



Exploring Innovations in  
Tinnitus Management  
and Relief

For technical questions or log-in information please contact  
Steven Le at 0437 622 596 [Steven\\_Le@Starkey.com](mailto:Steven_Le@Starkey.com)  
Access Code: 2861 729 0562 if needed




1



Exploring Innovations in  
Tinnitus Management  
and Relief

The Webinar will start in....  
**00:05:00**



2

Exploring Innovations in  
Tinnitus Management  
and Relief


**Judy Grobstein**  
Regional Director of Education and Audiology - APAC

**Steven Le**  
Consumer Support Specialist and Trainer- ANZ




3

## Technical Issues




If not using speakers and you haven't already, please  
call into the call center number and enter access  
code 2861 729 0562  
(Australia +61 2 85181923, NZ +64 9 9291750, Singapore +65 31581414)

**Please be sure to keep microphones muted**


If you have any technical issues, please contact  
Steven Le at [Steven\\_Le@starkey.com](mailto:Steven_Le@starkey.com) or call him  
direct at 0437 622 596

4

## Questions




Please share any questions you may  
have in the Chat Box directed to *All  
Panelists*. We will do our best to  
answer them throughout the training.



WebEx Control Panel

5

## Endorsed Session



This launch webinar is endorsed for Audiology  
Australia and ACAud inc. HAASA points

You must stay logged on for the full session

AudA members must complete a 10 questions  
quiz with a passing score of 70% as well as your  
CPD Reflections and Evaluations

ACAud inc. HAASA members must complete the  
quiz to receive full points.

6

## Learner Outcomes


- 1**  
Identify the causes, triggers and symptoms of tinnitus
- 2**  
Discuss the sound therapy stimulus options available from Starkey
- 3**  
Describe how to adjust tinnitus controls in the Pro Fit software

7


## tin·ni·tus

["TIN-it-us", "tin-NITE-us"]

a symptom characterized by the perception of sound in the absence of an external stimulus



9



## Tinnitus

Nearly 15% of Adults (1 in 7) worldwide experience tinnitus

More than 740 million adults worldwide have at least one symptom of tinnitus

**120 million** adults are severely affected by the tinnitus they experience

American Tinnitus Association

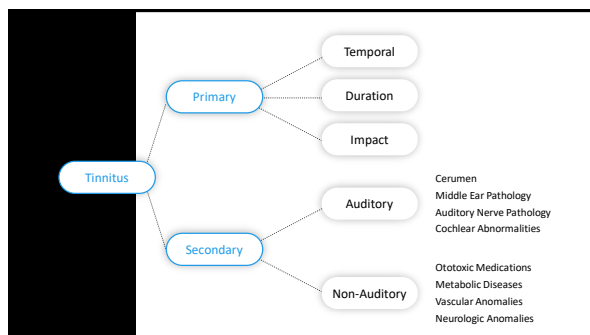
10

## Classifying Tinnitus

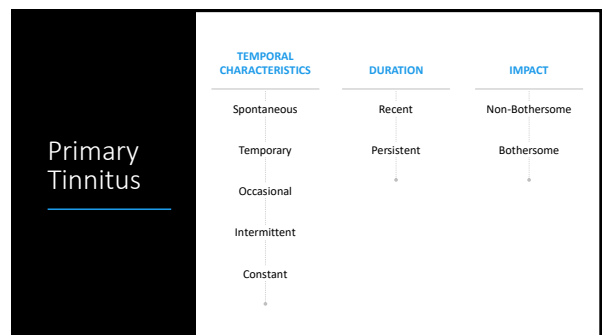
Traditionally classified by whether it could be heard by the clinician

Objective	Subjective
<p>Audible to another person</p> <p>Internal acoustic source <i>Ex. muscle spasms or vascular tumor</i></p> <p>Detected via human ear, stethoscope, or microphone</p> <p>Represents less than <b>1%</b> of cases</p>	<p>Only heard by the patient</p> <p>May be idiopathic or caused by various disorders involving the head/neck or other systems</p> <p><b>99%</b> of all cases</p>

11



12



13

## Phantom Auditory Perceptions



**Auditory Hallucinations**



**Musical Ear Syndrome**



**Auditory Imagination**



**Tinnitus**

14

## Tinnitus Evaluation



Hear better. Live better.



