

# The 2026 **Hearing Aid** Guide

Today's Best Technology

Maria Brown  
Hearing Clinic



# Welcome

At Maria Brown Hearing Clinic, we've dedicated ourselves to helping people rediscover the joy of clear hearing through expert care and the latest audiology advances. We know how hearing loss can quietly impact confidence and connections - and we're here to guide you with honest, up-to-date information.

This ebook, **The Complete Hearing Aid Guide: Today's Best Technology**, cuts through the noise to help you stay fully informed about modern hearing aids. Whether you're exploring your first pair or considering an upgrade, it's your practical resource for confident decisions.

Hearing technology is evolving rapidly - moving from bulky devices to sleek, AI-powered solutions with superior clarity, noise adaptation, seamless connectivity, and health tracking. In the pages ahead, you'll discover these breakthroughs and how to make the most of them for richer, more connected living.





We started Maria Brown Hearing Clinic to **help people.**

This is why we offer a Triple Assurance Guarantee on all our work.



# We stock **every** major hearing aid brand

Over 1000 different hearing aids available under one roof. We fit only the world's best technology.



**Bernafon**

**PHONAK**

**WIDEX**



**signia**

**oticon**

**ReSound GN**

**REXTON**

**unitron™**

**HANSATON**

**SIEMENS**



# Hearing aids



This section explores the latest hearing aid styles and technologies available in 2026 - from discreet invisible options to powerful AI-connected devices.

# Hearing aid **styles**

Choose the right form factor for your lifestyle, hearing loss, and preferences



## **RIC / RITE** **Receiver-in-Canal**

Most popular.  
Exceptional sound quality. Rechargeable.  
Full AI & Bluetooth. Mild to severe loss.

### **Considerations**

*Small wire to ear canal*

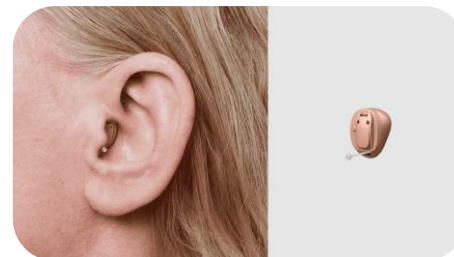


## **ITE** **In-the-ear**

Custom style.  
Exceptional sound quality. Rechargeable options.  
Mild to severe loss.

### **Considerations**

*Visible custom-moulded*



## **CIC** **Completely-in-Canal**

Discreet. Good sound quality. Rechargeable options.  
Bluetooth & AI in select models. Mild to moderate loss.

### **Considerations**

*Hides deep in the canal*



## **IIC** **Invisible-in-Canal**

Completely hidden in ear. Good sound quality.  
Small size limits some features. Mild to moderate loss.

### **Considerations**

*A virtually invisible device*

# Invisible / discreet hearing devices

"For patients who want maximum discretion without sacrificing performance, these are my go-to recommendations." - Maria Brown"



## Insignia IX (IIC/CIC) Signia

"My favourite for true invisibility and custom fit. It sits deep in the canal while delivering excellent clarity and modern Signia processing. Clients love how comfortable it feels and often say they completely forget they're wearing hearing aids."

**1<sup>st</sup> place**



## Zeal (CIC) Oticon

"This is my go-to when patients want invisibility combined with strong natural sound. It sits deep yet offers impressive smart adaptation. Clients frequently comment that it's virtually undetectable and performs better than they expected."

**2<sup>nd</sup> place**



## Soundlens (IIC/CIC) Starkey

"Excellent for maximum discretion and reliable everyday performance. It's virtually invisible and very comfortable for mild to moderate loss. Clients appreciate how natural it feels from the very first day."

**3<sup>rd</sup> place**





## Insio IX

**Custom-made. Custom-fitted.  
Full IX performance in your  
exact ear.**



*Starting from \$1250 each or \$14/w*

### Overview

The Insio IX is Signia's custom-moulded in-the-ear family, individually built from a 3D scan or impression of each wearer's ear for an exact anatomical fit.

It brings the full Augmented Xperience platform - including split-processing speech separation, Bluetooth streaming and app control - into a discreet in-ear shell.

