

Phonak CROS B-R

User Guide



A Sonova brand

PHONAK
life is on

This user guide is valid for:

Wireless CROS device



Phonak CROS B-R

2018

Non wireless charging accessories



Phonak Charger Case RIC


2016

Phonak Power Pack

2016

Phonak Mini Charger RIC

2016

 This user guide only applies to the CROS device.
Please see the hearing aid user guide for instructions
related to the hearing aid.



Your CROS device & charger details

- ① CROS B-R contains a built-in and non-removable rechargeable lithium-ion battery.
- ① Please also read safety information regarding handling rechargeable devices (chapter 16).
- ① Please ensure to charge and use the device within operating temperature range: +5° to +40° Celsius (41° to 104° Fahrenheit)

Earpieces

- ☐ Dome
- ☐ CROSTip

Charging accessories

- ☐ Charger Case RIC incl. power supply
- ☐ Power Pack
- ☐ Mini Charger RIC incl. power supply

Your CROS device and chargers have been developed by Phonak – the world leader in hearing solutions based in Zurich, Switzerland.

These premium products are the result of decades of research and expertise and are designed to keep you connected to the beauty of sound! We thank you for making such a great choice and wish you many years of listening pleasure.

Please read the user guide carefully to make sure that you understand and get the best out of your CROS device. For more information about features and benefits, simply contact your hearing care professional.

Phonak – life is on
www.phonak-us.com

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Your CROS device and charger

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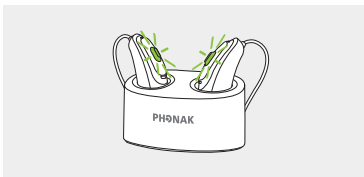
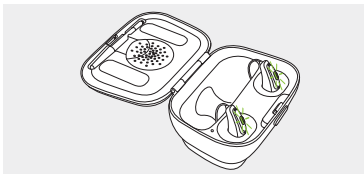
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1. Quick guide

Charging your devices

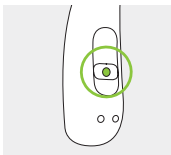
After placing your devices in the charger, the indicator light will slowly blink until the device is fully charged. When fully charged the indicator light will be constantly on, i.e. solid green light.



Left & right CROS device markings

Blue marking for
left CROS device.

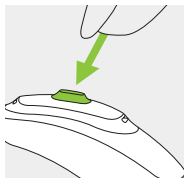
Red marking for
right CROS device.



Push button with indicator light

The push button has two functions:

A short push can have various functions. The function for your CROS device is indicated in your individual instructions.



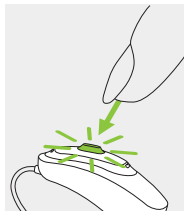
A long push (3 seconds) is used to switch the CROS device on/off.

On/Off

Firmly press the button using the tip of your finger for 3 seconds until the indicator light blinks.

On: One short blink

Off: Two short blinks



- i** Before using CROS B-R for the first time, it is recommended to charge it for 3 hours.

2. Parts of the CROS device & charger

The Phonak CROS device is an application for single-sided deafness, one-sided hearing loss or asymmetrical hearing loss. It is placed on the impaired ear and wirelessly transmits sound to the Phonak hearing aid on the other ear.

Phonak CROS B-R + Phonak Audéo B-R hearing aid =
Phonak CROS system

❗ Phonak CROS B-R only works in connection with a Phonak Audéo B-R hearing aid as the receiver.

❗ Phonak CROS B-R uses the same charging options as Phonak Audéo B-R: The Charger Case RIC and the Mini Charger RIC.