15

## Evaluation



**Self-Assessment**



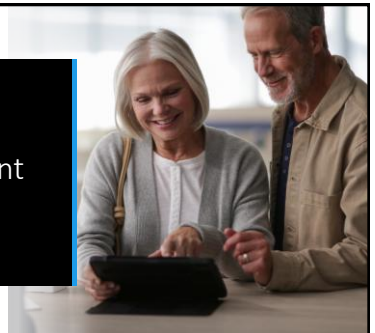
**Case History**



**Audiological Assessment**

16

## Self-Assessment



17

## Tinnitus Handicap Inventory (THI)

25-item questionnaire that is used to identify, quantify and evaluate the severity of difficulties that a patient may be experiencing because of their tinnitus

Probes the functional, emotional and catastrophic response reactions to tinnitus

Courtesy of the American Tinnitus Association

18

## Tinnitus Functional Index (TFI)

25-item questionnaire assesses the severity of your tinnitus over the previous week. The questions are grouped into 8 subscales or "factors"

Intrusiveness

Sense of Control

Cognition

Sleep

Auditory

Relaxation

Quality of Life

Emotional Distress

19

## Tinnitus Functional Index (TFI)

Useful in  
both clinical  
and research  
settings

The image shows a portion of the Tinnitus Functional Index (TFI) questionnaire. It includes instructions for patients to rate how much they agree with various statements about their tinnitus. The statements cover aspects like the impact of tinnitus on daily life, social activities, and overall well-being. The form is organized into sections with checkboxes for 'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Disagree', and 'Strongly disagree'.

Oregon Health & Science  
University (2008, 2012)

20

## Tinnitus and Hearing Survey (THS)

Developed as a tool to rapidly  
differentiate hearing problems  
from tinnitus problems  
Used in clinical trials  
and clinically

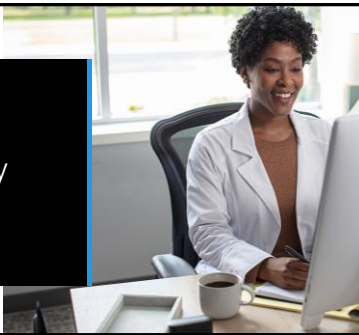
Also has two items that screen  
for sound intolerance problems

American Journal of Audiology (2015)

The image shows a portion of the Tinnitus and Hearing Survey (THS) questionnaire. It includes instructions for patients to rate how much they agree with various statements about their tinnitus and hearing. The form is organized into sections with checkboxes for 'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Disagree', and 'Strongly disagree'. The statements cover aspects like the impact of tinnitus on daily life, social activities, and overall well-being.

21

## Case History



22

## Risk Factor for Tinnitus

Thyroid issues	Ear infection	Acoustic Neuroma
Head or neck trauma	Cardiovascular disease	
Otosclerosis	Meniere's disease	Noise exposure
Sudden hearing loss	Drugs and medications	

23

## Possible Risk Factor for Tinnitus

Alcohol usage		Geographic region	
Anxiety	Depression	Obesity	
Lyme disease		Health status	
Genetics	Low weight	Smoking	

24

## At Risk Populations for Tinnitus

Veterans and  
Military Personnel

Over 2 million veterans receive  
compensation for tinnitus



Men

Senior  
Citizens

Caucasians

25

## Other At Risk Populations

### Workers in loud environments

Autoworkers  
Firefighters/Police/EMT  
Manufacturing jobs

### Those who have had a traumatic brain injury

May be caused by the injury  
May be caused by medications used to treat injuries



26

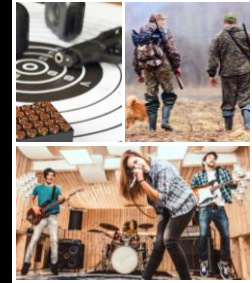
## Recreational Noise Exposure

Musicians and Music Lovers

Motorsports and Hunting Enthusiasts

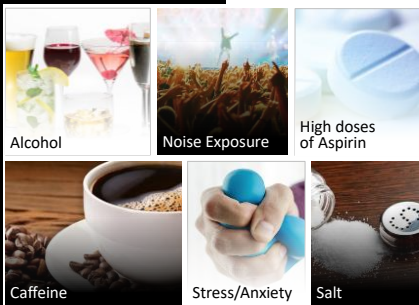
Gamers

iPod/Personal Listening Device Use



27

## Aggravators of Tinnitus



28

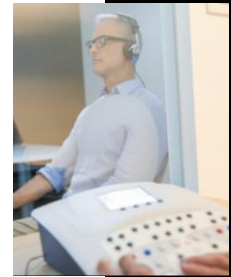
## Tinnitus and Hearing Loss

Any degree of hearing loss

Any type of hearing loss

Any cause or type of onset

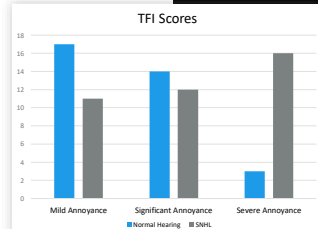
Changes in hearing loss and changes in tinnitus tend to occur independently of one another



