the selection of the line input signals from channel A (16) or B (15). Useful to connect to a TV and DVD player so that either may be simply selected from the front panel. Either or both channels may be selected simultaneously.

Digital Audio (7)

Allows the selection of digital audio from sockets (13) or (14) but not both at the same time. When selected the button light will be blue. Should the light show red then there is no audio being received by the digital equipment.

Headphone socket (12)

The Headphone socket may be used with headphones that have a stereo 3.5mm plug fitted. This may be used by a non-hearing aid user to receive amplified sound. It can also be used to test that the loop system is set up correctly. Headphones used in this way will not affect the performance of the loop system for hearing aid users. The headphone socket may be used without a loop cable being connected but the loop level indicator will not show.

Note: When using this socket to listen with headphones the sound levels may be high especially if no loop wire is connected. Please set the volume to minimum before use and adjust accordingly.

Problems and Cures

Symptom	Possible cause and remedy
No sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re check all connections. • Check diagrams. • Amplifier not switched on. Switch on at mains socket. Press mains switch. Check blue light is on. • Microphone or audio source not connected or selected. • Check Digital audio setting on TV is PCM. • Hearing aid not on the "T" or loop program.
Low sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microphone too far from sound. • Loop cable wired incorrectly. • Volume control set too low. Increase volume. • TV or audio volume set too low. Increase volume.
Distorted sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume control set too high. Loop level indicator showing permanently. Decrease volume. • TV/ Audio volume set too high. • Move microphone away from loud speaker / adjust TV volume. • Microphone Plug/lead damaged. • Using multiple inputs at the same time may lead to distorted output, only select the inputs you wish to listen to.
Background noise (hum or buzz)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If noise remains when the loop amplifier is turned off but hearing aid is still on loop program this interference is caused by other equipment such as fluorescent lights or dimmer switches. With the loop amplifier turned off and the hearing aid still on the loop programs turn items off and on until the interference can be identified. • If noise stops when the loop amplifier is turned off there may be a fault in the system or a microphone lead or noise is being picked up by the microphone.

Specifications

Power Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18V 1.5A Power Supply. • 12-24V DC 2A External Supply.
Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Volume Control. • Rotary Tone control. • On/Off power switch. • Source selector switches. • Priority switch.
Input connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Audio TOSlink/Coaxial. • 2x Aux In Left/Right line inputs. Phono/RCA sockets. For direct connection to a TV sound output or other audio source via SCART or other suitable socket. • 2 x Microphone inputs. 3.5mm mono jack plug. DC powered 5V for electret microphones.
Output connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push grip connectors for loop cable or loop pad (Labelled: Loop Cable). • 3.5mm stereo jack for headphones (Phones) 8-60 Ohms.
Loop output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0A RMS (4.25A Peak) output current @ 100-5KHz. Meets BS EN60118-4:2006 for a loop not exceeding 6.5m (20ft) in width . Suitable for areas up to 70m² . • Full output achieved with loop resistance between 0.5 and 1.5 Ohms.
Loop cable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single turn loop cable. System supplied with 40m (130ft) 24/0.2mm (0.75mm²) single core PVC insulated cable. • Min cable length 11m = 0.5 Ohms.
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue/Red LEDs.
<p>Sarabec Ltd declares that the LA240 complies with all relevant EU directives. The full EU declaration of conformance for the LA240 is available from Sarabec Ltd.</p>	
<p> </p>	

If you experience any difficulty with the LA-240, please call our technical support line for direct assistance at (616) 251-1115.

If the technical support staff can't remedy the problem over the phone and deems it necessary to send your system in, please contact us at (616) 392-3400 or at sales@contactainc.com for further instructions on how to obtain a Return Merchandise Authorization number (RMA) and shipping instructions.



support@contactainc.com
sales@contactainc.com
www.contactainc.com
(616) 392-3400 - Office
(616) 251-1115 - Tech Support