

**HOW TO USE
THE
ACOUSTICON**



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IMPORTANT

Please read this page carefully

At the very moment you read this sentence, the ACOUSTICON is helping many thousands of persons all over the world to HEAR THE THINGS THEY WISH TO HEAR. We have been making ACOUSTICONS for twenty-three years, and to-day it is the most efficient, the most reliable, the BEST HEARING DEVICE it is possible to make.

With a little practice and patience you, too, will be able to hear everything that goes on about you. You may not acquire this "knack of hearing" with an ACOUSTICON the very first day you have it—or the second, perhaps—or possibly the first week—BUT IT WILL COME.

If at first you don't get all the results you think you should, don't let that bother you and *don't stop trying*. Keep at it. Remember that the ACOUSTICON is all ready to make you HEAR, but maybe your ears are not ready to receive the sound waves, quite yet, as they should.

You know how it is when you are awakened at night and suddenly turn on the light. For a little while your eyes are dazed and you are not able to see anything. It is the same with the ears. Certain nerves and muscles, through lack of use, are "out of practice." So give your ears the necessary exercises by listening with the aid of the ACOUSTICON, and in a short time you will say the same as hundreds are saying and writing to me all the time—namely, that they would not part with the ACOUSTICON for fifty times what it costs.

INDEX

	PAGE
Introduction—"Important, Please Read Carefully".....	3
The Acousticon As It Comes To You.	6
Attaching Cord to Battery.....	7
Concealing the Transmitter.....	9
Concealing the Battery.....	11
Regulating the Transmitter.....	12
The Head Band.....	14
Adjusting Type SRA.....	15
Type SRD Acousticon.....	19
Type SRFD Acousticon.....	21
The Multi Acousticon.....	24
Acousticon Users' Troubles and Their Remedies.....	26
Testing and Replacing Cord and Battery.....	27
Ordering Batteries.....	28
The Church Acousticon.....	29
Acousticon Users' Battery Club.....	31



The Acousticon As It Comes to You

The Acousticon As It Comes to You

(Types SRB and SRD)

Every ACOUSTICON is composed of five parts:—

- 1—TRANSMITTER.
- 2—EARPIECE.
- 3—BATTERY.
- 4—HEADBAND.
- 5—CONNECTION CORD.

The Earpieces are outwardly the same for all types of ACOUSTICONS. The other parts vary in size and pattern, according to the type of the instrument.



FIRST

Attach Cord to Battery

The ACOUSTICON will reach you with the Transmitter, Earpiece and Cord properly connected at one end.

The other or loose end you attach to one of the batteries in the carrying case. (The second battery is to be used every *other* day. By *alternating* the batteries in this way you greatly increase the life of both batteries.)

At the top of the Battery there are two holes, one larger than the other. Into these holes you merely press the plugs on the loose end of the Cord and give each a turn to the right to tighten it.

Naturally, you fit the larger plug into the larger hole and the smaller plug into the smaller hole.



Showing how a woman can completely conceal both the transmitter and the battery beneath her dress.

SECOND

Conceal Transmitter Beneath Dress or Coat

A WOMAN

can completely conceal the Transmitter from sight if she so desires. The best place is in the hollow under the shoulder, right above the breast. The Transmitter may be placed under any thin outer garment without dulling the tones too much, although if you are *very* hard of hearing it is better to have the Transmitter without anything over it at all.

To keep the Transmitter in position, tie it in place with a yard of tape or ribbon. Bring the long end entirely around the body under the arms, letting the Transmitter rest just in front of the shoulder on the proper side, and tie the two ends securely in front. This holds the Transmitter so flat against the chest that even a gown with straight lines may be worn over it without the "set" of the garment being disturbed.

A MAN

finds no difficulty whatever in carrying the Transmitter as it may be clipped on to the edge of the top pocket of the vest as shown in the illustration on page 10, or anywhere else it may be convenient, so long as the Transmitter is not entirely covered by heavy clothing.

NOTE: The Transmitter should be placed on the *opposite* side of the body from the ear at which you will generally hold the ear-piece.



