



# Musicians Earplugs™

## Proven Tips for Success

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- 1. Treat musicians with the same level of care as you would any other patient (standard of care).**
  - a. Thorough case history (genetics, chemicals, solvents, ototoxic medications, diabetes, heart disease, smoking)
  - b. Audiometry, middle ear measures, OAEs, QuickSIN
- 2. Musicians may need more than one set of filters for their Musicians Earplugs.**
  - a. Different sound levels in practice and performance venues
  - b. See brochure for recommendations
- 3. Request different colors for each filter set (e.g., clear for ER-15, tan for ER-9, etc.) so they're easy to identify.**
- 4. Excellent earmold impressions are a critical factor to success.**
  - a. They must be long (past the second bend) and completely filled
  - b. If they're not perfect, remake them
- 5. Use vented ear dams for "hourglass" or unusually-shaped ear canals. Use flattened, lubricated cotton for the rest.**
- 6. Order silicone earmolds (vinyl shrinks).**
- 7. Perform a QC check of the earmolds prior to scheduling the patient for a fitting.**
  - a. Check overall appearance, canal length and sound bores
  - b. Make sure filters fit snugly
  - c. Are they attractive? Would you wear them?
- 8. Ask the lab to provide the acoustic mass meter results (500-750 mV is the target value).**
  - a. Small ear canals may require shorter molds to reach the target value
  - b. Shorter molds increase the occlusion effect, but this may be a necessary compromise
- 9. Filters should be countersunk if at all possible, to aid in retention and reduce accidental loss.**
- 10. Verify the fit and response of Musicians Earplugs (remake if necessary).**
  - a. Fit, seal, comfort (may need to ease in to a wearing schedule & use lubricant)
  - b. Sound field or real-ear measurements of seal/attenuation
  - c. Real-ear measures to quantify occlusion effect if necessary
- 11. Educate the user**
  - a. What to expect (accommodation, adaptation, wearing schedule)
  - b. Use and care of earmolds
  - c. What to do if there is a problem
- 12. Consider providing a pair of ETY-Plugs to use as a backup or spare.**

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