

Comparison Tool

	Infrared	FM System (radio signal)	DM System (digital frequency)	Permanent Induction Loop
Pros	<p>Portable</p> <p>Signal is secure</p> <p>Wireless connection</p>	<p>Portable</p> <p>Large area systems can be connected to sound system</p> <p>Can be used outdoors</p> <p>Wireless connection</p> <p>Long range to accommodate classroom settings</p>	<p>Portable</p> <p>Signal is secure</p> <p>Can be used outdoors</p> <p>Cleaner signal than FM system</p> <p>Wireless connection</p> <p>Long range to accommodate classroom settings</p>	<p>For telecoil user, no additional devices needed</p> <p>Limited maintenance needed after initial set up</p> <p>Wireless connection</p>
Cons	<p>Cannot be used outdoors</p> <p>Not effective for small group meetings</p> <p>Speaker comfort with using microphone is mixed</p> <p>Regular maintenance needed</p>	<p>Signal is not secure</p> <p>Speaker comfort with using microphone is mixed</p> <p>Regular maintenance needed</p>	<p>Speaker comfort with using microphone is mixed</p> <p>Regular maintenance needed</p>	<p>Start up cost is high</p> <p>Special receivers needed for users without telecoil</p> <p>Not portable</p> <p>Typically used for large venues only</p>
Ideal Settings	<p>Large classrooms</p> <p>Meetings where privacy is important</p>	<p>Small groups</p> <p>Large classrooms</p> <p>Auditoriums</p>	<p>Small groups</p> <p>Large classrooms</p> <p>Auditoriums</p>	<p>Large classrooms</p> <p>Auditoriums</p> <p>Theaters</p>

	Infrared	FM System (radio signal)	DM System (digital frequency)	Permanent Induction Loop
How sounds can be received by the user	<p>Receiver with a neckloop for hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoil</p> <p>Receiver with headphones for hearing aids and cochlear implants without telecoils or for people without hearing aids</p>	<p>Receiver with neckloop for hearing aids and cochlear implants with a telecoil</p> <p>Receiver with headphones for hearing aids and cochlear implants without telecoils or for people without hearing aids</p> <p>Miniature receiver that connects directly to hearing aids, cochlear implants or a streaming device</p>	<p>Receiver with neckloops for hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoil</p> <p>Receiver with headphones for hearing aids and cochlear implants without telecoils or for people without hearing aids</p>	<p>Loop receiver with headphones for hearing aids and cochlear implants without telecoils or for people without hearing aids</p> <p>Telecoil users need no additional device</p> <p>Personal streaming device with a built-in telecoil</p>
Can multiple microphones be connected?	No	Some portable systems support multiple transmitters/microphones	Some portable systems support multiple transmitters/microphones	No
System Components Needed	<p>Transmitter with microphone (or connection to audio system)</p> <p>Infrared receiver with neckloop or headphones</p>	<p>Transmitter with a microphone (or a connection to audio system)</p> <p>Traditional FM receivers with a neckloop or headphones</p> <p>Miniature receivers with audio boots that connect to hearing aids or cochlear implants</p>	<p>A transmitter with microphone (or connection to audio system)</p> <p>Traditional DM receiver with a neckloop or headphones</p>	<p>Transmitter with a microphone (or connection to audio system)</p> <p>Loop receiver with headphones for hearing aids and cochlear implants without telecoils or for people without hearing aids</p>