

Can You Hear Me Now?

[PRINT](#)

November 07, 2007

By Matt Brunk

We all know the commercial of the geeky Verizon guy walking around to test connectivity of the wireless network. What many people don't know is the background of the not-so-geeky guy Alexander G. Bell. While most do know he's the first one to win the patent for the telephone, Bell was also known as "**the Father of the Deaf.**"



Since the telephone, we have found more ways to listen to music and media, gaming and of course use the telephone on the go. Most of these devices including the various players utilize headsets or ear buds. Just about every known device that has anything to do with audio including telephones- has an audio adjustment for volume. This is where human choice comes into play- "giving the user control."

We've heard during the past couple of years about hearing loss associated with personal devices including the iPods. Bluetooth has enabled more headset users which is encouraging to know that maybe more people drive with a headset while talking on a cell phone instead of fumbling around or trying to look elegant while moving a one or two ton projectile down a highway. The love that folks have with their gizmos including children, remain largely unaware that high audio levels for prolonged periods can cause permanent ear damage and progressive hearing loss. As I too tend to tune out the other world around me, I have learned to tune in to what my daughter is doing and when I can hear her iPod music- then you too need to know it's too loud. **My Hearing Health** recommends that the audio level for this particular device is 50% of the maximum audio output. Simply place the dial in the middle- no more and prolonged use is safer.

It wasn't until the 1988 **Hearing Aid Compliance** law which required all telephone handsets to be hearing aid compatible after August, 1989. The new breed of telephony devices has an inerrant responsibility to manufacture the best class of products that ensure safety to all users and this includes adding mechanisms to promote safe audio. Legislators as well intended as they may be, shouldn't be spending the time writing laws to make this so. Read the **background data** on the ADA Act. There are also telltale signs of hearing loss and one of the most common (arguably) is when your spouse tells you. It wasn't until doing this research that I learned about the technology tool, that according to **Hearing Loss Web**- those faced with significant hearing loss need repetition to grasp the meaning. For these folks, a Chat session is ideal since they will have the specifics in writing. For this example, technology gets the highest reward.

Please review **the hearing study** and keep the audio within bounds. Lead by example, then tell your kids and keep telling them. Take away their gizmos or batteries when they fail to comply. Hearing is a sense that we must never take for granted. Mr. Bells invention and life long work of esteemed contributions shouldn't be undermined because of technology and technology shouldn't become the culprit for hearing loss.

Comment on this Article

[Click here to comment... \(Show/Hide Form\)](#)

Other Visitors Comments

There are no comments currently....

[Close Window](#)