### Best For

- ✓ **Patients wanting a precision-fit custom device**
- ✓ **Mild to severe hearing loss across multiple shell sizes**
- ✓ **Glasses wearers and active users (no behind-the-ear hardware)**
- ✓ **Those who want Bluetooth streaming in a custom shell**

### Key Features

- ✓ **Custom-moulded shell** – individually crafted from a 3D ear scan or silicone impression for a precise fit
- ✓ **Augmented Focus** – split-processing speech-in-noise technology delivered in a custom in-ear shell
- ✓ **Bluetooth streaming** – direct audio from iOS and Android devices, plus hands-free calls on supported phones
- ✓ **Rechargeable option** – lithium-ion power with portable charger, or 312 zinc-air battery in select shells
- ✓ **Own Voice Processing 2.0** – preserves natural own-voice quality even in deeper canal fits
- ✓ **Multiple shell styles** – ITC, ITE and IIC variants to match cosmetic preference and audiometric needs

# oticon

## Zeal

**World's first 'NXT In-the-Ear'.  
Intent-level AI. Invisible.  
Rechargeable.**



*Price on application*

### Overview

Zeal is Oticon's first custom in-the-ear hearing aid built on the new NXT platform, bringing intent-level AI and BrainHearing performance into an invisible, rechargeable form factor.

It combines the discretion of a CIC with the processing power Oticon typically reserves for behind-the-ear devices.

### Best For

- ✓ **Wearers who want CIC discretion without losing performance**
- ✓ **Mild to moderate hearing loss**
- ✓ **Patients who prefer rechargeable over disposable batteries**
- ✓ **Active users who value Oticon's BrainHearing approach**

### Key Features

- ✓ **NXT platform** – Oticon's new processing architecture, scaled down into a custom in-the-ear form
- ✓ **Intent-level AI** – detects what the wearer is trying to listen to and adapts the sound scene automatically
- ✓ **Invisible fit** – custom-moulded to sit inside the canal so it's virtually undetectable from outside
- ✓ **Lithium-ion rechargeable** – first Oticon CIC with a built-in rechargeable battery for full-day use
- ✓ **BrainHearing philosophy** – preserves the full acoustic scene so the brain can do its natural sound-sorting
- ✓ **Direct streaming** – hands-free calls and audio streaming from iPhone and compatible Android devices



## SoundLens Synergy iQ

**The original invisible-in-canal hearing aid. Still Starkey's most discreet.**



*Starting from \$1250 each or \$14/w*

### Overview

SoundLens Synergy iQ is Starkey's original invisible-in-canal hearing aid - the first IIC available in the United States and still one of the most discreet devices on the market. Custom-moulded to sit deep in the second bend of the ear canal, it disappears completely from view while preserving natural directional hearing cues. The device combines Starkey's Synergy iQ platform with the cosmetic invisibility patients consistently rank as a top purchase driver.

### Best For

- ✓ **Patients who prioritise total invisibility above all else**
- ✓ **Mild to moderate hearing loss**
- ✓ **First-time wearers worried about cosmetic appearance**
- ✓ **Professionals and public-facing roles where discretion matters**

### Key Features

- ✓ **Truly invisible** – custom-moulded to sit beyond the second bend of the ear canal, making it virtually undetectable
- ✓ **Natural directional hearing** – using the ear's anatomy to preserve front-to-back and side-to-side sound cues
- ✓ **Synergy iQ platform** – Starkey's intelligent sound processing optimised for speech clarity in everyday listening
- ✓ **Custom-moulded shell** – individually crafted from a precise impression of each wearer's ear canal
- ✓ **Removable filter** – wax guard system designed to protect the receiver and extend device life
- ✓ **Memory programs** – clinician-configurable settings for different listening environments

# signia

## Silk Charge&Go IX CIC

The world's first rechargeable CIC. Invisible. Instant fit.



Starting from \$2700 each or \$28/w

### Overview

Signia's smallest completely-in-canal device, sitting deep in the ear canal for true cosmetic invisibility. The Silk Charge&Go IX delivers full Augmented Xperience processing through instant-fit soft silicone sleeves - no ear impressions needed, and the device can be fitted in a single appointment. Rechargeable lithium-ion power frees wearers from disposable batteries while preserving the discreet, in-canal form factor.

