



EAR TRUMPETS

One of the first hearing aids was the “ear trumpet.” It had two parts. The first was a cone that made the sound louder. The second was a tube that carried the sound to the eardrum. The person using the device pointed the cone in the direction of a sound when he/she wanted to hear better.

Larger ear horns worked better. But, large ear horns were bulky. They were difficult to carry around. People who used them were sometimes embarrassed by their size. Smaller ear horns could easily be hidden. However, they did not work as well.

When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone it helped deaf people. The telephone could control how loud a sound was. This made it perfect for helping people who were hard of hearing. Alexander Graham Bell paved the way for modern, efficient hearing aids.