Showing how a man conceals both the transmitter and the battery in his vest pockets.

THIRD

Conceal Battery On Your Person

A WOMAN

can easily conceal the battery in the bloused portion of her dress at the waist line, or tuck it under the belt or the edge of her corset. Some women prefer to make a special bag or pocket for the battery and hang it from the belt. The battery may really be placed in any position as there is nothing about it to leak or soil the clothing. (*See illustration on page 8.*)

A MAN

generally places the battery in a lower vest pocket or in his hip pocket. (*See illustration on page 10.*)



FOURTH Regulating the Transmitter

On the back of the Transmitter, you will notice a row of six nickel buttons, and also a nickel lever which you can move from button to button by a touch of the finger. These six little buttons represent different degrees (or volume) of sound.

The ACOUSTICON will come to you with the lever on the "SOFT button." It is better to begin with it at this point. When the lever is on the button marked "LOUD," the ear will receive the GREATEST VOLUME of sound. Every intermediate point from left to right represents a gradual increase in the strength of the tones that come to you through the ACOUSTICON.

The proper adjustment of this lever is of vital importance as you progress in your use of the ACOUSTICON. Therefore, experiment with these six degrees of sound from time to time until you get JUST THE RIGHT ADJUSTMENT OF TONE best suited to YOUR hearing.

Now—You Are Ready to Hear

On the back of the ear-piece you will find a small metal switch which slides from side to side. This **LITTLE SWITCH CONTROLS THE ELECTRIC CURRENT FROM THE BATTERY.**



When the switch is at the left side, against the word "OFF," the current is turned off and the ACOUSTICON is silent. It will reach you this way. When you wish to hear, merely slide the switch with your finger over to the RIGHT side, as far as it will go. It will then be against the word "ON," and the ACOUSTICON is now ready to be used.

IMPORTANT

Do not leave the switch at the right side, "ON," when the ACOUSTICON is not in use as this wastes the electric current. Always turn the switch back again to the left side, against the word "OFF" when the ACOUSTICON is not in use.

THE HEAD BAND



The head-band is designed to hold the Earpiece to the ear after you are used to hearing with the ACOUSTICON, and want to use it continuously, with the hands free while it is in use.

The illustration really shows just how to do this. Take the Earpiece in one hand, and with the thumb and finger of the other grasp the spring bow. Place the tips of this bow against the OUTER GROOVE in the cap of the Earpiece and press forward until the ends of the bow open and it slips snugly into the groove.

NOTE: Do not try to fit the spring bow around the back of the Earpiece as it will not hold there.

Adjusting Type SRA

THE SRA ACOUSTICON may be used either as a two-piece or a three-piece instrument as preferred. It will reach you with Earpiece and Transmitter connected together with the Cord required for the two-piece form, and with the Posts to which the Battery is to be attached in place.

THE SRA IN TWO-PIECE FORM—To use the SRA as a two-piece instrument it is only necessary to insert a Battery into the leather Battery Holder, press the Posts extending from the bottom of the Transmitter firmly into the Battery sockets, slip the strap of the holder through the metal slot on the back of the Transmitter and fasten the snap catch. The ACOUSTICON is then ready for use.

When using the instrument in this form, men generally thrust the Battery into one of the breast pockets of the vest. This brings the Transmitter just above the edge of the pocket, in the best position to catch the sound waves. The Earpiece is then slipped into the opposite pocket, ready to be drawn from it and held to the ear as needed. The Cord may either cross the front of the vest like a watch-chain or be passed through the armhole and under the vest to the other side. When worn in this way, the instrument is entirely concealed when not in use. *Always carry the Transmitter on the opposite side from the ear to which the Earpiece is held.* See illustration of an SRA ACOUSTICON in use in this form.



The SRA ACOUSTICON in Use in Two-Piece Form

CHANGING THE SRA TO THREE-PIECE FORM—To change the SRA to a Three-piece ACOUSTICON similar to the SRB, remove the Battery and unscrew the two metal Posts. In the Case you will find an extra three-branch Cord and a nickel Clamp with screw holes and screws that exactly fit the holes from which the Posts were removed. Screw this Clamp in place.