### Best For

- ✓ **Patients prioritising invisibility above all else**
- ✓ **Mild to moderately-severe hearing loss**
- ✓ **First-time wearers wanting a same-day fit**
- ✓ **Active lifestyles needing rechargeability in a CIC**

### Key Features

- ✓ **Click Sleeves** – instant-fit soft silicone tips in multiple sizes, with no ear impressions required
- ✓ **Augmented Focus** – split-processing technology that separates speech from background noise across two dedicated channels
- ✓ **Own Voice Processing 2.0** – natural-sounding own voice that doesn't feel boomy or occluded - critical in a deep-canal fit
- ✓ **Rechargeable lithium-ion** – full day of use on a single charge with a portable charging case for travel
- ✓ **Signia App control** – discreet smartphone adjustment of programs, volume and noise-reduction settings
- ✓ **Truly invisible** – sits beyond the second bend of the ear canal, making it virtually undetectable in conversation

# PHONAK

## Virto R Infinio

**Custom rechargeable. Universal Bluetooth. Precision-moulded to your ear.**



*Starting from \$2700 each or \$28/w*

### Overview

Phonak's first rechargeable custom-moulded hearing aid, built on the same Infinio platform that powers their flagship Audéo range. Each shell is precision-printed from a 3D scan of the wearer's ear to deliver a flush, secure fit, while universal Bluetooth connects to virtually any smartphone, tablet or laptop. Combining custom acoustics with all-day rechargeable power and hands-free calling, it bridges the gap between cosmetic discretion and modern connectivity.

### Best For

- ✓ **Patients wanting custom in-ear discretion plus rechargeability**
- ✓ **Mild to severe hearing loss**
- ✓ **Smartphone users needing universal Bluetooth streaming**
- ✓ **Wearers who dislike daily battery changes**

### Key Features

- ✓ **Custom 3D-printed shell** – precision-moulded from a scan of the wearer's ear for a flush, comfortable fit
- ✓ **Rechargeable lithium-ion** – full day of use on a single charge, with portable charging case included
- ✓ **Universal Bluetooth** – direct streaming and hands-free calls from iOS, Android and any Bluetooth Classic device
- ✓ **SmartSpeech Technology** – AI-driven speech enhancement powered by Phonak's Infinio chip and DEEPSONIC processor
- ✓ **AutoSense OS 6.0** – automatically adapts settings as the listening environment changes
- ✓ **myPhonak app** – personalise programs, adjust settings and access remote support from your phone

# AI / Connected hearing devices

"After fitting hundreds of patients, these deliver the biggest transformations in daily life." - Maria Brown



## Pure Charge&Go IX BCT Signia

"This is my top choice for noisy environments. Its real-time AI tracks moving speakers brilliantly. Clients love enjoying restaurants and family gatherings again with seamless Bluetooth and all-day battery life."

**1<sup>st</sup> place**



## Zeal (CIC) Oticon

"I love its incredibly natural sound quality. The advanced AI adapts beautifully in any situation. Clients quickly feel back in the conversation and hear sounds they had missed for years. The one set back is its cost."

**2<sup>nd</sup> place**



## Omega AI Starkey

"Excellent for maximum discretion and reliable everyday performance. It's virtually invisible and very comfortable for mild to moderate loss. Clients appreciate how natural it feels from the very first day."

**3<sup>rd</sup> place**





## Pure Charge&Go BCT IX

**Universal connectivity. All-day power. RealTime conversation tracking.**



*Starting from \$1250 each or \$14/w*

### Overview

The Pure Charge&Go BCT IX is Signia's smallest Bluetooth Classic hearing aid yet.

It offers universal device compatibility, 36 hours of battery life, and powerful speech-in-noise technology for clear conversations.

Perfect for seamless calling, streaming, and natural sound in a tiny RIC design.

