



One person's experience in purchasing Hearing Aids

18 March 2026

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Introduction

Hearing Aid Suppliers

- Many
 - Knowledge of their products varies widely
 - Often “high sales-pressure” dispensers

Hearing Aid Buyers

- All Ages
 - Mostly Seniors
 - In **Great Need** of hearing devices
 - With gradually deteriorating hearing
 - Deserving society’s assistance in old age
- BUT**
- Most poorly-equipped to use a hearing aid effectively
 - Most vulnerable to high-pressure sales pitches
 - Often exploited

Experience Base

Background

- ~50 years in noise/vibration control
- PhD in Acoustics but not Medical doctor
- Familiar with artificial sources of hearing loss
- General knowledge of age-related hearing loss
- Reasonable knowledge of hearing aids
 - aka, partial small-scale replicas of sound systems

User of hearing Aids for 13 years

- Buyer of 4 sets to date (3 HI†; 1 Costco)
- 2013: HI†† - Finally malfunctioned in spring 2025
- 2017: HI†† - Lost it on a DELTA flight in 2018
- 2019: HI†† - Left ear-piece pulverized at TJ's parking in 2023
- 2026: Jabra††† - Purchased October 2025

Experience during purchases of the 4 sets

† HI: Health Innovations †† Under Employer Insurance ††† Under Medicare & 20% Supplement Insurance

Purchase Timeline for 2026 Set

HMO Requirements

- June 2025
 - Audiogram **technician**
 - Ear-exam by **ENT** to verify ears suitable for device use
- Aug 2025
 - Device Selection **ENT**
No HW; just brochures
 - Recommended device† : **\$5,800**
 - Down Payment Required
 - Process **Cancelled**
- Sep 2025 - **Canceled**
 - Device Fitting **ENT**
- Oct 2025 - **Canceled**
 - Device Adjusting **ENT**

