

## Product Summary:

# AudioLINK® MI-1

“stethoscopic” audio frequency induction loop (A.F.I.L.S.) receiver



At the 2002 Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) National Convention in Seattle a major induction loop manufacturer provided an AFILS (Loop) assistive listening system to showcase during a well known presenter's session about the merits of the technology.

As the convention approached it was clear that no loop “headphone” receivers were anticipated to be provided. This caused me concern because, as both an advocate for the hard of hearing and a manufacturer, I feel that all technologies must extend access to the widest possible audience and not discriminate against any hard of hearing group.

Advocates for AFILS technology, typically are hard of hearing individuals with quite severe hearing loss and telecoils installed in their hearing aids. They too often forget that about 90% of the people who could and should benefit from assistive listening technology not only don't have telecoil receivers in their hearing aids, most don't even wear hearing aids because their hearing loss is relatively mild. Nevertheless their hearing impairment makes it difficult for them to enjoy activities where the dialogue presented is some distance away.

With that in mind I felt a certain impetus to act and so challenged ELT's director of engineering, Hans Roesler, to fit a basic induction loop receiver into our now well known AudioLink® II stethoscopic receiver case.

In record time he produced impressive working samples and we took them off to Seattle just to make a point. What we didn't realize was what a good job Hans had done and that the idea of a no tangles induction loop receiver was quite attractive for non-T-coil and unaided listeners. So, what started as a quasi-political statement about access for everyone became a nice little AFILS product. US ADA guidelines call for facilities to provide receivers for 4% of their fixed seating capacity.