29

## Tinnitus and Hearing Loss

No correlation between tinnitus severity and hearing threshold, though those with hearing loss are found to have a higher tinnitus severity.

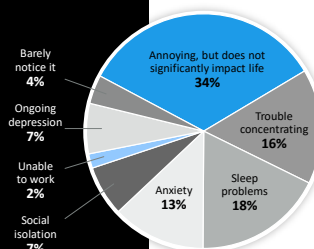


Mahafza N, Zhao F, El Refaie A, Chen F. A comparison of the severity of tinnitus in patients with and without hearing loss using the tinnitus functional index (TFI). *Int J Audiol*. 2021 Mar;60(3):220-226. doi: 10.1080/14992027.2020.1804081. Epub 2020 Aug 13. PMID: 32787604.

30

## Quality of life impacts

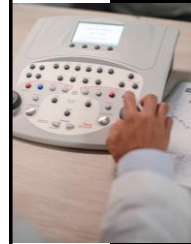
Thoughts and Emotions  
Sleep  
Concentration  
Socialization  
Physical Health  
Economic Well-being



31

## Audiological Assessment

32



Comprehensive Audiometry  
 Tympanometry  
 DPOAEs  
 Uncomfortable Loudness Level (UCL)  
 Acoustic Reflex Thresholds  
 Tinnitus Sound Matching  
 Minimum Masking Level

33

## Treatment Options



Provider Driven



Patient Driven

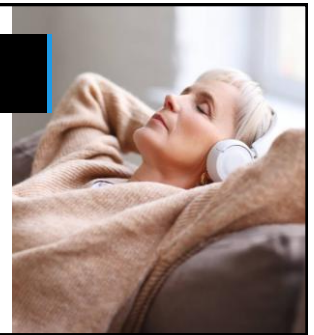


Referral

34

## Sound Therapy

Tinnitus sound therapy uses a process known as **habituation** to retrain the way the brain interprets tinnitus.



35

## Sound Therapy Options

MASKING

DISTRACTION

HABITUATION

NEUROMODULATION

36

Sound Masking Devices


Bimodal Stimulation

Hearing Aids

Sound and Sleep Apps

## Sound Therapy Devices

37




## Sound Masking Devices

Sound machines offer a choice of different types of sounds in addition to white noise and can also include features like built-in clocks, alarms, night lights, app integrations and more


38

## Bimodal Stimulation

Bimodal stimulation is a specific approach within the broader field of neuromodulation, focusing on the simultaneous use of two sensory modalities to modulate neural activity



**Tactile Stimulation**  
Relies on vibration to generate sensations on the skin




**Electrical Stimulation**  
Uses electrical currents to stimulate nerves or muscles under the skin

39

## Masks in Hearing Aids

Acoustic Therapy is using sound stimulation either from amplification of external sounds or the generation of additional sounds.

Tinnitus maskers are additional sounds generated that are typically set at a level below a patient's tinnitus to potentially cover it up.



40

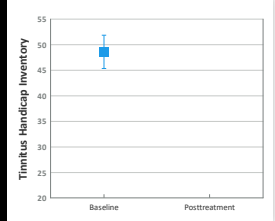
## Masks in Hearing Aids

**RESEARCH DATA**

In this study, participants were provided multiple masker options to use at their discretion in order to achieve tinnitus relief. Study was comprised of 26 individuals with hearing loss.

Participants completed an 8-week field trial wearing hearing aids providing acoustic therapy via three tinnitus masker options set just below minimum masking level.

Tinnitus Handicap Inventory was used before starting acoustic therapy and posttreatment to measure the patients' tinnitus handicap.



Source: *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, Vol. 64, 1415, Figure 2, April 2021.

