Life is on

We are sensitive to the needs of everyone who depends on our knowledge, ideas and care. And by creatively challenging the limits of technology, we develop innovations that help people hear, understand and experience more of life’s rich soundscapes.

Interact freely. Communicate with confidence. Live without limit. Life is on.
A Phonak FM bridges the gap

When it comes to better understanding speech in noise or over distances of up to 15 meters, nothing beats the performance of an FM system.

With FM technology the speaker’s voice is transmitted directly to your ears. This maximizes understanding in difficult listening situations, such as busy restaurants or rooms in which a TV is blaring, helping you to better identify and understand speech. This in turn allows you to take part in conversations you might previously have found difficult or even impossible to follow.

This workbook explains how to use your Phonak FM system to hear better in such situations. By carrying out the activities overleaf you will learn how and when to use your Phonak FM system, and how its performance compares to that of hearing aids alone. You will need a friend, partner or family member to help you with this workbook’s exercises.

If you have any further questions about operating your FM system, please refer to your user guide, talk to your hearing care professional, or visit www.phonak.com/FM_FAQ.

Note: generally speaking, the activities in this workbook apply both to Phonak’s Dynamic FM products (transmitters that feature “+” in their names), and Classic FM products.

Just make sure your FM transmitter is fully charged and let’s get started...
Activity 1: hearing over distance

This first exercise demonstrates the advantage a FM system offers when listening over short distances (up to 15 m or 49-feet indoors), compared to wearing hearing aids alone.

First, set your hearing aid(s) to the “hearing aids only” program (for quiet/calm situations).

- In quiet surroundings, sit or stand up to 16 feet (5 meters) away from your partner – at the other side of the room
- Have them ask you a few questions in a normal tone of voice
- Assess how well you can hear and understand their words

For users of: SmartLink+ ZoomLink+ EasyLink+

Next we’ll do exactly the same test, but using hearing aids and FM.

Set your hearing aids to FM+M and make sure your FM transmitter is turned on and set to OMNI mode (to change modes see page 14). For EasyLink+ you must use the default mode (ZOOM):

- If using SmartLink+, make sure the neck-loop is attached
- Again in quiet surroundings, have your friend hold or wear the FM transmitter
- Sit or stand up to 16 feet (5 meters) away from your partner – at the other side of the room
- Have them ask you a few questions in a normal tone of voice
- Assess how well you can hear and understand their words

That’s the FM difference!
Activity 2: hearing in noise

This exercise puts your FM system through its paces in a noisy situation, such as a room in which the TV is blaring, a restaurant, bar or other type of social situation.

First let's assess your understanding using hearing aids only. Set your hearing aid(s) to the program designed for noisy situations (or leave on the automatic program).

- Sit or stand at the opposite side of the room to your partner
- If running this test at home, turn on the TV or some music to create distracting background noise
- If outside the home, choose a busy, bustling area in which to run this test, such as a bar, restaurant, mall etc.
- Have your partner ask you questions in a normal tone of voice
- Assess how well you can hear and understand their words

For users of:
SmartLink+
ZoomLink+
EasyLink+

Now the same test using FM technology. Set your hearing aid(s) to the “FM + M” program and set your transmitter to SUPERZOOM mode (SmartLink+/ZoomLink+ only). For EasyLink+ you must use the default mode (ZOOM):

- Sit or stand a little distance away from your friend in the presence of background noise (as in the test above)
- Point the transmitter at them, like a microphone, or have them wear it around their neck.
- Have them ask you a few questions in a normal tone of voice
- Assess how well you can hear and understand their words now

More than one friend with you?
Try the same test using ZOOM and SUPERZOOM modes to see which you prefer.

Also...
if using a Phonak transmitter with “+” in the name (i.e. SmartLink+), try moving from a quiet space into a noisy area (corridor to TV room, quiet street to busy bar etc.) while your partner speaks. You’ll notice that Dynamic FM technology automatically adjusts the speech level to ensure you can still understand.
Activity 3: using FM to enjoy television

Your FM transmitter allows you to enjoy crystal-clear, in-the-ear TV sound without disturbing others.

SmartLink+, ZoomLink+ and EasyLink+ can all be used to hear TV thanks to their audio input feature. This also applies when playing a video games console (Wii, Xbox etc.) that is connected to the TV.