Possible earpieces

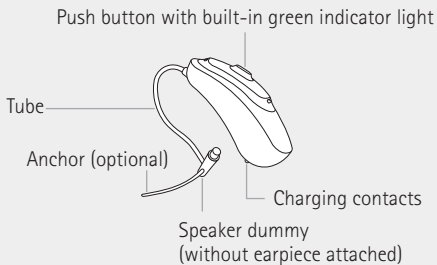


Dome

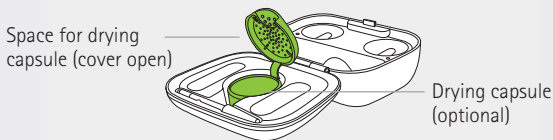
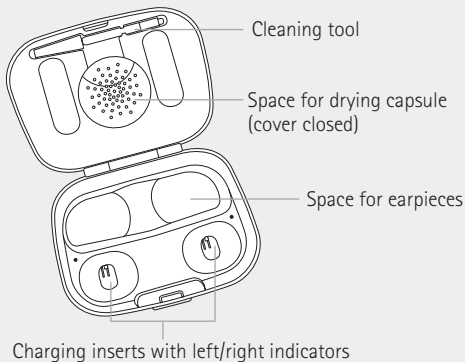


CROS Tip

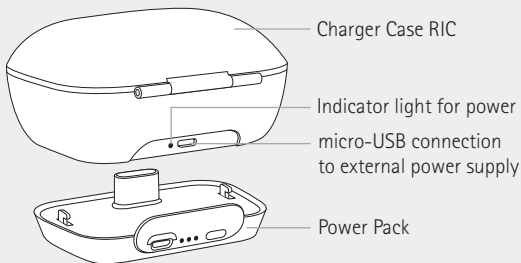
CROS B-R



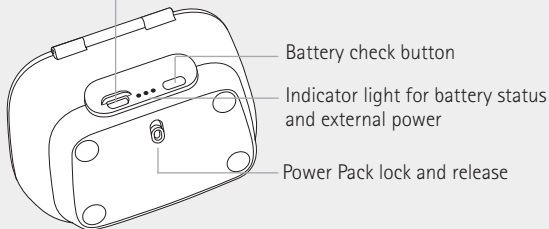
Charger Case RIC



Charger Case RIC with optional Power Pack



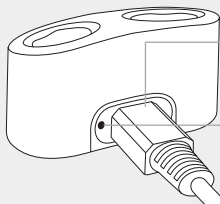
micro-USB connection to external power supply



Mini Charger RIC



Charging inserts with
left/right indicators

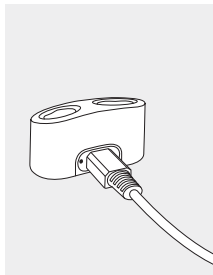
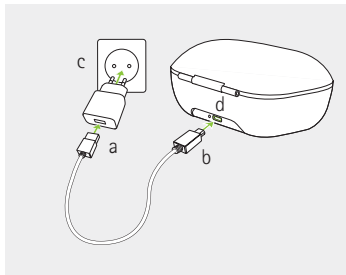


micro-USB connection
to external power supply

Indicator light for power


3. Preparing the charger

Connecting the power supply



- a) Plug the larger end of the charging cable into the power supply.
- b) Plug the smaller end into the micro-USB port on the charger.
- c) Plug the power supply into a power outlet.
- d) The indicator light is green when the charger is connected to the power supply.

4. Charging the CROS device

- ① Low power: You will hear two beeps followed by a melody  when the battery is low. You will have approximately 60 minutes before you have to charge the CROS device (this can vary, depending on the settings, surroundings, etc.).
- ① CROS B-R contains a built-in and non-removable rechargeable lithium-ion battery.
- ① Before using CROS B-R for the first time, it is recommended to charge it for 3 hours.
- ① The CROS device must be dry before charging, see chapter 11.
- ① Please ensure to charge and use the CROS device within operating temperature range: +5° to +40° Celsius (41° to 104° Fahrenheit).

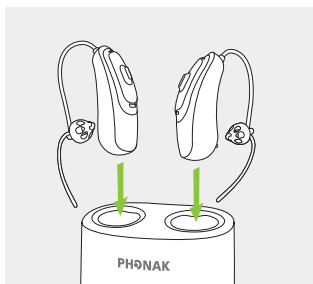
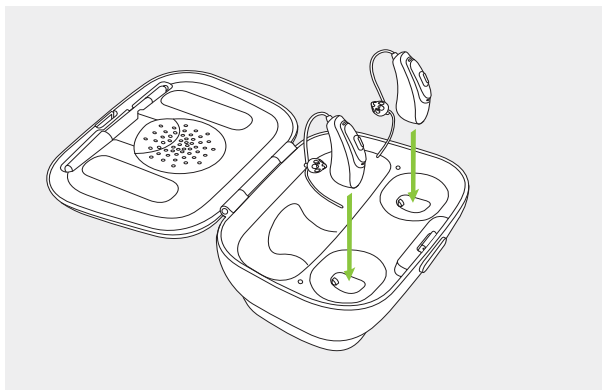
4.1 Using the Charger Case RIC or Mini Charger RIC

Please refer to chapter 3 for how to set up the charger.

