

Phonak Tinnitus Balance



The Tinnitus Balance noise generator is available in all Phonak hearing aids, except Phonak Sky™ pediatric products. Phonak does not have any recommended clinical fitting guidelines for fitting Tinnitus Balance to children under the age of 18 years.

The noise produced provides a means of sound enrichment that can be used as part of a tinnitus management program, either in the context of masking or sound therapy.

The spectral characteristics of the noise generator can be adjusted to meet each client's specific needs. The default characteristics are calculated based on the client's audiogram; alternatively, white or pink noise can be selected. The noise generator can be incorporated into the automatic program or an additional manual program.

Located in Global Tuning

The noise generator can be enabled in [Fitting] > [Global tuning] > [Tinnitus Balance]. When enabled, the shape of the generated noise is shown in green. The curve display must be set to [Output].

Below the curve displays you can increase or decrease the noise level and also change the shape to more low- or high- frequency emphasis. The values of the maximum noise level are also shown for each hearing aid.

In the upper left hand corner of each display, an indicator shows the free field equivalent dB(A) level, which is enlarged when you hover over it with the mouse.

Within the dropdown menu of [Tinnitus Balance shape], the default, [Set to hearing loss], can be changed to [Set to white noise] or [Set to pink noise].

Determining the level of the tinnitus noiser

The gain level and shape of the generated noise will be pre-calculated individually for each ear based on the audiogram, and the gain and MPO characteristics of the hearing aid. For a more precise pre-calculation, you can also input the client's most troublesome tinnitus frequency.

Click on [Client] > [Audiogram] > [Most troublesome tinnitus] below the curve displays. Enter the frequency and level of the client's most troublesome perceived tinnitus. The ranges for these values are 125 Hz to 16,000 Hz and 0 dB SL to 45 dB SL.

When available, the Tinnitus Handicap Inventory (THI) questionnaire result can be entered in the [THI] field. This THI value is not used in pre-calculation.

High noise levels

The maximum output level of the Tinnitus Balance noise generator is limited to 85 dB(A). In accordance to common noise exposure guidelines, a warning message will be shown when the noise generator level exceeds 80 dB(A). If this occurs, the recommended maximum wearing time per day will appear below the maximum noise level. Also, the color of the Tinnitus Balance noise generator shape will change from green to orange.