





Welcome to *Hearing Review Products'* continuing series of **Technology Guide** product surveys. With this, our eighth matrix, we're taking a break from hearing aids and looking at hearing protection. So instead of products that can restore hearing, we're presenting products that can conserve hearing, available from eight companies that certainly know that subject.

As usual, beyond the hearing protection devices presented on these following pages, there are plenty more to be found on our Web site, www.hearingreview.com, where you can download PDFs of this complete survey as well as the previous seven.






— Will Campbell

HPDS Hearing Protection Devices

Company Name: Address:	EAR Inc PO Box 18888 Boulder, CO 80308 (303) 447-2619 ■ (800) 525-2690 www.earinc.com	Electronic Shooters Protection 15290 Gadsden Ct Brighton, CO 80603 (800) 767-7791 ■ (303) 659-8844 www.espamerica.com
		
1) What is this hearing protection device's (HPD) name?	Insta-Mold	Digital Series
2) What year was the product introduced?	1973	2001
		
3) Is this HPD sized/custom or one-size-fits-all?	Both	Custom Full Shell
4) If this HPD is reusable, please indicate its material.	<input type="checkbox"/> Nylon <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Silicone <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Nylon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Silicone <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input type="checkbox"/> Other
5) What are this HPD's intended uses?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shooting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input type="checkbox"/> Other
6) If there is an electronic component to the HPD, does it offer adaptive attenuation?	Not Applicable	Yes
7) What is the estimated effective life of this HPD?	2-3 years	5 years
8) Is the HPD provided with a selection of acoustic filters? If so, how many?	One	None
9) Of the following choices, please indicate this HPD's type:	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Roll Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Roll-Down Foam <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple-Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Banded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detectable <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Roll Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Roll-Down Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple-Use <input type="checkbox"/> Banded <input type="checkbox"/> Detectable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
10) What is the Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) for this product?	30	25
11) What is the Single Number Rating (SNR) for this product, if applicable?	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
12) How many shapes are available with this HPD?	One	Custom - Not Applicable
13) This HPD is available in the following format:	<input type="checkbox"/> Corded <input type="checkbox"/> Uncorded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Corded <input type="checkbox"/> Uncorded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both
14) Does this HPD come with a guarantee and/or warranty? If so, how long?	30 days	1 year
15) What differentiates this HPD from others in its class?	Hydrophobic	

Company Name:
Address:

	Etymotic Research Inc 61 Martin Lane Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 (847) 228-0006 ■ (888) 389-6684 www.etymotic.com 	Hocks Corporation 3930 SW Kelly Ave Portland, OR 97239 (503) 274-9482 ■ (800) 654-6257 www.hocksproducts.com ■ www.noisebrakers.com 	Howard Leight/Sperian Hearing Protection, LLC 7828 Waterville Rd, San Diego, CA 92154 (800) 430-5490 ■ (401) 232-3110 www.howardleight.com ■ www.hearforever.org 
1) What is this hearing protection device's (HPD) name?	Musicians Earplugs 	Hocks Noise Braker (Custom) 	Clarity multiple-use earplug 
2) What year was the product introduced?	1988	1974	2007
3) Is this HPD sized/custom or one-size-fits-all?	Custom	Custom made	Available in Regular + Small sizes
4) If this HPD is reusable, please indicate its material.	<input type="checkbox"/> Nylon <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Silicone <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Nylon <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Silicone <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Nylon <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Silicone <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
5) What are this HPD's intended uses?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shooting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input type="checkbox"/> Other
6) If there is an electronic component to the HPD, does it offer adaptive attenuation?	Not Applicable	No	No
7) What is the estimated effective life of this HPD?	5 years	5 years	2-4 weeks with proper care/maintenance
8) Is the HPD provided with a selection of acoustic filters? If so, how many?	3	No	Patented Sound Management Technology delivers uniform attenuation.
9) Of the following choices, please indicate this HPD's type:	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Roll Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Roll-Down Foam <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple-Use <input type="checkbox"/> Banded <input type="checkbox"/> Detectable <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Roll Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Roll-Down Foam <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple-Use <input type="checkbox"/> Banded <input type="checkbox"/> Detectable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Roll Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Roll-Down Foam <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple-Use <input type="checkbox"/> Banded <input type="checkbox"/> Detectable <input type="checkbox"/> Other
10) What is the Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) for this product?	12 - 20	19	20
11) What is the Single Number Rating (SNR) for this product, if applicable?	Not Applicable	24	22
12) How many shapes are available with this HPD?	Custom	1	1
13) This HPD is available in the following format:	<input type="checkbox"/> Corded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncorded <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Corded <input type="checkbox"/> Uncorded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corded <input type="checkbox"/> Uncorded <input type="checkbox"/> Both
14) Does this HPD come with a guarantee and/or warranty? If so, how long?	Lab remake policy	30 day	No
15) What differentiates this HPD from others in its class?	Musicians Earplugs attenuators were invented by Etymotic Research. In combination with custom ear-molds, the earplugs replicate the response of the open ear to provide 9, 15 or 25 dB uniform sound reduction.	Filter based on a physics axiom that energy cannot be created or destroyed, but rather converted. The filter converts sonic energy into thermal energy, but the rise in temperature is so minute you will never notice it.	Improves worker safety and communication by blocking hazardous noise while voice and signal frequencies can be heard more naturally.