1

Insert the devices into the charging inserts.

Make sure the left and right markings match the left (blue)/right (red) indicators next to the charging inserts. The devices will automatically switch off when inserted into the charger.



2

The indicator light will slowly blink until the devices are fully charged. When fully charged the indicator light will remain on, i.e. solid green light.

The charging process will automatically stop when the batteries are fully charged, so the devices can be safely left in the charger. It can take up to 3 hours to charge the devices. The Charger Case RIC cover can be closed while charging.



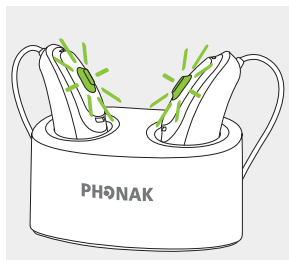
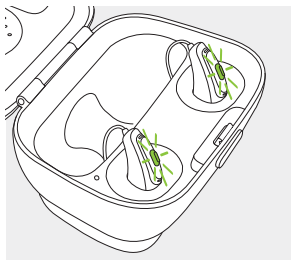
Charging times

100% charge: 3 h

80% charge: 90 min

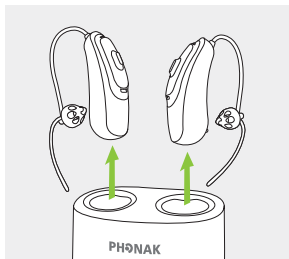
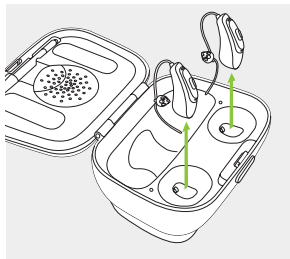
50% charge: 60 min

30% charge: 30 min



3

Remove the devices from the charging inserts and switch them on, refer to chapter 7.



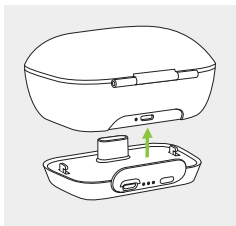
- ❗ Do not hold the tubes for removing the devices from the charger as this can damage the tube.

4.2 Using the optional Power Pack

Note: The Power Pack is only compatible with the Charger Case RIC.

1

Attach the Power Pack to the Charger Case RIC and lock it.

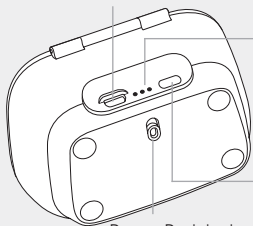


2

Plug in the micro-USB and connect to an external power supply. The Power Pack and devices will be charged at the same time. While connected to an external power supply, the Power Pack indicator light will show the current battery charge status.

- ① Before using Power Pack for the first time, it is recommended to charge it for 3 hours.
- ① The Power Pack contains a built-in and non-removable rechargeable lithium-polymer battery.

micro-USB connection to external power source



Indicator light battery status:

- 0%-29%
- 30%-59%
- 60%-100%

Battery check push button

Power Pack lock and release

3

The fully charged Power Pack offers 7 full charging cycles for a pair of devices. To check the remaining battery capacity of the Power Pack, press the battery check push button (indicator lights will be off otherwise, to preserve battery).

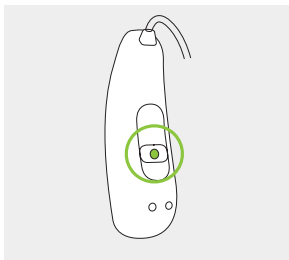
- ❶ Please ensure to charge the Power Pack within operating temperature range: +5° to +40° Celsius (41° to 104° Fahrenheit)

5. Left & right markings

There is a red or blue marking on the back of the CROS device. This will tell you if it is a left or a right CROS device.