TO CHANGE THE CORD—At the Earpiece, the Cord plugs are held in place by two screws sunk into the back, directly below the switch, and at the Transmitter by two similar screws in the opening just above the point where the plugs enter the rim. To remove the Cord, use the small screw-driver you will find in the Case to loosen the screws enough to allow the plugs to slip out easily. Do not take the screws all the way out.

Straighten out the extra, three-branch Cord and note that it consists of three sections, all starting from one joint. The longest section goes to the Earpiece, the medium to the Transmitter, the shortest to the Battery. The two plugs on the ends of each section are different in size. Fit the larger plug on the Earpiece section into the larger hole, the smaller into the smaller hole and tighten the screws. Do the same with the plugs on the Transmitter section, taking care to see that the Cord lies straight, not twisted; then attach the Battery by pressing each plug into the socket of corresponding size. A slight turn to the right will help to make the Battery plugs hold firmly. The instrument is now ready for use.



Showing how easily the transmitter of the SRD ACOUSTICON may be concealed beneath dress. (See page 19).

Type SRD Acousticon

The Type SRD is the same as Type SRB with the exception that Type SRD has a double disc transmitter for additional strength.

It is used exactly the same as Type SRB, so follow those instructions including the concealment of the transmitter and battery. The illustration on the opposite page shows clearly how Type SRD ACOUSTICON is placed beneath your dress.

A MAN

uses Type SRD ACOUSTICON the same as SRB—as already explained on previous pages—clipping the double disc transmitter onto an upper vest pocket, and carrying the battery either in a lower vest pocket or in a hip pocket.



Suppose, for Some Reason You Don't Hear Well

If you have carefully followed instructions as outlined, the directions given, you should hear.

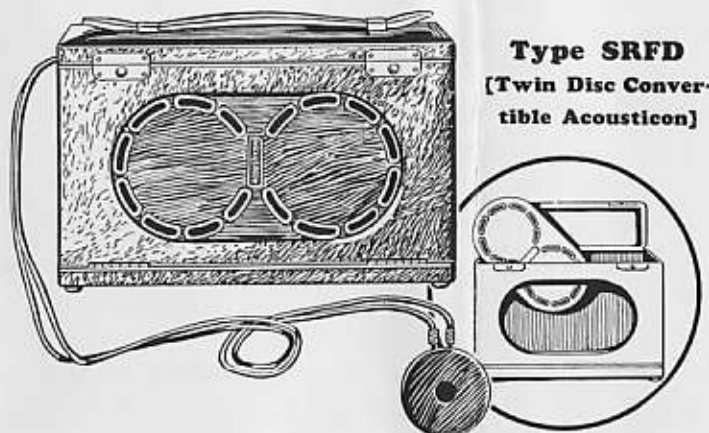
If, therefore, you do not hear, look first to see whether the current has been turned on, by means of the little switch described on page 13.

Remember that the Transmitter will not operate if it is tipped forward, yet it may be tipped back a little, if necessary. Do not wear it attached to a chain or in such a position as to rub against a button or any hard or metallic substance as this will produce a harsh grating sound.

Do not wear the Transmitter under any garment that is not thin enough to permit the sound waves to pass through it without being dulled or muffled. A very deaf person had better wear the Transmitter fully exposed, especially at the beginning.

If you hear a whistling sound, that is caused by the Earpiece and Transmitter being too close together, don't wear the Transmitter on the same side that you have the Earpiece. This is explained on page 26.

With each ACOUSTICON we supply two dry batteries. It is important that these batteries are changed alternately each day so as to give one battery a period of rest while the other is being used.



Type SRFD
[Twin Disc Convertible Acousticon]

Type SRFD (Twin-Disc Convertible Acousticon)

THE TWIN-DISC CONVERTIBLE ACOUSTICON may be used either in box form as illustrated (see cut) or removed from the Case and worn on the person as the SRD is worn. It will reach you with Transmitter and Earpiece connected together by the long Cord, and the Transmitter attached to the open front of the Case, ready for use in box form.

