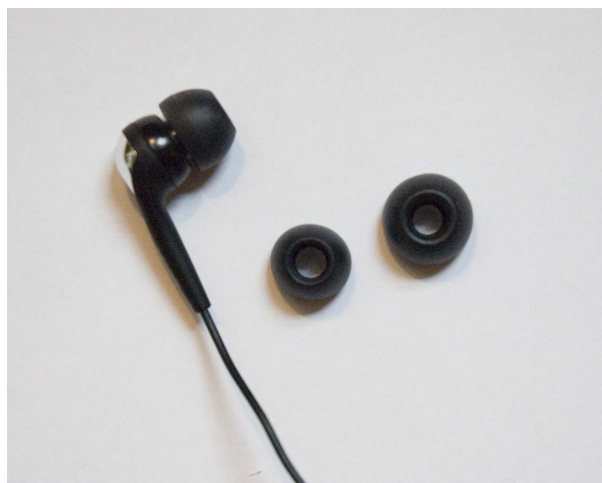


There are lots of ways to connect audio sources like iPods to your cochlear implant. Most of them involve special connectors from the manufacturer. Generally you have to switch some small hardware so that you can connect the wires rather than use your normal microphone for most listening situations

This ear bud modification works with T-mics from Advanced Bionics. You can use it with a program set for 100% T-mic, which blocks out almost all the background noise, or you can use it with some BTE mike mixed in to get some environmental sounds too.

First, find a pair of earbuds with replaceable silicone ear pieces for different sized ears. When you take off the ear pieces, there should be a fairly narrow stud, rather than a large diameter speaker. Unfortunately, these things come in plastic packages, so you can't open them and take a look at the stud. I used Sony MDR-EX71SLA ear buds. They are available in black or white, and are pretty high quality. They were about \$70 in 2008, but now they are about \$25. Perhaps they are being discontinued.

Here is an ear bud, shown with one of the the ear pieces on...



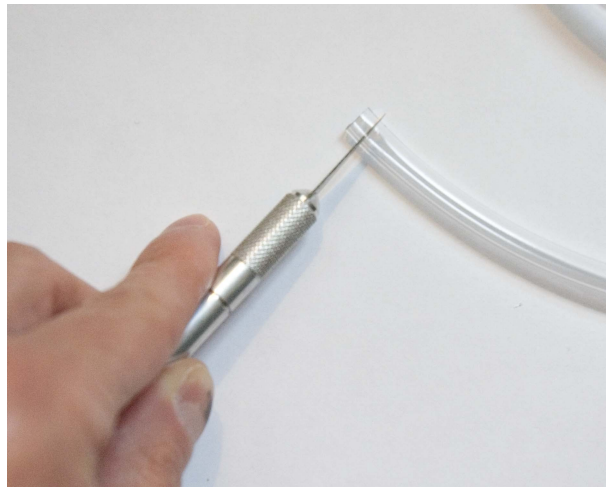
And with the ear piece removed. Notice that the stud has a recessed ring. This keeps the tubing firmly attached.



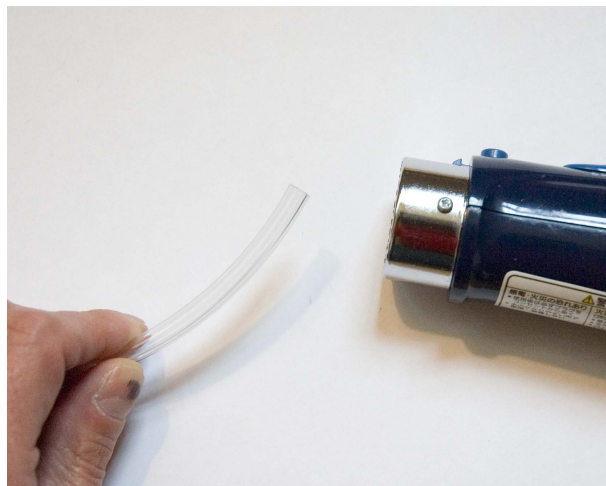
Next, you need quarter-inch OD vinyl tubing from the plumbing department at the hardware store.



Cut the end of the tubing with a sharp knife or razor blade, so that you get a nice flat end.



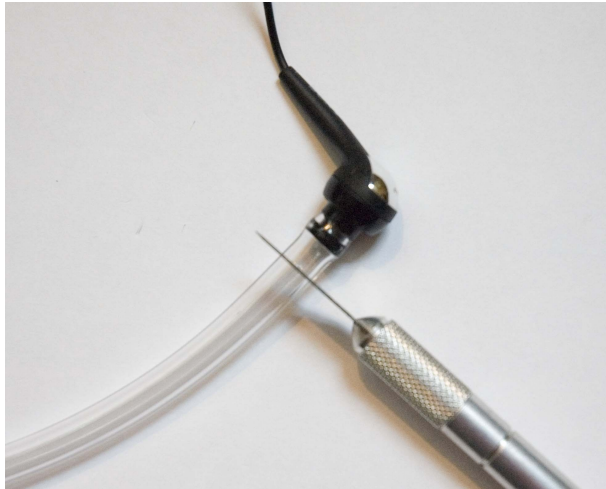
The tubing won't fit over the post of the ear bud unless you soften it with a hair dryer first.



Before it cools down, fit the tubing over the post on one of the ear buds.



Cut the tubing to about a quarter inch.



Repeat for the other ear bud.



Gently push the open end of the tube onto the tip of the T-Mic. You don't want to bend the T-Mic every

time you put the ear bud on or take it off. The picture below shows it pushed on a bit further than usual. If the cord catches on something, you want the ear bud to come off rather than pull the T-Mic off of your sound processor!



Without any adapters, each ear bud will only give you the left or right channel of sound. If you have one implant, you should find some way to combine the channels. Don't get an adapter that just connects them together; it could damage your iPod. Or, you can listen to one side at a time.