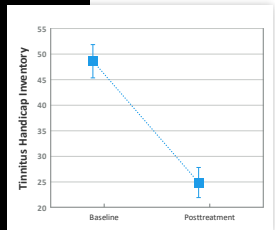
41

## Masks in Hearing Aids

**DATALOGGING RESULTS**

Average hearing aid use was 9.4 hr (SD = 4.2 hr) during the field trial, and Average of 34.4% of that time was spent utilizing a tinnitus masker

- 13.8%** with white noise;
- 10.5%** with audiogram-shaped noise;
- 10.0%** with custom noise



Source: *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, Vol. 64, 1415, Figure 2, April 2021.

42

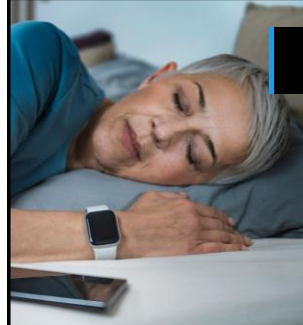
## Sound/Sleep Apps

**RESEARCH DATA:**

**22 participants** with subjective tinnitus  
Used application for **6 months**

A significant reduction in subjective tinnitus loudness and annoyance and subjective stress level were observed. The THI scores were significantly decreased after 6 months.

Findings demonstrate the potential benefit of the tinnitus application for tinnitus improvement



Seol, H. Y., Jo, M., & Moon, I. J. (2023). *Healthcare*, 11(17)

43

## Tinnitus Protocols


**Tinnitus Retraining Therapy**  
*Dr. Powell Jastreboff*

---

**Progressive Tinnitus Management**  
*National Center for Rehabilitative  
Auditory Research*


---


**Tinnitus Activities Treatment**  
*Dr. Richard Tyler at the University of Iowa*




44

## Treatment Options

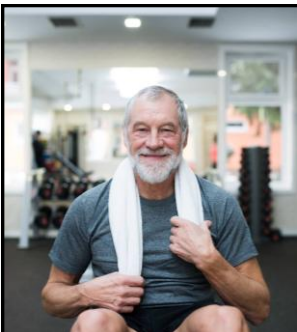
  
**Provider Driven**

  
**Patient Driven**

  
**Referral**

45

## Lifestyle Management



**Quit Smoking**

---

**Diet Change**

---

**Getting a better night's rest**

---

**Relaxation/Meditation**

---


**Exercise**


---


**Support Groups**

46

## Treatment Options

  
**Provider Driven**


  
**Patient Driven**

  
**Referral**

47

## Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Modify thoughts and beliefs to decrease negative behaviors



**Cognitive Skills**  
Reduce negative thinking, develop a habituation perspective on tinnitus, and become an effective self-coach to guide yourself through the process

**Mindfulness Skills**  
Calm down, promote tinnitus acceptance, and regain control of attention

**Self-Guided Sound Enrichment**  
Soften your perception of tinnitus

**Behavioral Skills**  
Take the courageous action needed to fully rejoin your life

48

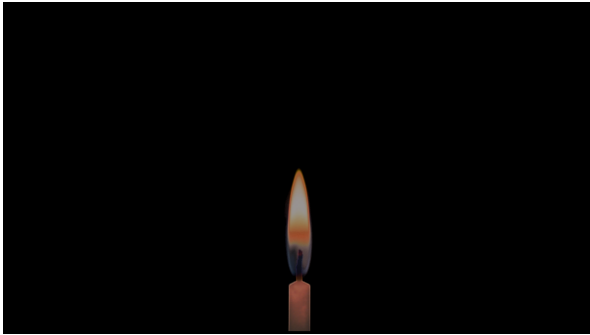
## Multiflex Tinnitus Pro

**Judy Grobstein**  
Regional Director of Education and Audiology- APAC




49





50

## Multiflex Tinnitus Pro

Next generation feature for sound therapy tinnitus management

**EDGE<sup>AI</sup>**

*Signature*  
SERIES

AVAILABLE ON ALL STYLES

51

### Multiflex Tinnitus Pro

Accessed from the Fly Out Menu within Pro Fit

Use the dropdown menu to select the stimulus type

All options offer a 10,000 Hz bandwidth with 16 bands of adjustability

52

### Tilt Control

Changes the shape and loudness of the masker

Adjusts gain as a function of frequency

53

### Tilt Control

Low Frequency Emphasis

Click to decrease high frequency output while increasing low frequency output.

Start

High Frequency Emphasis

Click to increase high frequency output while decreasing low frequency output.

