



The newsletter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Albuquerque Chapter

# WIRED FOR SOUND

## Why You Should Buy Auracast™

*Stephen O. Frazier*

***...if you plan to get new hearing aids soon, be certain they are capable of receiving Auracast signals.***

There was a time when some hearing aid buyers who asked for telecoils were told, “That’s old technology, you don’t need it, you’ll have Bluetooth®.” That wasn’t true, you needed both and, if you insisted, you got both.

Today, you should still ask for telecoils and Bluetooth, but also for Auracast™. The latter is the new assistive listening technology that offers features not possible with what is called “classic” Bluetooth. Chief among them is the ability to transmit sound to multiple receivers like FM, Infrared, or hearing loop assistive listening systems (ALS) do. Within ten years, Auracast is expected to be the primary assistive listening system (ALS) installed and in use in places of worship, theaters, meeting halls and other public gathering places. It is expected to be installed to supplement existing ALSs. It’s also expected to be the only system installed in new places of worship, theaters and venues required by the Americans with Disabilities Act to have an ALS. It’s also expected to be offered in sports facilities like UNM’s Pit, convention centers and a long list of other venues.

The first commercial installation of an Auracast system (called Auri) has taken place and others are in the works. These are just the beginning of a transition that will take many years before it’s complete, but consumers should start preparing for it today. They should ensure that any new electronic sound devices they purchase are either Auracast-enabled or Auracast-ready. Enabled devices have



the ability to receive an Auracast today. “Ready” devices can be enabled simply by downloading an over-the-air (OTA) update from the manufacturer just as updates are regularly sent to computers, smartphones, earbuds and some other devices.

There is a cornucopia of devices already on the market that are either enabled or “ready” for Auracast broadcasts, including several different models of hearing aids from a half dozen manufacturers, including over-the-counter (OTC) models. There’s no need to rush right out and buy new hearing aids in order to have Auracast. There are very few places outside of your home where you could use it today. However, if you plan to get new hearing aids soon, be certain they are capable of receiving Auracast signals—not Bluetooth transmissions, but Auracast transmissions. The same thing applies to smartphones. A growing number of them feature Auracast in addition to classic Bluetooth and those are the ones to buy.

Those hearing aids and smartphones can be operated using Auracast today just as they have been used with classic Bluetooth. You can get an Auracast TV streamer that will let you hear the TV using your Auracast hearing aids just as you have with your old one. The big difference is that anyone else watching the TV can also connect to the Auracast if they have Auracast-enabled hearing aids or earbuds of any make, something they could not do with the old Bluetooth classic system that would broadcast only to your personal hearing

**WIRED FOR SOUND**

is published by the  
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER  
Providing support and advocacy for  
people with hearing loss

P. O. Box 36792,  
Albuquerque, NM 87176

[HLAAbq@gmail.com](mailto:HLAAbq@gmail.com)

Home page: [hearinglossabq.org](http://hearinglossabq.org)

[Hearing Loss Association of America](http://hearinglossabq.org)  
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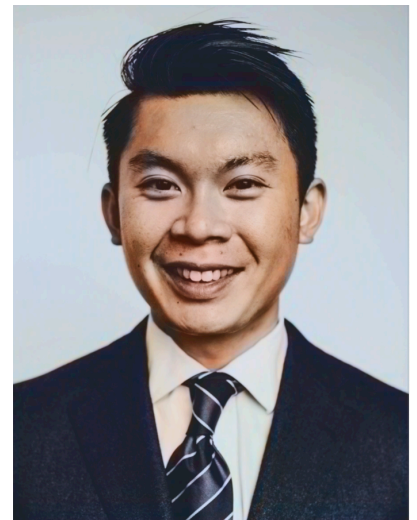
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The Albuquerque Chapter  
is affiliated with  
  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)  
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320  
Rockville, MD 20852  
phone: (301)657-2248

**19 Apr Meeting** 10:00 AM To Noon—**on Zoom****Music Enjoyment for HoH**

Dr. Alexander Chern will be talking about his research on music enjoyment and hearing-related factors that impact it. Music is such a big part of the loss people feel when they lose their hearing, and even cochlear implant recipients struggle to achieve the sound that people remember. Dr. Chern's work is important to the quality of life that those of us with hearing loss miss.

**Alexander Chern, MD**, is a fellow in Otolaryngology, Neurotology, and Skull Base Surgery at Johns Hopkins, and his residency training is in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia/Weill Cornell). He earned his MD from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and a BS in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale



University. Dr. Chern is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and educational articles on hearing loss. His research focuses on understanding the intersection of musicality, hearing, and cognition to ultimately 1) improve the music listening experience for individuals with hearing loss and 2) understand how musicality underlies hearing health and cognition.