Blue marking
for **left CROS device**.

Red marking
for **right CROS device**.

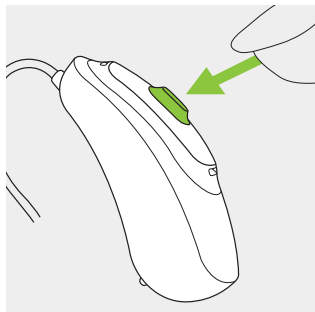


6. Push button

The push button has two functions:

Short push

The push button on your device can have various functions or is not active. This depends on the programming of the CROS device, which is indicated in your individual "Hearing aid instructions". Please ask your hearing care professional for a printout.



Long push (3 seconds)

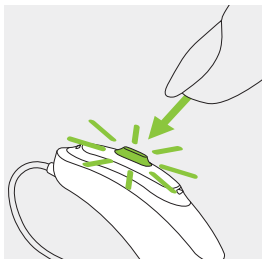
The push button is used to switch the CROS device on and off. Refer to next chapter.

7. On/Off

To switch the CROS device on or off, firmly press the button using the tip of your finger for 3 seconds until the indicator light blinks.

One short blink =
CROS device turns **on**

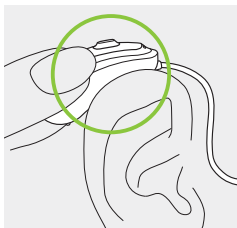
Two short blinks =
CROS device turns **off**



8. Putting on the CROS device

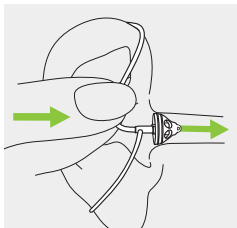
1

Place the CROS device behind your ear.



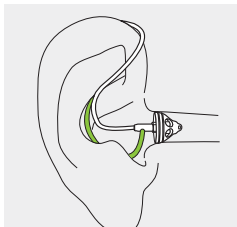
2

Insert the earpiece into your ear canal.



3

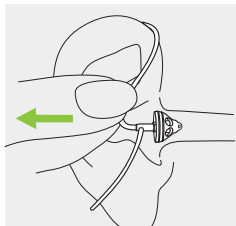
If there is an anchor attached to the earpiece, tuck it into the bowl of your ear to secure your CROS device.



9. Removing the CROS device

1

Pull on the bend of the tube and remove the CROS device from behind the ear.



In very rare cases, the dome can remain in your ear canal when removing the device from the ear. In the unlikely case that the dome does get stuck in your ear canal, it is strongly recommended to see a physician for safe removal.

10. Operating conditions

The product is designed such that it functions without problems or restrictions if used as intended, unless otherwise noted in these user guides.

Please ensure to charge the CROS device and Power Pack within operating temperature range: +5° to +40° Celsius (41° to 104° Fahrenheit) and atmospheric pressure range: 800 hPA to 1500 hPA.

CROS B-R is classified IP68 (depth of 1 meter for 60 minutes) and designed to be used in all daily life situations. Therefore you do not have to worry about getting the CROS device exposed to a rain shower or sweat. However, CROS B-R is not intended to be used in water activities that includes chlorinated water, soap, salt water or other liquids with a chemical content.

Humidity during operation for the Charger Case RIC, Mini Charger RIC and Power Pack: 0% to 85% (non condensing).

11. Care and maintenance

Diligent and routine care of your CROS device and chargers contribute to outstanding performance and a long service life.

Please use the following specifications as a guideline. Further information regarding product safety, see chapter 16.2.

General information

Before using hair spray or applying cosmetics, you should remove your CROS device from your ear, because these products may damage it.

Your CROS device is resistant to water, sweat and dust under the following conditions:

- After exposure to water, sweat or dust, the CROS device is cleaned and dried.
- The CROS device is used and maintained as described in this user guide.



Always make sure that the CROS device and charger are dry and clean before charging.

