Muse and Halo 2: Technologies Designed for Living Better

Kevin Marshall and Matthew Burk

Starkey Hearing Technologies’ latest hearing aids introduce Synergy, an entirely new signal processing platform that is five times more powerful than earlier signal processing hardware. Two product families take advantage of the Synergy platform. The first is Muse, featuring 900sync wireless in a full range of custom, Behind-The-Ear (BTE), and Receiver-In-Canal (RIC) hearing aid styles. The second is Halo 2, a 2.4 GHz RIC that allows for direct connectivity with Apple and Android mobile telephones and tablets.

The Synergy platform has allowed for a series of enhancements that include extended high-frequency bandwidth through 10kHz and up to 24 adjustable channels. The capabilities of this platform have also enabled Acuity Lifescape Analyzer, a system for environmental classification that automatically optimizing listening in a broad range of situations that include restaurants, wind, loud noise, or music.

Muse and Halo 2 include an industry-first, dedicated music listening memory. This dedicated memory is a suite of features purposefully designed for music listening. Selection of this memory transitions the listener to entirely new compression architecture, gain prescription, feedback canceller, and noise management settings. The gain prescription for music listening stands as the first prescriptive formula for hearing aids designed for situational listening. The novel prescription and suite of additional optimizations was systematically validated with professional musicians and conductors.

While the above items apply to all our new hearing aids (both Muse and Halo 2), a few features are only available in Muse, 900sync wireless hearing aids. Ear-to-ear phone streaming uses wireless, broadband audio transmission to improve phone conversations by presenting the audio heard in one ear to both ears simultaneously. 900sync wireless, broadband audio also allows Muse hearing aids to be configured for patients in need of CROS/BiCROS solutions.

Halo 2: a mobile-integrated hearing aid on the Synergy platform

Operating on the Synergy platform, Halo 2 RIC 13 offers direct connection to Apple and Android mobile devices [Figure 1]. The updated TruLink 3.0 mobile application introduces a number of new features. Patients now have control over volume and modulation characteristics of MultiFlex Tinnitus sound therapy. Phone call ringtones and audible notifications (such as text, email, and reminders) are now streamed directly from iOS devices to Halo 2. The entire Halo 2 experience builds upon the first mobile-integrated Halo products by adding more user control options, TruLink optimizations, and a feature set that is in concert with Muse 900sync products.

Halo 2 is the choice for patients who want to interact, customize and control their hearing aids with their favorite mobile devices. For patients who prioritize TV streaming, remote control...
options and ear-to-ear phone streaming capabilities, 900sync products offers these options.

**Muse 900sync: RIC, BTE and Custom Products**

Muse introduces our smallest, fully-featured hearing aids ever. Muse micro RIC 312 *(Figure 2)* offers a broad range of signal processing features with a telecoil, push button, and four standard receiver options that can accommodate most mild-to-severe hearing losses. For those patients with severe-to-profound hearing losses, embedded absolute power receivers are available.

Muse mini BTE 312 *(Figure 3)* incorporates a new microphone cover designed to withstand foreign material ingress and extend the time between routine maintenance. Shown in *Figure 4*, microphone ports located on the side of the cover are sheltered from foreign material by a protective overhang. Like the micro RIC 312, a single, tactile push button makes location and actuation simple and reliable. For patients and clinicians who prefer a mini BTE, the design of Muse mini BTE, whether fit with a thin or standard tubing, provides the flexibility and aesthetic appeal to meet any customer need.

Muse custom hearing aids are individually built by hand on the Synergy platform. Ranging in size from Completely-In-the-Canal to full-shell In-The-Ear, Muse custom hearing aids include a broad range of features: extended bandwidth, dedicated Music memory, MultiFlex Tinnitus sound therapy, Ear-to-Ear Phone Streaming, and wireless functionality.

Whether patients’ needs and lifestyles align with Muse or Halo 2 products, the Synergy platform offers a range of industry firsts and leading technologies designed and validated for the treatment of hearing loss.