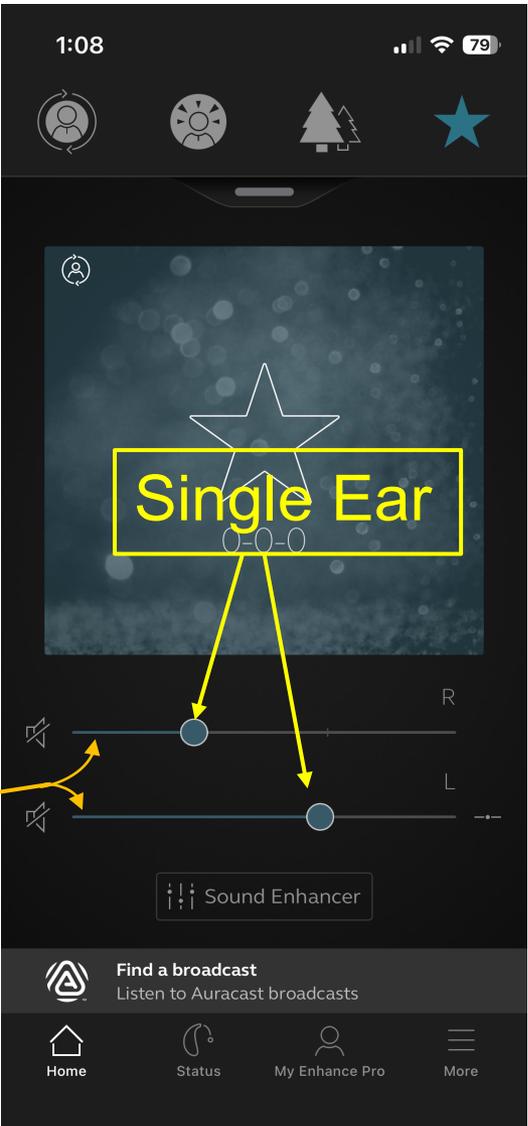
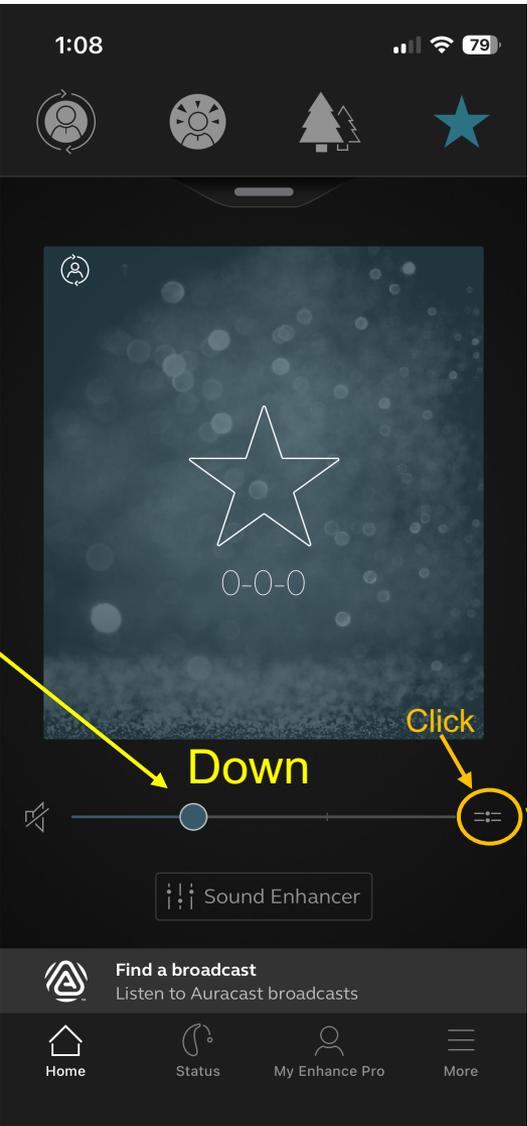
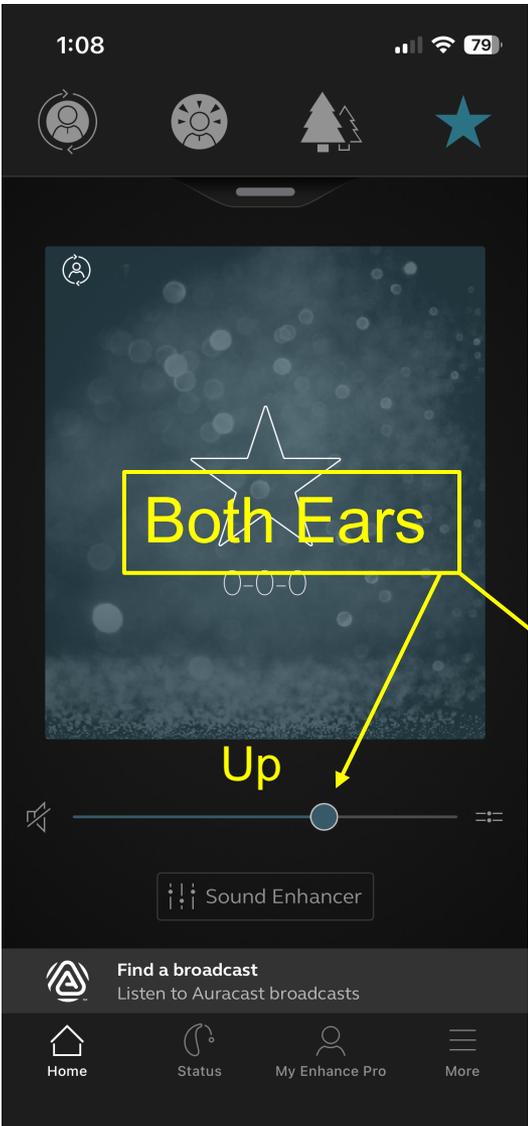
Costco Requirements

- Oct 2 2025
 - Audiogram **technician**
 - Audiogram read/evaluated
 - Device options offered
 - Device (Jabra) selected†
- Oct 21 2025
 - Device (Jabra) paid† : **\$1,700**
 - Devices fitted by **technician**
- Nov 2 2025
 - Device Adjusted by **technician**