Start

54

### Tilt Control

Low Frequency Emphasis

Click to decrease high frequency output while increasing low frequency output.

5 clicks

High Frequency Emphasis

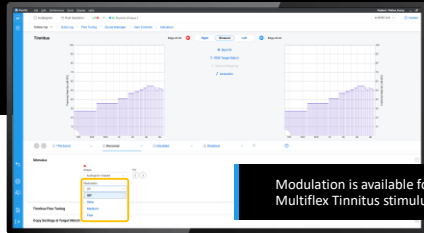
Click to increase high frequency output while decreasing low frequency output.

5 clicks

— = Original response

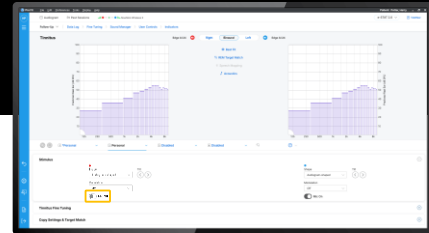
55

## Modulation



Modulation is available for all the Multiflex Tinnitus stimulus options

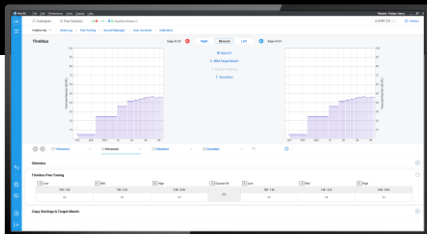
## Mic ON/OFF



56

57

## Tinnitus Stimulus Fine Tuning



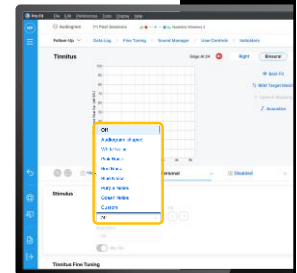
58

## Tinnitus Stimuli

### Eight Stimulus Options

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Audiogram-Shaped Noise | Blue Noise    |
| White Noise            | Purple Noise  |
| Pink Noise             | Ocean Noise   |
| Red Noise              | Custom Noise* |

\* 24 & 20 tech stars



59

## Starkey ProFit

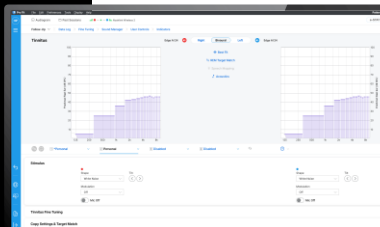
### White Noise Tinnitus

Signal level based on the PTA and comprised of equal energy distribution across the frequencies.

Flat response may result in some segments of the stimulus being too loud or too soft

Vent interactions are accounted for

Stimulus is adjustable



60

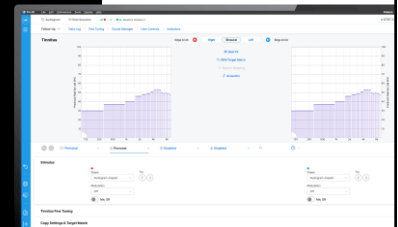
## Starkey ProFit

### Audiogram Shaped Tinnitus

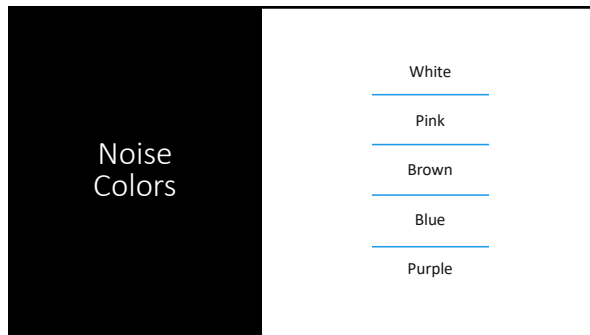
Automatic shaping of the stimulus based on the hearing loss provides a more tailored masking stimulus