### Best For

- ✓ **Active and social lifestyles**
- ✓ **Group conversation environments**
- ✓ **Android and iPhone users needing universal pairing**
- ✓ **Those wanting longest BT classic battery life**
- ✓ **Professionals using multiple Bluetooth devices**

### Key Features

- ✓ **Bluetooth Classic (BCT)** – Universal compatibility with any device (iPhone, Android, etc.).
- ✓ **36-Hour Battery Life** – Longest battery for Bluetooth Classic hearing aids, with 5 hrs streaming.
- ✓ **Own Voice Processing 3.0** – Natural voice sound immediately, no adjustment needed.
- ✓ **Signia Assistant AI** – Real-time automatic adjustments via the app.
- ✓ **RealTime Conversation Enhancement** – Tracks multiple voices in group conversations.
- ✓ **IX Dual-Processing** – Processes speech and environment sounds independently in real time.
- ✓ **IP68 Dust & Water Resistant** – Tough against sweat, rain & humidity in a tiny RIC design.



## Omega AI

**G3 Neuro Processor. DNN 360 directionality. Pro 10 Shield durability.**



*Starting from \$1250 each or \$14/w*

### Overview

Starkey's flagship hearing aid platform, built around the new G3 Neuro Processor and DNN 360 - the world's first deep neural network-powered directional system. Delivers up to 28% better speech intelligibility and an 8 dB SNR improvement over the previous generation. Pairs class-leading sound performance with LE Audio, Auracast assistant and Google Fast Pair connectivity. Omega AI also doubles as a wellness device, with activity, respiratory rate, fall detection via the Starkey app.

### Best For

- ✓ **Patients wanting Starkey's most advanced AI sound processing**
- ✓ **Users who value built-in health and wellness monitoring**
- ✓ **Mild to severe hearing loss**
- ✓ **Anyone ready for LE Audio, Auracast and Google Fast Pair**

### Key Features

- ✓ **DNN 360 Directionality** – +28% speech, +8 dB SNR
- ✓ **G3 Neuro Processor** – always-on DNN sound processing
- ✓ **Edge Mode+** – on-demand AI boost in tough noise
- ✓ **LE Audio, Auracast & Google Fast Pair** – next-gen Bluetooth and one-tap pairing
- ✓ **TeleHear AI & Gen AI assistant** – voice-driven adjustments and hands-free control
- ✓ **LED indicators & Find My Hearing Aid** – status lights and lost-aid locator
- ✓ **Wellness suite** – Balance Builder, respiratory rate, steps, fall detection
- ✓ **Pro 10 Shield durability** – IP68+ to 1m, 10× coating, up to 51hr battery

# PHONAK

## Audéo Infinio Sphere

World's #1 for speech in noise.  
Dual-chip AI architecture.



Starting from \$2700 each or \$28/w

### Overview

The Audéo Infinio Sphere is Phonak's flagship behind-the-ear hearing aid and currently the #1-rated device for speech understanding in noise. It pairs the Infinio audio chip with a dedicated DEEPSONIC neural processor - a second chip running a deep neural network trained on 22 million sound samples - to isolate the target speaker from background noise in real time.

### Best For

- ✓ **Patients whose top priority is hearing in noisy environments**
- ✓ **Active social and professional lifestyles**
- ✓ **Mild to severe/profound hearing loss**
- ✓ **Anyone wanting the most advanced AI hearing technology available**

### Key Features

- ✓ **Dual-chip architecture** – Infinio chip plus DEEPSONIC neural processor working in parallel for real-time AI sound processing
- ✓ **Spheric Speech Clarity** – trained on 22 million sound samples to separate speech from noise with unprecedented accuracy
- ✓ **Universal Bluetooth** – hands-free calls and direct streaming from any Bluetooth device — phones, tablets, TVs and laptops
- ✓ **Rechargeable lithium-ion** – up to 16 hours per charge with portable charging case for travel
- ✓ **AutoSense OS 6.0** – automatically classifies the listening environment and adjusts processing accordingly
- ✓ **Roger compatibility** – direct connection to Roger remote microphones for hearing across rooms or in lectures



## Allure AI

All-new W1 chip. Most natural sound. 0.5ms ZeroDelay processing.



*Starting from \$1250 each or \$14/w*

### Overview

Allure is Widex's flagship AI hearing aid, built around the new W1 chip and the brand's signature focus on natural sound.