Daily

CROS device: Inspect the earpiece for earwax and moisture deposits. Clean the surfaces with a lint-free cloth or use the small brush provided in the Charger Case RIC. Never use cleaning agents such as household detergents, soap, etc. for cleaning your CROS device. It is not recommended to rinse with water. If you need to clean your CROS devices intensively, ask your hearing care professional for advice and information on filters or drying capsules.

Chargers: Make sure that charger inserts are clean. Never use cleaning agents such as household detergents, soap, etc. for cleaning your charger.

Weekly

CROS device: Clean the earpiece with a soft, damp cloth or with a special cleaning cloth for hearing aids. For more in-depth maintenance instructions or for more than basic cleaning, please see your hearing care professional. Clean the charging contacts on the CROS device with a soft, damp cloth.

Chargers: Remove dust or dirt from the charger inserts.

12. Service and warranty

Local warranty

Please ask the hearing care professional where you purchased your CROS device and chargers about the terms of the local warranty.

International warranty

Sonova AG offers a one year limited international warranty, valid from the date of purchase. This limited warranty covers manufacturing and material defects in the CROS device and chargers respectively, but not accessories such as tubes, earpieces, external receivers. The warranty only comes into force if a proof of purchase is shown.

The international warranty does not affect any legal rights that you might have under applicable national legislation governing sale of consumer goods.

Warranty limitation

This warranty does not cover damage from improper handling or care, exposure to chemicals or undue stress. Damage caused by third parties or non-authorized service centers renders the warranty null and void. This warranty does not include any services performed by a hearing care professional in their office.

Serial numbers

CROS device (left/right): _____

Charger Case RIC: _____

Power Pack: _____

Mini Charger RIC: _____

Date of purchase: _____

Authorized hearing care
professional (stamp/signature):

13. Compliance information

Europe:

Declaration of Conformity for the CROS device

Hereby Sonova AG declares that this product meets the requirements of the Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EEC as well as the Radio Equipment Directive 2014/53/EU.

The full text of the EU Declaration of Conformity can be obtained from the manufacturer or the local Phonak representative whose address can be taken from the list on www.phonak.com (Phonak worldwide locations).

Australia/New Zealand:



R-NZ

Indicates a device's compliance with applicable Radio Spectrum Management's (RSM) and Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) regulatory arrangements for the legal sale in New Zealand and Australia.

The compliance label R-NZ is for radio products supplied in the New Zealand market under conformity level A1.

The wireless model listed on page 2 is certified under:

Phonak CROS B-R

USA	FCC ID: KWC-RICR
Canada	IC: 2262A-RICR

Notice 1:

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules and with RSS-210 of Industry Canada. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- 1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and
- 2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Notice 2:

Changes or modifications made to this device not expressly approved by Sonova AG may void the FCC authorization to operate this device.

Notice 3:

This device has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules and ICES-003 of Industry Canada. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This device generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is

no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this device does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the device and receiver.
- Connect the device into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

14. Information and description of symbols



With the CE symbol, Sonova AG confirms that this product – including accessories – meets the requirements of the Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EEC as well as the Radio Equipment Directive 2014/53/EU. The numbers after the CE symbol correspond to the code of certified institutions that were consulted under the above-mentioned directives.



This symbol indicates that the products described in these user instructions adhere to the requirements for an applied part of Type B of EN 60601-1. The surface of the CROS device is specified as an applied part of Type B.



Indicates the medical device manufacturer, as defined in EU Directive 93/42/EEC.



This symbol indicates that it is important for the user to read and take into account the relevant information in these user guides.



This symbol indicates that it is important for the user to pay attention to the relevant warning notices in these user guides.



Important information for handling and product safety.



This symbol confers that the electromagnetic interference from the device is under limits approved by the US Federal Communications Commission.



Indicates the manufacturer's serial number so that a specific medical device can be identified.



Indicates the manufacturer's catalogue number so that the medical device can be identified.



This symbol indicates that it is important for the user to read and take into account the relevant information in this user guide.



Temperature during transportation and storage: -20° to $+60^{\circ}$ Celsius (-4° to $+140^{\circ}$ Fahrenheit).



Humidity during storage: 0% to 70%, if not in use. See instruction in chapter 16.2 regarding drying the CROS device after use.



Atmospheric pressure during transportation and storage: 200 hPa to 1500 hPa



During transportation keep dry.