Vent interactions are accounted for

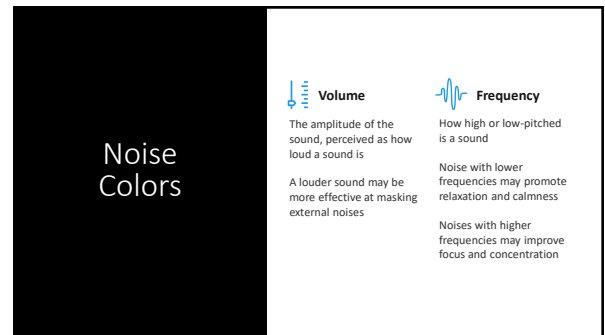
Stimulus is adjustable



61



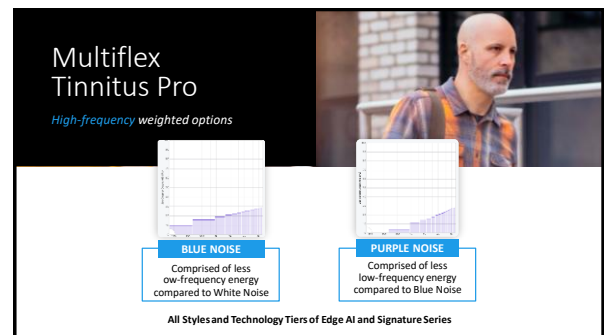
62



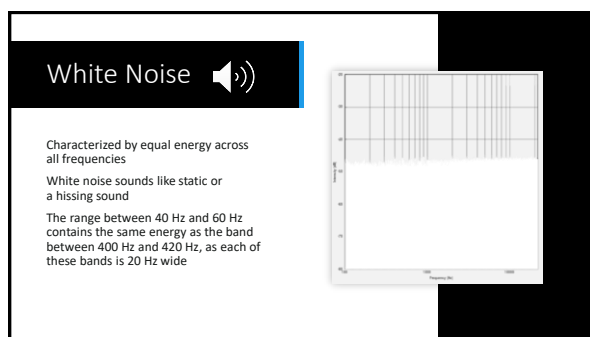
63



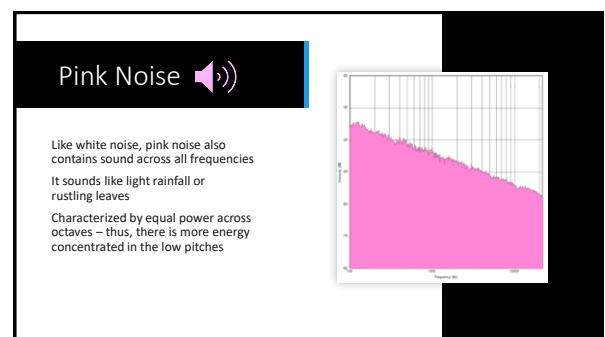
64



65



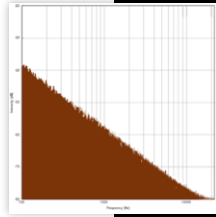
67



68

## Brown Noise

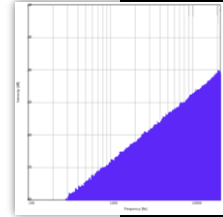
Brownian, or brown, noise is sometimes called red noise  
The energy of brown noise decreases by about 6 dB/octave  
Sounds like steady rain, thunder, or a waterfall



69

## Blue and Purple Noise

Blue noise has sound concentrated in higher frequency bands  
Intensity increases by about 3 dB/octave  
Violet, or purple, noise has even more sound concentrated in high frequency bands  
Intensity increases by about 6 dB/octave



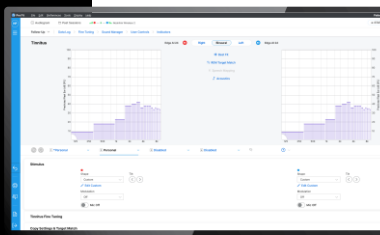
70

## Starkey Pro Fit Custom Tinnitus

Custom shaping of the stimulus provides a personalized stimulus for a greater degree of masking precision

Vent interactions are accounted for

Stimulus is adjustable



71

## Efficient and Effective Masking

Stimulus Personalization Testing in Inspire typically only takes a few minutes and is less time consuming than tinnitus measurements like pitch-matching

MDL and MML measurements can be used to rapidly design a stimulus that is both efficient and effective at masking tinnitus

To efficiently mask tinnitus, only those frequency bands that are effective at masking tinnitus should be included in the stimulus, and the level of the stimulus in these bands should be no greater than needed to achieve masking

Fournier et al., 2018

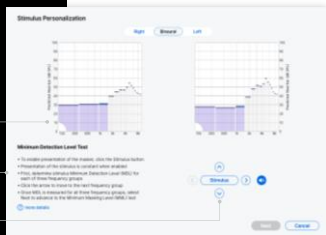
72

## Multiflex Tinnitus Pro Tool Display

Active frequency region

Instructions

Stimulus Controls



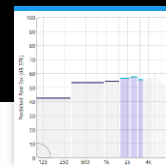
73

## Frequency Groups

Frequency groupings are consistent with the low, mid and high band groupings in Pro Fit



