

## Hearing Technology: Is the Best Really Necessary?



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When considering amplification, you should look at several factors in order to help you choose the most appropriate level of technology: the type and degree of hearing loss, job requirements, lifestyle activities and financial considerations. For example, if you are someone who does not spend much time in noisy places, you might not need the highest level of technology, which provides the most noise reduction. **Whereas individuals who are extremely active and in a variety of demanding listening situations could easily justify the extra cost of the most advanced and automatic technology.** This is generally a nice guideline for decision making, and you could potentially save money in the process. However, there are a couple of points that should also be considered before making this very important choice.

As hearing technology moves upward, it becomes more automatic and more effective than the level beneath it. This allows for faster and more accurate adjustments to help keep you hearing and understanding better in noisy environments. In quieter situations, the most advanced levels of technology can sound clearer and more natural than lower levels of technology. For some, this might make the case for choosing the highest level, no matter what other factors are involved, and the person making *this* decision is typically pleased with the results.

Finally, there is something to be said of the lower and mid levels of hearing technology: They are still very good sound processors, especially compared to technology from a few years ago. So even if you choose one of these, you should be pleased with how you hear. Also, some users do not seem to notice as much difference between levels as others do. That being said, sometimes even a slight improvement of clarity and noise reduction (i.e. between a mid-level and an upper-level technology) can go a long way toward one's overall best communication and quality of life. Please take some time to think about what your goals and expectations are concerning your hearing so you can achieve the optimal level of success.