The symbol with the crossed-out garbage bin is to make you aware that this CROS device as well as chargers and Power Pack may not be thrown away as normal household waste. Please dispose of old or unused CROS device and charger, at waste disposal sites intended for electronic waste, or give your hearing aid and charger to your hearing care professional for disposal. Proper disposal protects the environment and health.

15. Troubleshooting

15.1 Troubleshooting CROS device

Problem	Causes
CROS device not functioning	CROS device switched off
	Electromagnetic disturbances occurred
	Battery fully discharged
Hearing aid plays two beeps	Indication for low battery
CROS device will not start up	Battery fully discharged
Hearing aid plays two beeps followed by a melody 🎵	Indication for low battery of CROS device
Indicator light on CROS device blinks fast while charging	Faulty battery

What to do

Press push button for 3 seconds (chapter 1+7)

Press push button

Insert CROS device into the charger

Charge hearing aid (consult the user guide of the hearing aid if necessary)

Charge CROS device (chapter 4)

Charge CROS device (chapter 4)

Contact your hearing care professional if the battery life is not as expected

Problem

Indicator light on the CROS device is off when placed in the charging inserts

Battery does not last the whole day

Causes

CROS device not inserted correctly into charger

Charger not connected to power source

CROS device not fully charged

Battery may need to be replaced

15.2 Troubleshooting charger

Problem

Indicator light on the CROS device does double flash

Charging does not start (no Power Pack used)

Charging does not start when using Power Pack

Causes

CROS device out of its operating temperature range

Charger Case RIC or

Mini Charger RIC not connected to power supply

CROS device not inserted correctly into charger

Power Pack discharged



If the problem persists, contact your hearing care professional for assistance.

What to do

Insert CROS device correctly into charger (chapter 4)

Connect charger to external power supply

Charge CROS device (chapter 4)

Contact your hearing care professional; a battery replacement may be required

What to do

Warm the CROS device up. The operating temperature range is +5° to +40° Celsius (41° to 104° Fahrenheit)

Connect charger to power supply or Power Pack (chapter 4.2)

Insert CROS device correctly into charger (chapter 4.1)

Charge Power Pack (chapter 4.2)


16. Important safety information


Please read the information on the following pages before using your CROS system and charging accessories.

A CROS system will not restore normal hearing and will not prevent or improve a hearing impairment resulting from organic conditions. Infrequent use does not permit a user to attain full benefit from it. The use of a CROS system is only part of hearing habilitation and may need to be supplemented by auditory training and instruction in lipreading.


The CROS system is suitable for the home healthcare environment and due to their portability it may happen that it is used in professional healthcare facility environment like physician offices, dental offices etc.


16.1 Hazard warnings

 The intended use of a CROS device is to transmit sound to a hearing aid on the better hearing ear and hereby compensate for impaired hearing. The CROS system (specially programmed for each hearing loss) must only be used by the intended person. It should not be used by any other person as it could damage hearing.


 The Phonak rechargeable CROS device and the Phonak Power Pack contain lithium-ion batteries that can be taken onto airplanes as carry-on luggage. The Power Pack cannot be


placed in the checked-in baggage and can only be placed in the carry-on luggage.

 Changes or modifications to the CROS system that were not explicitly approved by Sonova AG are not permitted. Such changes may damage your ear or the CROS system.


 Do not use the CROS system and charging accessories in explosive areas (mines or industrial areas with danger of explosions, oxygen rich environments or areas where flammable


anesthetics are handled) or where electronic equipment is prohibited.

 If you feel pain in or behind your ear, if it is inflamed or if skin irritation and accelerated accumulations of earwax occur, please check with your hearing care professional or physician.


 In very rare cases, the dome can remain in your ear canal when removing the device from the ear. In the unlikely case that the dome does get stuck in your ear canal, it is strongly recommended to


see a physician for safe removal.


 Hearing programs in the directional microphone mode reduce background noises. Please be aware that warning signals or noises coming from behind, e. g. cars, are partially or entirely suppressed.


 The CROS device is not for children below 36 months. The usage of this device by children and individuals with cognitive impairment should be supervised at all times to ensure their safety. It is a small device and contains small parts. Do not leave children and


individuals with cognitive impairment unsupervised with this CROS device. If swallowed, consult a physician or hospital immediately as the device or its parts can cause choking!

