

Impression taking tips



signia

Anatomy of a good impression	2
Suggestions.....	2
Potential issues related to impressions that do not meet standards:	3
Open-mouth versus closed-mouth impressions.....	3

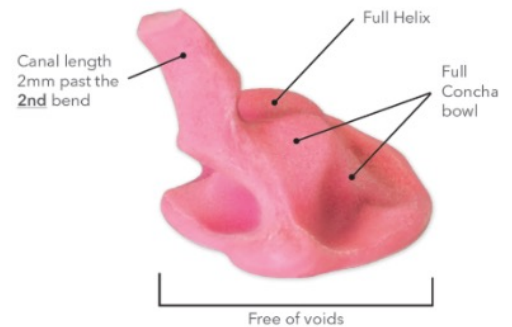


signia

A good quality ear impression can truly make an entire fitting successful. A poor-quality ear impression is destined to make an entire fitting unsuccessful. Impressions are the cornerstone of quality custom product fittings. With these simple tricks you can improve your custom fitting success rate!

Anatomy of a good impression

- The impression should be at least 2 millimeters past the second bend for all products regardless of model ordered. This helps the modeling team locate anatomical landmarks important to modeling
- The impression should be full, and free of holes and voids
- The canal portion of the impression must be wider than the receiver/hearing aid



Suggestions

- Remove all debris from the ear prior to taking the impression
- Fill the Concha bowl
- Fill the helix area
- A full impression of the pinna and canal is recommended regardless of the device size
- Keep the tip of the syringe embedded in the material as you work your way out of the ear canal to the concha to achieve the best impression
- Ensure there are no air bubbles or gaps
- Some ear canals have a sharp bend. If the tip of the sound bore rests at the bend, the sound may be directed toward the canal wall instead of the ear drum



signia

Potential issues related to impressions that do not meet standards:

- Feedback
- Occlusion
- Discomfort
- Soreness
- Less than optimal real-ear results
- Poor feedback measurement results
- Poor fit
- Loss of hearing aid
- Inability to build what is desired

Open-mouth versus closed-mouth impressions

If a patient has ear canal changes with active jaw movement, this can be seen by looking in the patient's ear with an otoscope while they open and close their mouth or mimic chewing

Open-mouth considerations:

- Facilitates a better acoustic seal and overall improved fit
- If the patient experiences feedback with jaw movement
- If the aid feels loose or works out of the ear with jaw movement
- Active jaw movement could cause discomfort or the hearing aid/earmold may work out of the ear with jaw movement
- If the patient has ear changes with active jaw movement, have them open and close their mouth and/or mimic chewing while taking the ear impression

Closed-mouth considerations:

- Suitable for hearing aid fittings where a good fit can be achieved with a relaxed jaw position
- Some patients may have jaw or dental issues which make open-mouth impressions uncomfortable
- Some fittings do not require open mouth as the natural shape of the ear with the mouth closed provides an adequate impression