† Insurance Coverage Cap every 2 Years: \$3,400

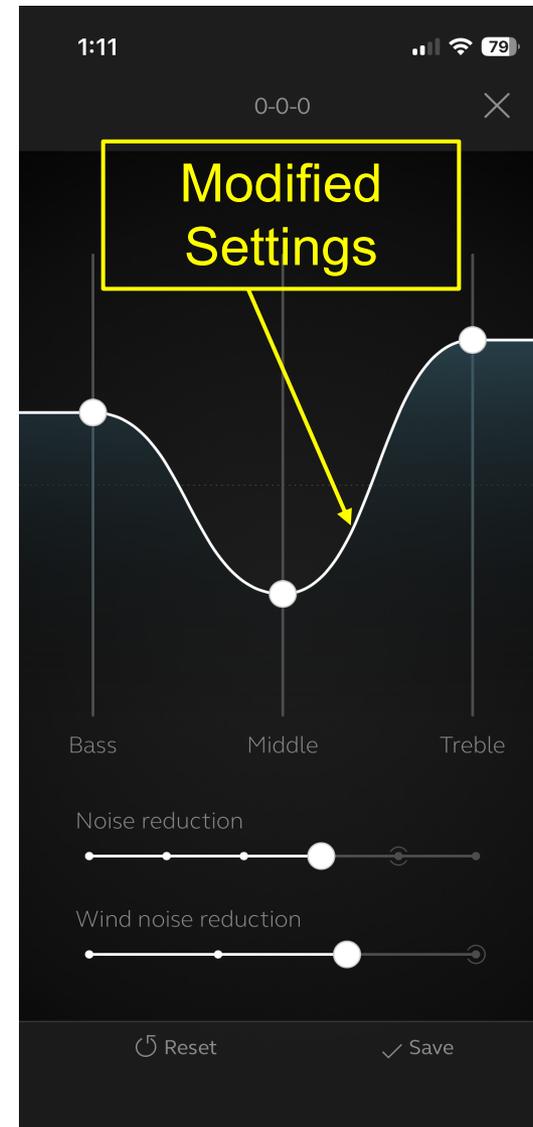
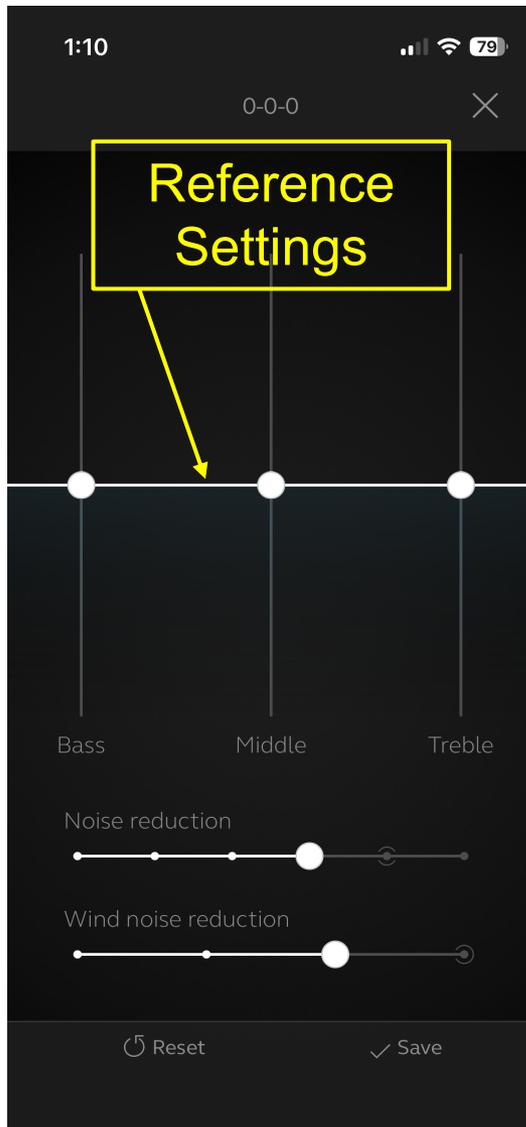
Some Features