This activity explains how to use this feature:
- Make sure your transmitter and TV are turned Off
- Connect your transmitter to your TV as shown below, then position it close to the TV

For users of:
SmartLink+
ZoomLink+
EasyLink+

- Switch the TV On. Your Dynamic FM transmitter will automatically switch itself On after it detects the TV’s audio signal
- If using SmartLink+, ensure its maximum operating range by attaching the neck-loop and ensuring this is not folded or knotted
- Watch and enjoy the TV. How does that sound?
- When you turn the TV Off, your Dynamic FM transmitter will automatically switch itself Off 40 seconds later
Activity 4: using multimedia devices

Thanks to its audio input your FM transmitter can also be used to listen to and enjoy many forms of multimedia.

To try using your FM transmitter with these products, simply follow the TV instructions described on page 8, replacing TV with Hi-Fi, games console etc.

SmartLink+, ZoomLink+ and EasyLink+ can all be used to listen to various multimedia devices, including:
- Hi-Fi systems
- Computers
- Radios
- In-car GPS devices (+ transmitters in GPS mode)
- MP3 players

Activity 5: using SmartLink+ with Bluetooth cellphones and other Bluetooth devices

SmartLink+ supports Bluetooth technology, which means audio can be received wirelessly from different Bluetooth audio devices and transmitted to your hearing aids via this transmitter.

For example, with SmartLink+ you can receive calls from your Bluetooth cellphone directly to your hearing aids, or listen to music from your Bluetooth-enabled laptop or MP3 player.

Device requirements:
- To receive calls your phone must support either the "Handsfree" or "Headset" Bluetooth profile. Check this in its user guide
- To listen to music from your Bluetooth device, use the "A2DP" or "Stereo Headphone" profile

In this activity we will synchronize and use SmartLink+ with a Bluetooth cellphone.

1. Pairing SmartLink+ and cellphone:
- Turn SmartLink+ and your phone On
- Place next to each other
- Locate "Bluetooth" in your phone's menu and turn Bluetooth On
- Initiate pairing by pressing and holding the green SmartLink+ phone button for 5 seconds until the entire display starts flashing. SmartLink+ will remain in pairing mode for one minute or until pairing is complete
- Use your cellphone to search for Bluetooth devices
- Select SmartLink+ from the resulting device list
- If asked for a code, enter “0000” (four zeros)

Your SmartLink+ should now be paired to your phone. If your phone asks which Bluetooth service to enable select "Headset" or "Handsfree".
2. Connecting SmartLink+ and cellphone:
To use SmartLink+ with your phone, activate the Bluetooth link between the two like this:
- Select SmartLink+ from your phone’s list of paired Bluetooth devices
- If the 📞 symbol is not showing on the SmartLink+ display, switch On SmartLink+ and press the green telephone key for approximately 2 seconds until the + symbol appears
- After a few seconds, the 📞 sign will appear. This means activation is complete

3. Doing a test call:
- With your transmitter and phone within a few meters range of each other, ask a friend to call your Bluetooth cellphone: you will see the Bluetooth symbol start flashing on the SmartLink+ display
- Your cellphone does not need to be picked up; to answer the call simply press the green SmartLink+ phone button
- Speak directly into SmartLink+, not your phone
Changing your transmitter’s microphone mode

This page will teach you about your FM transmitter’s different microphone modes and which of these to use in different listening situations. As EasyLink+ features a single mode (ZOOM), this information applies to SmartLink+ and ZoomLink+ only.

The 3 microphone modes:

**OMNI:**
When your transmitter is in Omni mode, it picks up speech sounds from all directions:
To set your transmitter to Omni mode, turn On then press the lower of its 3 mode buttons.

**ZOOM:**
This is the most versatile microphone mode. When your transmitter is in Zoom mode, its directional microphone suppresses sounds coming from the rear:
To set to Zoom mode, turn On and press the centre mode button.

**SUPERZOOM:**
When your transmitter is in SuperZoom mode, it uses an adaptive directional microphone in combination with noise cancelling technology to reduce background noise from the sides and rear of the transmitter:
To set your transmitter to this mode, turn On and press the highest of its 3 mode buttons.

TURNING ON/OFF

To turn SmartLink+, ZoomLink+ or EasyLink+ On or Off, press and hold any one of the 3 microphone mode buttons for 2 seconds.

Thanks for taking the time to learn your way around your Phonak FM system. We wish you better hearing for many years to come!