 Keep the Charger Case RIC out of reach of children, individuals with cognitive impairment and pets. If the drying capsule is swallowed, consult a physician or hospital immediately.

 Only authorized personnel are allowed to open the Power Pack due to possible electrical hazard.

 Do not make a wire connection from your CROS device to any external audio sources like radio etc. That could cause injuries on your body (electric shock).


 Do not cover the whole Charger Case RIC or Mini Charger RIC while charging, e.g. with a cloth etc.


 The following is only applicable for persons with active implantable medical devices (i.e. pacemakers, defibrillators, etc.):


- Keep the wireless hearing aid or CROS device at least 15 cm (6 inches) away from the active


implant. If you experience any interference, do not use the wireless hearing aid or CROS device and contact the manufacturer of the active implant. Please, note that interference can also be caused by power lines, electrostatic discharge, airport metal detectors etc.


- Keep magnets (i.e. EasyPhone magnet, etc.) at least 15 cm (6 inches) away from the active implant.
- If using a Phonak wireless accessory, consult the chapter "Important safety information" in your wireless accessory user guide.


 Use of this equipment adjacent to or stacked with other equipment should be avoided because it could result in improper operation. If such use is necessary, this equipment and the other equipment should be observed to verify that they are operating normally.

 Use of accessories, transducers and cables other than those specified or provided by the manufacturer of this equipment could result in increased electromagnetic emissions or decreased electromagnetic immunity of this equipment and result in improper operation.

 Portable RF communications equipment (including peripherals such as antenna cables and external antennas) should be used no closer than 30 cm (12 inches) to any part of the device including cables specified by the manufacturer. Otherwise, degradation of the performance of this equipment could result.

 The USB port of the charger is to be used for the described purpose only.

 For charger, use only EN60950- and/or EN60601-1 certified equipment with an output rating of 5 VDC. Min. 500 mA.

 A CROS system should not be fitted with domes / wax protection systems when used by clients with perforated eardrums, inflamed ear canals or otherwise exposed middle ear cavities. In these cases, we recommend the use of a classic earmold. In the unlikely case that any part of this product should remain in the ear canal, it is strongly recommended to see a physician for safe removal.

16.2 Information on product safety

- ① Phonak CROS devices are water resistant and not waterproof. They are designed to withstand normal activities and occasional accidental exposure to extreme conditions. Never immerse your CROS device in water! Phonak CROS devices are not specifically designed for extended periods of water submersion on a continual basis, that is worn in activities such as swimming or bathing. Always remove your CROS device before these activities, as the device contains sensitive electronic parts.
- ① Protect your CROS device from heat (never leave near a window or in the car). Never use a microwave or other heating devices to dry your CROS device (due to risk of fire or explosion). Ask your hearing care professional about suitable drying methods.
- ① The dome should be changed every three months or when it becomes stiff or brittle. This is to prevent the dome from detaching from the tube spout during insertion into or removal from the ear.

❗ Do not drop your CROS device! Dropping onto a hard surface can damage your CROS device.

❗ Store your CROS device in the charger if you are not using it for a long period of time.

❗ Special medical or dental examination including radiation described below, may adversely affect the correct functioning of your CROS system. Remove and keep it outside the examination room/area before undergoing:

- Medical or dental examination with X-ray (also CT scan).
- Medical examinations with MRI/NMRI scans, generating magnetic fields.

CROS devices don't need to be removed when passing security gates (airports etc.). If X-ray is used at all, it will be in very low doses, and will not affect the CROS system.

- ① The CROS system has to be dry before charging. Otherwise the charging reliability cannot be guaranteed.
- ① Only use approved chargers and Power Pack described in this user guide for charging the devices, otherwise they may be damaged.
- ① Both your CROS device and Power Pack contain lithium-ion batteries with a Watt hour rating <20 Wh which have been tested according to UN 38.3 of the "UN Manual of Tests and Criteria" and should be shipped in accordance with all the rules and regulations on the safe shipment of lithium-ion batteries.