Volume Control



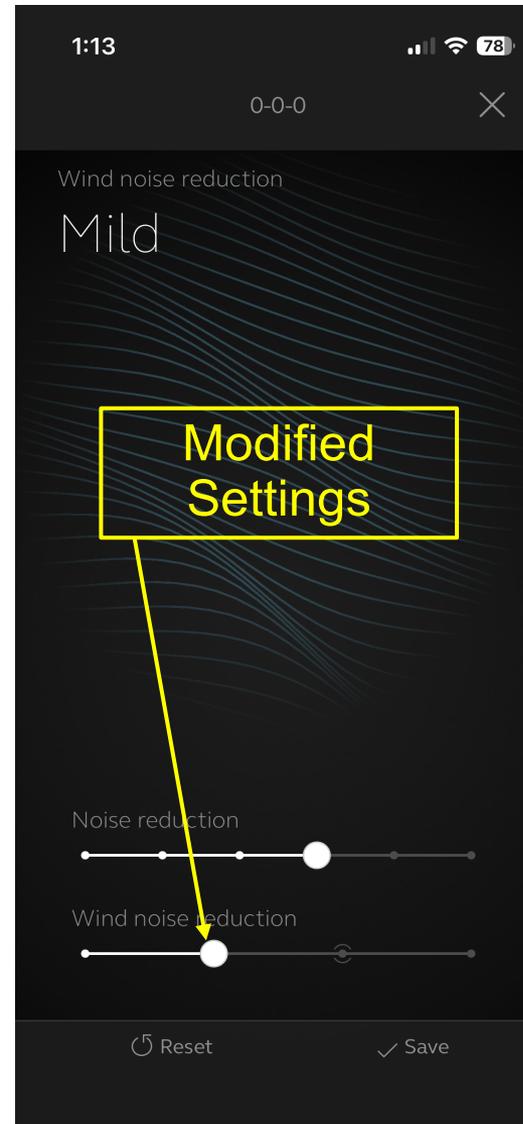
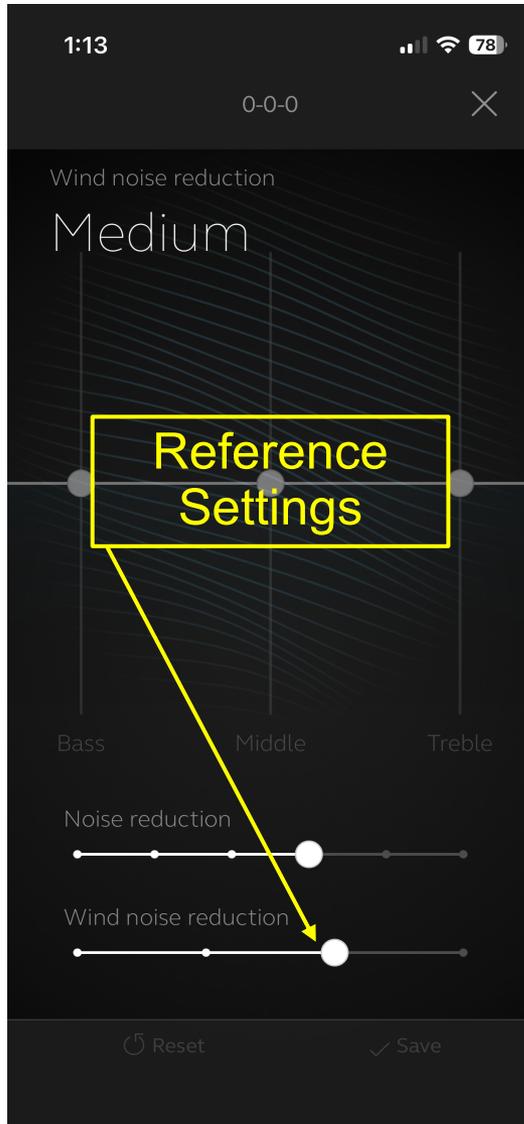
Some Features – Cont'd