Low  
150 Hz to 1.3 kHz



Mid  
1.9 kHz to 3.1 kHz

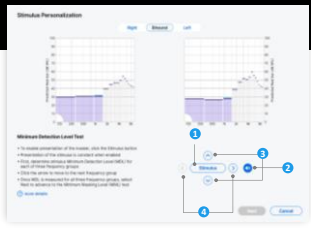


High  
3.8 kHz to 9.4 kHz

74

## Minimum Detection Level (MDL) Test

**GOAL** To identify the softest detectable level of the Multiflex Tinnitus stimulus

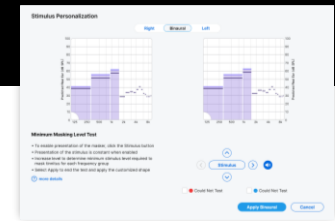


- 1 Click on the 'Stimulus' button to turn it ON
- 2 Hearing aid microphones will mute automatically when the stimulus is ON
- 3 Use the up and down arrows to increase or decrease the level of the stimulus in the frequency group displayed to **identify when the stimulus is just detectable**
- 4 Use the right and left arrows to make measurements in the other frequency groups

75

## Minimum Masking Level (MML) Test

**GOAL** To identify the softest level of the Multiflex Tinnitus stimulus required to just notice or mask the tinnitus depending on the management approach of choice



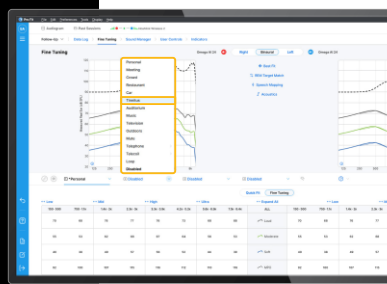
Display and controls are the same for this test

Increase the stimulus level to determine **the softest stimulus level required to just detect or mask the tinnitus** for each of the three frequency groups

76

## ALL NEW Tinnitus Program

Tinnitus may be enabled from the Program dropdown



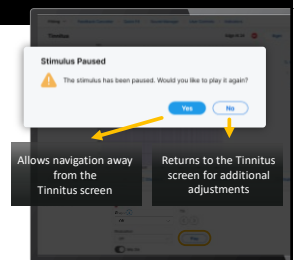
77

## ALL NEW Tinnitus Play/Pause

**Tinnitus Play/Pause** allows professionals to consider the stimulus shape and settings prior to playing the stimulus

Defaults 'Paused'

The tinnitus stimuli must be playing to navigate away from the Tinnitus screen



78

## Tinnitus Stimulus

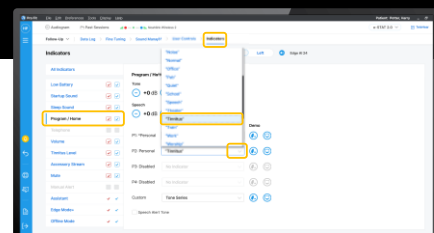
### User Controls

### Output Range and Step Size



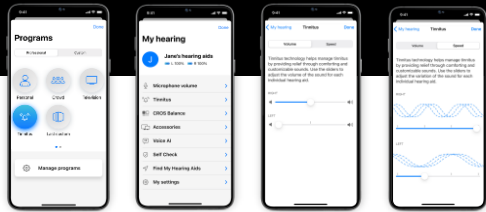
79

## Changing Indicators for Tinnitus Program



80

## My Starkey Controls



81

## Tech Tier and Style Differences

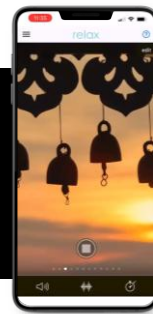
	Edge AI & Signature Series	Genesis AI
White Noise	All styles and tiers	All styles and tiers
Audiogram-shaped	All styles and tiers	All styles; 24, 20, & 16
Custom Masking	All styles; 24 & 20	All styles; 24 & 20
Color Masking	All styles and tiers	N/A
Ocean	All styles and tiers	N/A

82



Relief sounds and education for patients who have tinnitus

83



## Starkey Relax App

Tinnitus Education  
12 Stimuli Options  
Set Modulation, Volume, and Timer

84



"The quickest way to ruin a customer experience in healthcare is to treat everyone the same"