Company Name: Address:	McKeon Products Inc 25460 Guenther Warren, MI 48091 (586) 427-7560 www.MacksEarplugs.com 	Perfect Seal Laboratories Inc 1902 N Waco Wichita, KS 67203 (316) 262-9810 www.perfect-seal.com 	Phonak Communications AG Laenggasse 17, CH-3280, Murten, Switzerland +41266729650 (Switzerland) (630) 854-2190 (USA) www.phonak-communications.com 
1) What is this hearing protection device's (HPD) name?	Mack's Safe Sound Soft Foam Earplugs 	SilencEAR 	Serenity SP 
2) What year was the product introduced?	October 2004	2001	2006
3) Is this HPD sized/custom or one-size-fits-all?	One-size-fits-most	Custom (One size fits all available soon)	Custom
4) If this HPD is reusable, please indicate its material.	<input type="checkbox"/> Nylon <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Silicone <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Nylon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Silicone <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nylon <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Silicone <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl <input type="checkbox"/> Other
5) What are this HPD's intended uses?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shooting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
6) If there is an electronic component to the HPD, does it offer adaptive attenuation?	Not Applicable	Yes	No
7) What is the estimated effective life of this HPD?	Discard after several uses or as soon as dirt or wax accumulates on earplugs.	2 years	3-5 years
8) Is the HPD provided with a selection of acoustic filters? If so, how many?	Not Applicable	No	3
9) Of the following choices, please indicate this HPD's type:	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Roll Foam <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roll-Down Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple-Use <input type="checkbox"/> Banded <input type="checkbox"/> Detectable <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Roll Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Roll-Down Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple-Use <input type="checkbox"/> Banded <input type="checkbox"/> Detectable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Roll Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Roll-Down Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple-Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Banded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detectable <input type="checkbox"/> Other
10) What is the Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) for this product?	32	25	28
11) What is the Single Number Rating (SNR) for this product, if applicable?	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	24
12) How many shapes are available with this HPD?	1	1	Custom
13) This HPD is available in the following format:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corded <input type="checkbox"/> Uncorded <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Corded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncorded <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncorded <input type="checkbox"/> Both
14) Does this HPD come with a guarantee and/or warranty? If so, how long?	No	2 years (on electronics)	2 year warranty
15) What differentiates this HPD from others in its class?	With an NRR of 32 decibels, this HPD can be used in environments where noise is just a nuisance up to environments with hazardous noise levels.	There are several models to choose from, all allow for communication while protecting hearing. Nice snug fit, built with the PSL PerfectFIT process.	Wearing comfort, reliable attenuation, individual fit verification.