Frequency Control – 3 Bands



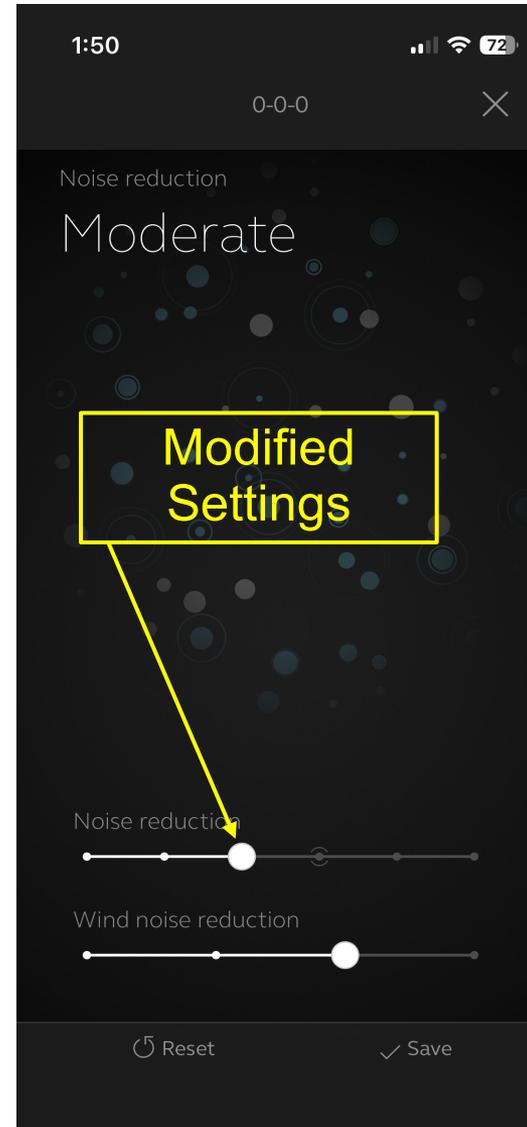
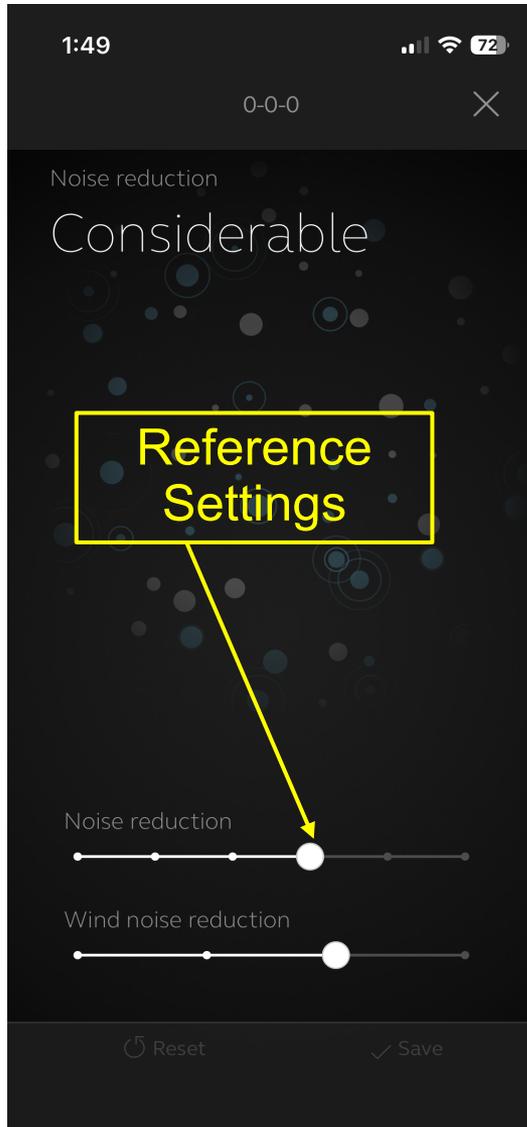
Some Features – Cont'd

