

From Sonova USA Inc  
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**Ref.: Phonak Roger Sole Source Letter**

Roger™ is the digital standard that bridges the understanding gap, in noise and over distance, by wirelessly transmitting the speaker's voice directly to the listener. The Roger portfolio consists of several products – microphones, speakers and receivers – all exclusive to the Phonak brand. Sonova USA Inc. ("Sonova USA") is the sole US wholesaler for Roger products. Sonova USA sells Roger products to schools, dispensers and authorized distributors for use in schools, 'resale directly to patients' for personal or professional use, or for resale to other entities, in compliance with Sonova terms and conditions and applicable regulations. Authorized distributors are agencies that provide multiple products and services to help schools and other organizations address multiple situations, e.g. hearing assistance, visual assistance, safety, etc. Schools that contract with these companies can purchase Roger from these distributors or directly from Phonak.

Phonak Roger microphones are the only products that automatically and adaptively measure the noise in a classroom and communicate to the hearing instrument through the Roger receivers. This increases the advantage over a hearing instrument's environmental microphone and maintains a very positive signal to noise ratio – which is critical for students to learn. This Roger technology provides best speech-in-noise performance and documented improvements of up to 35% over Dynamic FM and 54% over other FM systems<sup>1</sup>.

The Roger ecosystem of products yields uncompromising connectivity, seamlessly connecting to a vast array of devices including: Phonak and Unitron hearing aids; competitive manufacturers' hearing aids; additional Roger accessories (ex: Multimedia Hub, Pass Around Mic); Soundfield speakers (ex: Digimaster 5000/7000 v2); and ear level receivers for individuals with normal hearing (Roger Focus II). To learn more about specific Roger microphones and the aforementioned devices, please refer to Appendix A – Roger Portfolio Features and Benefits.

As the only entity equipped and trained to offer ongoing service to educational customers, Sonova USA is the provider of service and maintenance on Roger products. All work completed by our service center allows the customer to retain the required strict compliance with service guidelines using original Phonak replacement parts.

Service contracts purchased through Sonova USA ensure proper maintenance and service from the only authorized service center in the United States. Using a service company other than Phonak will invalidate the products' warranties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Brandmeier".

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- 1 Thibodeau, L. (2014). Comparison of speech recognition with adaptive digital and FM wireless technology by listeners who use hearing aids. *American Journal of Audiology*, 23(2), 201-210.

## Appendix A – Roger Portfolio Features and Benefits

Roger Touchscreen microphones are the only synthesized microphones available that have monitoring and voice activity detector technologies. The Roger Touchscreen microphone can be worn by a teacher in lanyard mode, be placed on a table for Small Group Mode, or used in pointing mode. Additionally, this microphone can be used for remote learning. This microphone will work in a network with up to 35 other Roger microphones and unlimited receivers.

Roger Pass-around Microphones are designed for use in classrooms; these devices might be referred to as 'peer microphones'. They work as a secondary microphone on the Phonak MultiTalker Network, enabling speakers other than the primary Roger microphone wearer to clearly and wirelessly be heard by any listener with hearing loss or auditory challenges, as well as through the Roger SoundField amplification system.

The Roger Multimedia Hub is a multimedia transmitter. For in person learning, it can be used for state testing, in a computer lab; in the school auditorium, or via the SoundField amplification system. For remote learners, it can be used in the home to provide clear connectivity to the class lesson.

The Roger Repeater is designed to enhance listening coverage over very large areas by extending the network of a primary Roger for Education microphone. One or more can be placed around a school auditorium or gym hall.

The Phonak Roger SoundField amplification system is the only classroom audio distribution system (CADS) that optimizes and adopts parameter settings automatically and continuously. The Roger SoundField automatically increases the gain when the noise level increases in the classroom. It has a proprietary digital radio transmission at 2.4 GHz. It features automatic, rapid frequency hopping which will avoid interference issues. Under normal circumstances there will be no limit to the number of Roger SoundField systems that can be installed in a school. Roger SoundField products include the Digimaster 5000 and 7000 speakers and work with the full Roger for Education portfolio.

The Roger WallPilot is an automatic network connector. This wall-mounted device, positioned next to the door, automatically connects a student's Roger receivers to the room's network when the child passes the Roger WallPilot on their way into the room. It can also be used to connect Roger microphones to the classroom network.

Phonak Roger On™, Roger Select™, Roger Table Mic II and Roger Clip On mic are other cutting-edge wireless microphones. Like their Roger for Education counterparts mentioned previously, they are adaptive and work with almost any manufacturer's hearing instruments. However, these microphones only work with each other in a MultiTalker network, so they cannot pair with a Touchscreen Mic or a SoundField system, for example. Nonetheless, when placed on a table, the Roger On, Select or Table Mic II automatically select the person who is talking and seamlessly switches from one talker to another.

Roger receivers consist of Roger X, Roger 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21. They are compatible with virtually every hearing instrument and cochlear implant speech processor on the market.

A Roger Focus II is a discrete behind-the-ear Roger receiver for children with normal hearing who require help focusing on auditory stimuli. Common use cases are for children with Unilateral Hearing Loss, Auditory Processing Disorder or have Autism. There is no other solution like this currently offered. Both a battery powered and a rechargeable device are available.

A Roger NeckLoop is a universal inductive neckloop receiver. Schools may choose to use it for non-traditional applications such as automated speech-to-text for students who don't need Communications Access Realtime Translation (CART) but would benefit from automated captions. Additionally, a NeckLoop can be connected to a teacher's computer to facilitate improved listening during synchronous, remote learning sessions. For a teacher who cannot stay right in front of their computer, their Roger Touchscreen Mic can be used to pick up the teacher's voice, then transmitted through the NeckLoop, to let remote students have clear access to the lesson. Another non-traditional use is to connect the NeckLoop to another manufacturer's CAD system. If you have already invested in other soundfield speakers, the NeckLoop will give you the simplicity and adaptive functionality schools expect from Roger. The NeckLoop can also act as a traditional Roger receiver for all hearing instruments and cochlear implants that feature a T-Coil, including ITE and micro-sized BTEs.