THE TWIN-DISC CONVERTIBLE IN BOX FORM—To open the Case, press the nickel button in the front to the *right* till the catch is released. Inside the Case you will find an extra Cord. Lay that aside and lift out the Ear-

piece. In the same package with the cased instrument will be found two Batteries, one nearly twice the size of the other. The larger of these will be found to fit exactly into the left-hand compartment in the Case, back of the Transmitter. Slip it into this compartment and press the plugs on the loose ends of the Cord attached to Transmitter and Earpiece into the sockets, fitting the larger plug into the larger socket and the smaller into the smaller.

Just inside either end of the Case, close to the front, you will find a projecting pin. By pressing both of these in with the thumbs, you will release the front of the Case which will then fall forward, bringing the Sound Regulator into view.

With the lever of the Sound Regulator adjusted to one of the middle points, lift the front back into place, pressing it in till the catches snap fast. In the top of the left-hand end of the Case you will observe a notch and will find a knot tied in the long, or Earpiece, section of the Cord, just above the joint. Lay the Cord in the notch with this knot inside to prevent the Cord from being pulled too far out of the Case. Close the cover and the ACOUSTICON is ready for use.

The Case of the Twin-disc Convertible ACOUSTICON acts as a sounding-board, increasing the volume and clarity of the spoken word. For this reason, many people prefer to use the instrument in box form even

while moving about. For those who find it more convenient to wear than carry it, it is designed to be readily detachable from the Case.

CHANGING THE TWIN-DISC CONVERTIBLE TO WEARABLE FORM—Let down the front of the Case as directed above and note that the Transmitter is held in place by three nickel clamps, two at the left end and one at the right. The one at the right is hinged and can be raised by a touch on the short end. Lift this and slip the Transmitter from its place. Detach the long Cord and substitute the shorter one.

With the shorter Cord properly connecting Earpiece and Transmitter, attach the smaller Battery to the loose ends and the instrument can then be adjusted to the person.





The Multi Acousticon

THE MULTI ACOUSTICON is specially designed for use as a desk or table instrument. Many seriously deaf men and women, however, especially those holding public office or actively engaged in club life, carry it with them wherever they go for the sake of the clearer and wider range of hearing it assures them.

The instrument will reach you with all but the Battery enclosed in the Case. To open the Case, place the fingers against either end of it and the thumbs on the nickel buttons of the two catches. Press these buttons *outward* till the catches are released and lift the cover.

Earpiece and Transmitter will be found properly connected together by the Cord. Lift out the Earpiece and straighten out the Cord. Back of the Transmitter you will find an empty compartment, partly covered by the earpiece container. Take out the container, slip the Battery into the compartment and replace the container. Press the plugs on the two loose ends of the Cord firmly into the corresponding sockets in the Battery.

Note that a knot is tied in the Cord, about four inches from the joint. The purpose of this knot is to prevent the Cord being drawn or jerked so far out as to loosen the plugs. In the top of the left-hand end of the Case you will notice a notch. Lay the Cord in this, with the knot *inside*, and press the lid down till the catches snap into place. The instrument is now ready for use.

On the front of the Case, near the top, you will find a small, black switch. When this switch points to the figure 4, all four discs of the Transmitter are open to the entrance of sound waves. The two lower ones can be instantly cut off, leaving only the two upper ones active, by moving the switch over till it points to the figure 2. For conversation at short range or with anyone having a high-pitched, penetrating voice, two discs will often be found to give sufficient strength of tone, and you will effect a great saving in Battery power by thus reducing the volume of sound waves admitted to the magnifying chambers.

On the left-hand end of the Case as it faces you, you will find the Sound Regulator. This is to be used precisely the same whether two or four of the Transmitter discs are open.