We have fond hopes of resuming hybrid meetings (in-person in addition to Zoom), perhaps next Fall, but we need help in setup, handling the meeting and tear-down. We also want some new blood. You already know our dedication to providing the best information, advocacy, education and support for people with hearing loss. You can ease your way into volunteering and learn how this works. Just email one of the board members (listed on the left). You may also use the chapter email: [HLAAbq@gmail.com](mailto:HLAAbq@gmail.com).

aids, not to anyone else's. A hearing loop will broadcast to many, but the sound quality will not be as good as that offered by Auracast, and this is especially important where music is involved.

With an Auracast smartphone, you can stream an incoming call to your hearing aids and also to anyone else in the room with an Auracast receiver. You could do the same with music or your voice—stream it to others with receivers or to wireless Auracast loudspeakers. You can't do this with the proprietary classic Bluetooth found in hearing aids prior to Auracast. If you have an Auracast-enabled smartphone, you can connect to an Auracast broadcast and then send the sound to your classic Bluetooth hearing aids. Auracast is designed to be backward compatible with older Bluetooth devices, so you should be able to stream the audio from the broadcast to your hearing aids without any issue.

As noted earlier, when places of worship and theaters install Auracast systems to supplement their existing FM or Infrared-based ALS, users won't need to borrow a receiver and neckloop or earphones to connect to the system; they can do so with their Auracast hearing aids or a pair of personally owned earbuds. This would be the case, too, for the 50% of hearing users who don't have telecoils in their hearing aids. Furthermore, this technology will encourage the 80% of hard of hearing people who don't have hearing aids, to invest in a \$50 to \$100 pair of Auracast enabled earbuds that they can use anyplace there is an Auracast taking place, or they can borrow a receiver and earphones from the venue.

The general belief is that hard of hearing consumers replace their hearing aids every four to seven years. If you own hearing aids that fall into that time frame, be sure that your replacements will work with Auracast. The global average replacement cycle for a smartphone is reported to be between three and four years, so again, when the time comes for you to replace your cell phone, make sure it's smart enough to work with Auracast. Don't just take the seller's word for it, ask to see

the word Auracast (not just Bluetooth) in the operating instructions for the device.

Here is a list of hearing aids and smartphones known to be either Auracast-enabled or Auracast-ready:

### **Hearing Aids/Processors**

Beltone – Serene (3 models) ♦ t, m  
 Cochlear N8 ◀ T  
 Jabra – Enhance Pro 20 (3 models) ♦  
 Jabra – [Select 500](#) ♦  
[JLab](#) (OTC) ◀  
 Oticon - [Intent](#) (5 models) ◀ T  
 Phillips – [Hearlink 9050](#) (5models)◀ T, m  
 Phonak – [Audeo Infinio](#) (3 models)◀, m  
 ReSound - [Nexia](#) (5 models) ♦T,  
 ReSound – [Vivia](#) (3 models)♦T,m  
 Resound – [Savi](#) (3 models) ♦,m  
 Rexton - [Reach](#) (3 models) ◀ T  
 Signia - [IX](#) (5 models) ◀ T  
 Starkey - [Edge](#) (6 models) ◀ T, m  
 Zepp [Clarity](#) (OTC) 2 models ◀

### **Smartphones**

BBK Electronics – OnePlus 13 Pro, OnePlus 13T, OnePlus 13T Pro, OnePlus 14, OnePlus 14 Pro♦  
 Google - Pixel 8, Pixel 8 Pro, Pixel 9, Pixel 9 Pro, Pixel 9 Pro X. Pixel 9 Pro fold ◀  
 Motorola – MOTO G Power, Moto G Stylus ♦  
 Samsung – Galaxy s23, S23, S23 Ultra, s24, s25, Z Fold5, Z Fold 6 , Z Flip5, Z Flip 6, A54\*, A55\*, Tab Active5\*, Tab Active5t\*, Tab S9 FE\*, Tab S9\* FE+\*, Tab S10 Ultra, Z10, Z Flip 5, Z Flip 6, Z Fold 6, Tab S8, Tab S9♦  
 Sony - Xperia 1 V, Xperia 5 V ♦  
 Xiaomi - Xiaomi 13T Pro, 14, 14T Pro, Flip ◀

♦ Devices with this symbol are **Auracast-enabled**, meaning the product can receive an Auracast signal.

◀This symbol indicates a device is **Auracast-Ready** - It will be able to receive an Auracast after

receiving an over-the-air software update but the update has not yet been issued.