Wind Noise Reduction



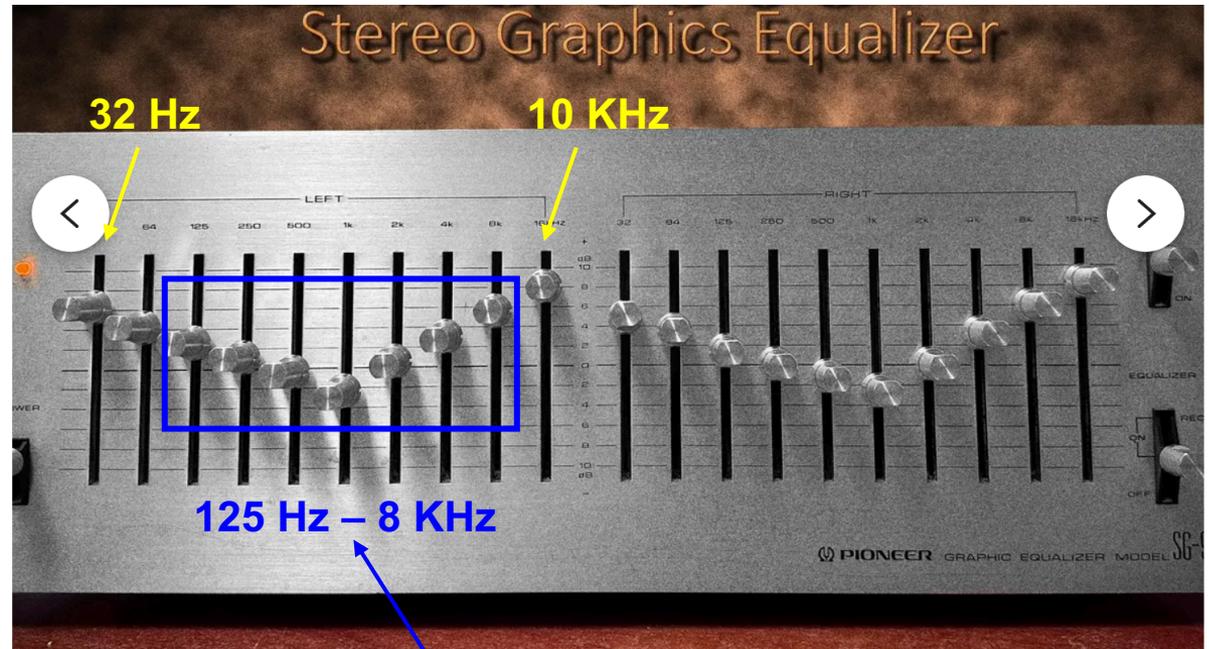
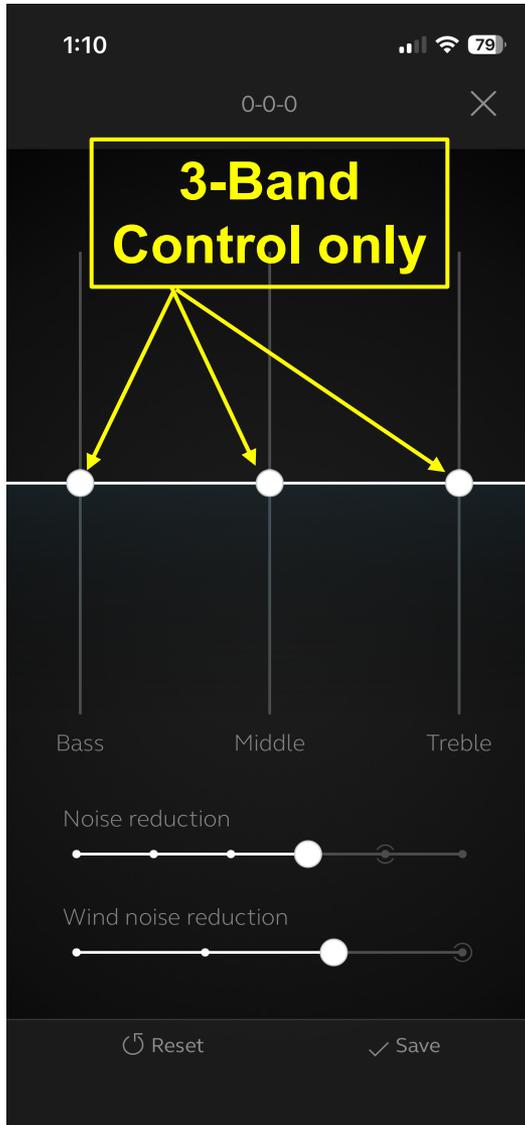
Some Features – Cont'd

Noise Reduction



MY PRESENT WISH

Individual Octave Band Frequency Control Over Audiogram Range



**Wish: Provide 7-Band Control
Over Audiogram Range †**

† Audiograms performed over 125 Hz – 8 KHz