The Multi ACOUSTICON As Used by Busy Executive at His Desk

Acousticon Users' Troubles and Their Remedies

WHEN THE ACOUSTICON GIVES NO SOUND—Look first to see whether the current has been turned on—that is, if the switch on the back of the Earpiece is pushed well over to the *right*.

If the trouble is not located there, inspect all the plugs to make sure that every one is firm in its socket.

Your Battery may have become exhausted through neglect to turn off the current last time you used the instrument. Test it as directed under the heading "Testing and Replacing Cord and Battery" on page 27, and if you get only a weak response or none, substitute a fresh Battery for the exhausted one.

Never allow the Transmitter to tip forward; it cannot operate satisfactorily in that position. Keep it erect or tipped slightly backward.

CLICKING OR GRINDING SOUNDS—These indicate a loose plug; find and tighten it. Or the metal parts of the ACOUSTICON may be touching something metallic about your clothing.

WHISTLING SOUNDS—These are caused by the Earpiece and Transmitter being brought too close together and partially facing one another. Never wear them on the same side of the body. Keep the Earpiece close to the ear and if whistling occurs, move the Transmitter farther to the other side or lower it a little. If this does not correct the trouble at once, turn off the current for an instant and then turn it on again.

WHEN THE ACOUSTICON SOUNDS NOISY—This is a trouble experienced only by beginners. There is no noise in the ACOUSTICON itself; but just as a mirror reflects every object within its focus, so the ACOUSTICON picks up and transmits to the listening ear every sound within its range. A deaf person is not accustomed to hearing the many noises about the house and in the street which are continually heard but automatically disregarded by persons with normal hearing. Consequently he has lost the habit of ignoring them, and when they are again made perceptible to him by the ACOUSTICON, just at first they seem to be very noticeable. The only thing to do is to pay as little attention as possible to them till the easily acquired habit of disregarding them is re-established.

Sometimes the user's own voice sounds distressingly loud and harsh to him. This passes away with increasing familiarity with the instrument. Noises in the head may also manifest themselves just at first; but they will soon cease to be noticed.

Testing and Replacing Cord and Battery

TESTING THE CORD—To discover whether a Cord is broken, switch the current on and hold the Earpiece to the ear. Grasp the Cord close to each plug in turn and move it back and forth. If a clicking sound is heard, that indicates that the Cord is broken or loose in one of the plugs. You should order a new one at once or send the old one back to be repaired.

When returning your ACOUSTICON, for repair or replacement, be sure to put your name, plainly written or printed, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE of the package.

When ordering Cords, always mention the type of your instrument as stamped on the back of the Transmitter.

TESTING THE BATTERY—To discover whether the power of a Battery is exhausted, move the lever of the Sound Regulator over till it rests upon the point marked "Loud," switch on the current, hold the Transmitter and Earpiece face to face, and slowly draw them away from one another for from fifteen to eighteen inches. This should produce a sharp, whistling sound. If there is no sound or the sound is scarcely audible, that indicates that the Battery is exhausted and should be replaced by a fresh one.

ORDERING BATTERIES—Always order Batteries by number, as follows:

For Type SRA, No. 2-R.

For Types SRB and SRD (Twin-disc) No. 5.

For Type SRFD (Twin-disc Convertible), small, No. 5, large, No. 24.

For Multi, regular size, No. 215; extra long lived, No. 415.

Batteries should always be kept in a cool, dry place.

The Church Acousticon

The Dictograph Products Corporation provides for churches, public halls, etc., a special type of ACOUSTICON by which those in the audience who are hard of hearing may be enabled to hear the preaching, music, etc. The powerful Transmitter is placed on the reading desk, facing the speaker, and wires are carried down and under the floor to any part of the auditorium and connected with Earpieces installed in the seats. A deaf person in a seat provided with an Earpiece need only hold this to the ear in order to hear all that is said or sung within the wide range of the Transmitter.

Regular church attendants suffering from impaired hearing may have Earpieces placed in their own pews, regardless of the distance from the pulpit, thus enabling them to share fully in the service while seated with their own families instead of being compelled to