Patients don't want to feel like just another number

They crave **personalized service** that helps them find the **right solutions**"

Hyken, S.  
Personalized Customer Experience Increases Revenue And Loyalty

85

## Tinnitus Resources

American Tinnitus Association  
[www.ata.org](http://www.ata.org)

Tinnitus Research Initiative  
[www.tinnitusresearch.net](http://www.tinnitusresearch.net)

National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR)  
[www.ncrar.research.va.gov/Education/Documents/TinnitusDocuments](http://www.ncrar.research.va.gov/Education/Documents/TinnitusDocuments)

American Academy of Audiology  
[www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)

Tinnitus Retraining Therapy  
[www.tinnitus-pjj.com](http://www.tinnitus-pjj.com)

University of Iowa Tinnitus & Hyperacusis Research  
[www.medicine.uiowa.edu/oto/research/tinnitus-and-hyperacusis](http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/oto/research/tinnitus-and-hyperacusis)

86

## Resources

[StarkeyPro.com](http://StarkeyPro.com)

**Multiflex Tinnitus Pro QuickTIP**

**Multiflex Tinnitus Technology Handbook**

**Tinnitus Handicap Inventory Questionnaire**

**Tinnitus Consumer In Office Poster**

**Patient Education Brochure: Tinnitus**

**Tinnitus Technology Options Brochure**

87

## Starkey Resources

[StarkeyPro.com](http://StarkeyPro.com)

88

## Your Starkey Australia Sales Team

**We're Here to Support You**

1800 024 985  
02 9550 2077  
[www.starkey.com.au](http://www.starkey.com.au)

**Vincent Santana**  
Senior Product Specialist and Sales Support  
[Vincent\\_Santana@starkey.com.au](mailto:Vincent_Santana@starkey.com.au)

**Philip Nelson**  
Senior Product Specialist and Sales Support  
[Philip\\_nelson@starkey.com.au](mailto:Philip_nelson@starkey.com.au)

**Connie Lu**  
Product Specialist and Sales Support  
[Connie\\_lu@starkey.com.au](mailto:Connie_lu@starkey.com.au)

**James Sammes**  
Product Specialist Inside Sales ANZ  
[James\\_sammes@starkey.com.au](mailto:James_sammes@starkey.com.au)

89

## Your New Zealand Team

**We're Here to Support You**

1800 024 985  
02 9550 2077  
[www.starkey.com.au](http://www.starkey.com.au)

**Monja Mong**  
Product Specialist and Sales Support  
[Monja\\_mong@starkey.co.nz](mailto:Monja_mong@starkey.co.nz)

**Kevin Sun**  
Customer Service Audiologist  
[Kevin\\_sun@starkey.co.nz](mailto:Kevin_sun@starkey.co.nz)

90

## Your Singapore/Export Team

**We're Here to Support You**

+65 6978 9970  
[www.starkey.com.sg](http://www.starkey.com.sg)

**Terence Koh**  
Managing Director  
[Terence\\_koh@starkey.com](mailto:Terence_koh@starkey.com)

**Catherine Chen**  
Education and Training Audiologist  
[Catherine\\_chen@starkey.com](mailto:Catherine_chen@starkey.com)

**Chan Chiew-Yeong**  
Customer Service and Logistics  
[Chan\\_chiew-yeong@starkey.com](mailto:Chan_chiew-yeong@starkey.com)

**Armi Rahman**  
Lab Technician  
[Armi\\_rahman@starkey.com](mailto:Armi_rahman@starkey.com)

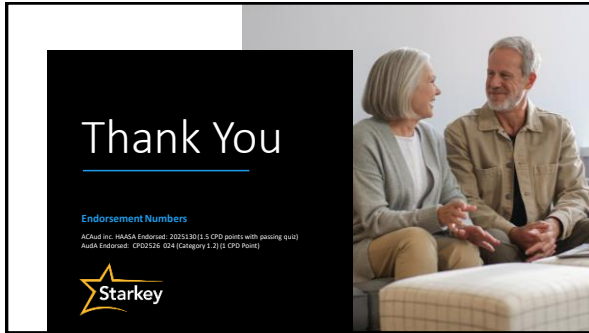
91

## How did we do?

*We'd love your feedback on today's training session*

APAC StarkeyLearn Training Survey

92



93