17. Important information: Cell phones

Some hearing aid users have reported a buzzing sound in their hearing aids when they are using cell phones. According to the ANSI 63.19 (American National Standard Methods of Measurement of Compatibility between Wireless Communications Devices and Hearing Instruments) standard, the compatibility of a particular hearing aid and cell phone can be predicted by adding the rating for the hearing aid immunity to the rating for the cell phone emissions. The sum of the hearing aid rating (e.g. M2/T2=2) and the telephone rating (e.g. M3/T3=3) is 5, and any combination that equals 5 will provide "normal use"; a sum of 6 or greater would indicate "excellent performance". The equipment performance measurements, categories and system classifications are based upon the best information available but cannot guarantee that all users will be satisfied. The immunity of this hearing aid is at least M2/T2.

Note: the performance of individual hearing aids may vary with individual cell phones. Therefore, please try the hearing aid with your cell phone or, if you are purchasing a new phone, be sure to try it with your hearing aid prior to purchase. For additional guidance, please ask your hearing care professional for the booklet entitled "hearing aid compatibility with digital wireless cell phones".

18. For the US market only, complies with the FDA regulations

Warning to Hearing Aid Dispensers

A hearing aid dispenser should advise a prospective hearing aid user to consult promptly with a licensed physician (preferably an ear specialist) before dispensing a hearing aid if the hearing aid dispenser determines through inquiry, actual observation, or review of any other available information concerning the prospective user, that the prospective user has any of the following conditions:

- (i) Visible congenital or traumatic deformity of the ear.
- (ii) History of active drainage from the ear within the previous 90 days.
- (iii) History of sudden or rapidly progressive hearing loss within the previous 90 days.
- (iv) Acute or chronic dizziness.

- (v) Unilateral hearing loss of sudden or recent onset within the previous 90 days.
- (vi) Audiometric air-bone gap equal to or greater than 15 decibels at 500 hertz (Hz), 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz.
- (vii) Visible evidence of significant cerumen accumulation or a foreign body in the ear canal.
- (viii) Pain or discomfort in the ear. Special care should be exercised in selecting and fitting a hearing aid whose maximum sound pressure level exceeds 132 decibels because there may be risk of impairing the remaining hearing of the hearing aid user. (This provision is required only for those hearing aids with a maximum sound pressure capability greater than 132 decibels (dB).)

Important Notice for Prospective Hearing Aid Users

Good health practice requires that a person with a hearing loss have a medical evaluation by a licensed physician (preferably a physician who specializes in diseases of the ear) before purchasing a hearing aid. Licensed physicians

who specialize in diseases of the ear are often referred to as otolaryngologists, otologists or otorhinolaryngologists. The purpose of medical evaluation is to assure that all medically treatable conditions that may affect hearing are identified and treated before the hearing aid is purchased.

Following the medical evaluation, the physician will give you a written statement that states that your hearing loss has been medically evaluated and that you may be considered a candidate for a hearing aid. The physician will refer you to an audiologist or a hearing aid dispenser, as appropriate, for a hearing aid evaluation.

The audiologist or hearing aid dispenser will conduct a hearing aid evaluation to assess your ability to hear with and without a hearing aid. The hearing aid evaluation will enable the audiologist or dispenser to select and fit a hearing aid to your individual needs.

If you have reservations about your ability to adapt to amplification, you should inquire about the availability of a trial-rental or purchase-option program. Many hearing aid dispensers now offer programs that permit

you to wear a hearing aid for a period of time for a nominal fee after which you may decide if you want to purchase the hearing aid.

Federal law restricts the sale of hearing aids to those individuals who have obtained a medical evaluation from a licensed physician. Federal law permits a fully informed adult to sign a waiver statement declining the medical evaluation for religious or personal beliefs that preclude consultation with a physician. The exercise of such a waiver is not in your best health interest and its use is strongly discouraged.

Children with Hearing Loss

In addition to seeing a physician for a medical evaluation, a child with a hearing loss should be directed to an audiologist for evaluation and rehabilitation since hearing loss may cause problems in language development and the educational and social growth of a child. An audiologist is qualified by training and experience to assist in the evaluation and rehabilitation of a child with a hearing loss.

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Your hearing care professional:



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