

The (un)intended standardisation of the hearing aid industry: The unilink insert part.

Ramsau, 07 March 2022. Flexible fitting and smart handling are just some of the advantages of the newly developed unilink insert part for the bachmaier nature[®] earmould. The new development of unilink shows: a universal insert part for all common RICs is feasible, regardless of the manufacturer. The unique unilink technology made this possible. And the special tools required for insertion and removal are also manufactured by bachmaier.

Tried many times, now achieved

The idea of a universal insert part isn't a novelty. Nevertheless, the unilink insert part by bachmaier convinces with a unique design, in which recent findings of material science have been incorporated during its development. The special feature: The internal geometry allows the insertion of most RICs (in one of the model sizes S, M or P) and any hearing aid manufacturer. The insertable HF4 cerumen protection also offers additional safety. Thanks to the special material properties, the unilink insert part withstands demanding environmental conditions such as heat, humidity, micro-organisms, sweat and cerumen.

Smart handling

Comparative fitting, as required by the health insurance company, is easy to implement with unilink in the nature[®] earmould. The insert part, which has been specially developed for frequent removal and insertion of the RICs, enables uncomplicated testing of all hearing systems. The insert part ensures reliable fixation of the RICs - also in oily or uncleaned condition. In many cases, unilink can be inserted effortlessly with the fingers. The unilink tool designed by bachmaier ensures easy switching of RICs. In close cooperation with hearing aid acousticians, it was possible to develop an ergonomic installation aid that meets the requirements of the user.

Motivation and solution

The aim of bachmaier's R&D department was to produce a multifunctional insert part that would allow flexible adaptation, regardless of the RICs and manufacturer. A precise coordination of the component dimensioning with the material properties ultimately led to success. "Using in-house manufacturing processes, we were able to create a large number of prototypes from thermoplastics and thus approach an ideal geometry and the desired material behaviour step by step," explains Sebastian Maltan, from the R&D department at bachmaier. A special property of the elastomer - its high elasticity - enables it to conform to all types of RICs. In addition, the spiral geometry, which lays over the different earpieces like a grip, ensures that the RIC fits securely in the nature[®] earmould.

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Bis über beide Ohren.

The challenge of additive manufacturing

Special focus was placed on the design of the 3D-printed recess in the earmould, which had to be suitable for all RICs. In order to gain a better understanding of the usability of the RICs in the earmoulds, biometric measurements of the ear channel were carried out. Ergonomic studies were carried out. The results obtained about the maximum usable recess dimension finally led to the optimal unilink geometry and a division into three standard recesses of sizes S, M and P.

Easy orders

The unilink insert part is fitted in the nature® earmould as standard and can be ordered individually at the bachmaier Online Shop. The delivery includes 10 unilink insert parts each in red and blue. Further accessories, such as the unilink tool, are available in the bachmaier online shop.

Hearing innovations from the Alps

bachmaier GmbH, based in Ramsau, is a developer, manufacturer and service provider for products related to hearing. With a total of 55 employees, the company has been developing and producing custom-made products for the hearing aid industry, the hearing protection industry and the music industry for over 30 years. Meanwhile, bachmaier® maintains manufacturing facilities in Germany and Hungary and supplies professional equipment to acousticians, hearing protection manufacturers and otoplastics laboratories throughout Europe.

More information at: bachmaier.de/unilink

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Photo 1

Caption: unilink - An insert part for all RICs and hearing aid manufacturers.

Fotocredit: bachmaier[®]



Photo 2

Caption: A nature[®] earmould with unilink insert part allows testing of all hearing systems.

Fotocredit: bachmaier[®]