ZeroDelay processing of 0.5 milliseconds means signals reach the ear almost instantaneously - preserving the live, uncoloured character of voices and music that audiophile wearers consistently rate highest.

### Best For

- ✓ **Audiophiles and musicians who prize sound naturalness**
- ✓ **Wearers sensitive to processing artefacts or 'tinny' sound**
- ✓ **Mild to severe hearing loss**
- ✓ **Users who want AI assistance without losing the live feel**

### Key Features

- ✓ **W1 chip** – all-new Widex platform with dedicated AI co-processor for real-time sound classification
- ✓ **ZeroDelay processing** – 0.5 ms signal path - among the fastest in the industry, preserving natural timing cues
- ✓ **PureSound technology** – Widex's signature philosophy of clean, uncoloured amplification with minimal processing artefacts
- ✓ **My Sound 2.0** – machine-learning personalisation that adapts settings based on the wearer's everyday preferences
- ✓ **Universal Bluetooth** – streaming and hands-free calls from iPhone and compatible Android devices
- ✓ **Rechargeable platform** – full-day battery on a single charge with portable case for top-ups on the move

# oticon

## Intent

**BrainHearing. 4D Sensor.  
Intent detection. Top-3  
speech in noise.**



*Starting from \$2700 each or \$28/w*

### Overview

Oticon Intent is the world's first hearing aid with 4D Sensor technology that detects listener intent - head movement, body movement, conversation activity, and acoustic environment - to adjust the sound scene automatically.

Built on the BrainHearing philosophy and DNN 1.0 AI processing, Intent ranks in HearAdvisor's top three globally and now ships with live Auracast support.

### Best For

- ✓ **Wearers wanting brain-first hearing**
- ✓ **Users who prefer automatic over manual control**
- ✓ **Noise-demanding environments**
- ✓ **Those wanting Auracast access today**

### Key Features

- ✓ **4D Sensor technology** – detects head movement and listening intent to match the sound scene to what you want to hear
- ✓ **BrainHearing philosophy** – preserves the full acoustic scene so the brain processes sound naturally with less effort
- ✓ **Intent detection** – movement, turns, and attention shifts trigger automatic response
- ✓ **DNN 1.0 AI processing** – deep neural network trained on real-world sound to adapt to your preferences
- ✓ **HearAdvisor top-3 ranked** – consistently in the top three of independent prescription hearing aid rankings worldwide
- ✓ **Auracast enabled** – live Auracast support - stream from compatible public venues with no pairing

ReSound GN

## Nexia

The first-ever Auracast hearing aid.



Starting from \$2700 each or \$28/w

### Overview

ReSound's Nexia is the first hearing aid built around Bluetooth LE Audio and Auracast - available in RIC, BTE, and Custom styles with up to 30-hour battery life on the rechargeable RIC.

Auracast unlocks direct streaming in theatres, airports, and other public venues equipped with the new broadcast standard.

### Best For

- ✓ **iPhone & Android streaming enthusiasts**
- ✓ **Public venue Auracast users (theatres, loops)**
- ✓ **Mild to profound hearing loss**
- ✓ **Those wanting best-in-class app experience**

### Key Features

- ✓ **First Auracast hearing aid** – ReSound Nexia pioneered Auracast for public broadcast audio
- ✓ **Bluetooth LE Audio** – hands-free calling, music streaming, and Auracast from any compatible device
- ✓ **Outstanding speech-in-noise** – Hear In Noise program significantly reduces background sound
- ✓ **30-hour battery life** – full day plus on a single charge with rechargeable model
- ✓ **Natural, balanced sound** – ReSound's signature philosophy delivers a natural listening experience
- ✓ **ReSound Smart 3D app** – tinnitus therapy, battery alerts, and remote adjustments

unitron™

## Moxi Vivante

**HyperFocus. Conversation in loud noise. Sonova PRISM chip. Try-before-you-buy.**



*Starting from \$1250 each or \$14/w*

### Overview

Moxi Vivante is Unitron's flagship RIC built on the Sonova PRISM chip, paired with the Integra OS platform and HyperFocus beamforming for difficult listening environments.

Log It All captures real-world listening data the clinician can review at follow-up appointments, turning every fitting into a data-driven conversation rather than a guessing game.

