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The sound of silence

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Hearing systems use background noise suppression. Where manufacturers focus on loud noises, slamming doors, traffic noise or lawn mowers are examples that are often mentioned. When users are asked what else bothers them about their devices, they often mention quiet noises. Newspapers rustling, PET bottles crackling, keyboards rattling are just a few examples. There are also handling noises that arise when the devices are touched. Putting on glasses or a hat, combing your hair, wearing a hood or scarf, or simply scratching your head – noises can constantly arise that would not be a problem at all without hearing aids. It is only after the devices have been adjusted that the acoustician often hears complaints that the "background noise" is too loud. Measurements have shown that up to 500,000 such noises occur every day which are amplified with conventional hearing systems in a very annoying way. As annoying as the famous mosquito in the bedroom. If the amplification for quiet levels is then lowered in the hearing systems, disturbance is minimized, but at the same time, quiet parts of speech are also lowered so that intelligibility decreases. A new method that reduces quiet impulse and handling noises while amplifying speech will be discussed.