**T** indicates telecoils are standard in these devices

**t** indicates telecoils are optional

**m** indicates a remote mic with telecoil is optional

## Connecting Through HLAA's Facebook Page: a Vital Resource for our Community

*Dr. Norm Dawson*

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Facebook page is an invaluable tool for our members. By joining this online community, you can:

1. Stay informed: Get the latest news on hearing loss, events, and HLAA initiatives<sup>2</sup>.
2. Find support: Connect with others who understand your experiences, fostering a sense of belonging<sup>3</sup>.
3. Access resources: Learn about new technologies, advocacy efforts, and self-support strategies<sup>4</sup>.
4. Engage in discussions: Share your insights and learn from others in a safe, understanding environment<sup>5</sup>.

## Loop People, Loop Places

*Ginevra Ralph*

### **Participatory Democracy Access – Part 2**

In this time of active community political engagement, a friend was interested in attending a state legislative committee meeting. The public meeting notice stated that “American Sign and Spanish language interpreters would be available”. However, she doesn’t know Sign Language, and she figured that she wouldn’t hear the Spanish any better than she could hear the English! So she contacted the venue, which happened to be a university theatre, and asked what assistive listening system they would have for this public meeting. She

To see the many Auracast enabled earbuds, ear-phones, loudspeakers, transmitters etc. already on the market, go to [www.loopnm.com](http://www.loopnm.com) and click either of the two Auracast links on the home page..

**Smith’s Community Rewards** Shop at Smith’s with their Rewards card, and Smith’s will make a donation to HLAA Albuquerque chapter. You get your usual rewards points.

1-800-444-8081, opt. 3 to sign up or re-enroll.

The HLAAAbq NPO number for Smith’s is **NC419**.

5. Expand your network: Meet people from across the country who share similar challenges and triumphs<sup>3</sup>.

By actively participating in HLAA's Facebook community, you'll not only enhance your own journey with hearing loss but also contribute to a supportive network that empowers others. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with your hearing loss community.

Join today and be part of our thriving online family!

Please note our mailing address is  
P.O. Box 36792, Albuquerque, NM

was told that there wasn’t any, but that she could zoom in and turn the volume up. She pressed the state coordinator for an answer, who wrote that they will in fact have “headphones and assistive listening devices connected to our system and available at the venue.”

Does this really answer her question? Would you feel confident going and knowing that you could participate in the public testimony or at least adequately hear the proceedings? It may not feel fair, but at this point our advocacy relies on YOU expecting and demanding clear, predictable and effective communication access appropriate to your needs!

Yearly dues are \$15 per household.  
They are due in January.

**Thanks to those listed below for their generous donations.**

**Platinum \$400+**

Albuquerque Hearing & Balance  
Jim Twohig  
Donald Thurn  
Adelaide Zabriskie

**Donation of portable loop**

Ginevra Ralph

**In memory of Karen**

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**In memory of Rosanin Cohen:  
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**Friends - up to \$49**

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Don Degasperi  
Barbara Fix  
Shirley Furen

Andrew "Bo" Gamboa  
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Richard Tuschhoff

**Special:**

Smith's Community Rewards

NM HLAA chapters are 501(c)3 nonprofits and all donations are tax deductible.

**Support the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Become a member TODAY!**

The Hearing Loss Association of America is a volunteer association of Hard of Hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is a non-profit, non-sectarian educational organization devoted to the welfare and interest of those who cannot hear well. **Membership in the national organization is automatic with any donation (separate from any Chapter dues). A \$45 or more donation to National HLAA provides a subscription to the bimonthly publication Hearing Life.**



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- New
- Renew

Name: ..... Date: .....

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voice? text? VP? caption?

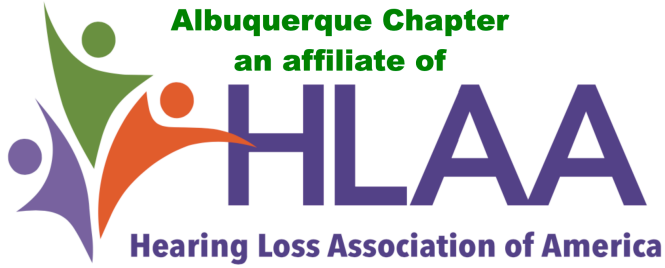
Mail to: HLAAAbq Treasurer, P. O. Box36792, Albuquerque, NM 87176

Payment: Membership amount: \$..... Donation: \$..... Total: \$.....

**Dues:** \$15 per household per calendar year (Includes newsletter subscription)

**Online:** <https://www.hearinglossabq.org/electronic-pay>

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