### Best For

- ✓ **Wearers who spend significant time in noisy social settings**
- ✓ **First-time users who want to trial before committing**
- ✓ **Mild to severe hearing loss**
- ✓ **Patients who value sharing real-world insights with their clinician**

### Key Features

- ✓ **Sonova PRISM chip** – powerful shared platform also used by Phonak, with significant headroom for noise processing
- ✓ **HyperFocus** – narrow directional beamforming that locks onto the conversation partner in loud noise
- ✓ **Integra OS platform** – automatically detects listening environments and switches programs without manual input
- ✓ **Try-Before-You-Buy** – Unitron's distinctive trial programme lets patients wear the device for weeks before purchase
- ✓ **Log It All** – captures real-world listening data so the clinician can fine-tune based on day to day use
- ✓ **Rechargeable RIC** – slim receiver-in-canal form factor with full-day battery and direct Bluetooth streaming

“I have designed a proprietary rehabilitation program that delivers **superior hearing outcomes**”

Maria Brown – Founder and Hearing Specialist

**Week 1: Initial Fitting & First Sounds**

Getting comfortable with your new hearing aids. We fine-tune settings and help your brain adjust to clearer sound in a supportive environment.

**Week 2: Basic Sound Adaptation**

Building tolerance to everyday sounds. Focus on volume control, comfort, and reducing the “new” feeling as your brain starts re-learning.

**Week 3: Speech Clarity in Quiet**

Improving understanding in one-on-one conversations. Targeted exercises to sharpen speech recognition and boost confidence at home.

**Week 4: Noise Management**

Learning how your aids handle background noise. Strategies and adjustments for restaurants, family gatherings, and busier environments.

**Week 5: Technology Mastery**

Mastering app controls, Bluetooth streaming, and advanced features. We ensure you’re getting the full power of your devices.

**Week 6: Real-World Practice**

Putting skills into action during daily activities. Fine-tuning based on your real-life feedback and challenges.

**Week 7: Advanced Communication Strategies**

Developing techniques for group conversations, phone calls, and tricky listening situations. Building long-term confidence.

**Week 8: Maintenance & Long-Term Success**

Final review, fine-tuning, and creating your personal maintenance plan. Celebrating your progress and ensuring lasting results.



# Information about **costs**

Below are the three ways we make modern hearing aids more affordable and achievable for our clients.



## **Seniors and Pension card discounts**

We offer special discounts for Seniors and Pension Card holders. These savings make advanced hearing technology more affordable for those on fixed incomes. Maria will personally review your eligibility during your consultation.



## **Interest free weekly payment plans**

Spread the cost comfortably with generous interest-free payment plans from as little as \$15 per week. You receive your new hearing aids immediately and enjoy simple, flexible weekly payments with no hidden fees or complicated finance companies.



## **Tasmania's only hearing aid trade in program**

Trade in your old hearing aids and receive significant credit - often up to \$1,500 or more depending on the model and condition. Maria will assess your current devices on the spot and apply the full value toward your new pair.

**Plus save thousands of dollars with our Gold Club hearing care program**

# Start your **hearing journey** – the next steps

From your first call to a lifetime of better hearing - we're with you



## **Book a free hearing test**

Call 1300 797 519 or visit [mbhc.com.au](https://mbhc.com.au). Full assessment – no charge, no obligation.



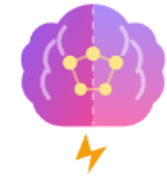
## **Receive your recommendations**

Expert advice matched to your hearing, lifestyle and goals. No sales pressure.



## **Start your free 7-day trial**

Take your hearing aids home and experience the difference in real life - completely free.



## **Begin your 8-week rehab program**

Your Gold Club membership starts. We guide you hand-in-hand to success.

**Enjoy a lifetime of better hearing** - Unlimited adjustments, supplies, servicing and support – included, forever.

# Question? Appointment? Ask the **Experts** in Hearing



Call us on 1300 797 519

Email the team at [support@mbhc.com.au](mailto:support@mbhc.com.au)

Live chat with our team at [www.mbhc.com.au](http://www.mbhc.com.au)



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