

Anatomy of a Stethoscope

The illustration below is of a 3M™ Littmann® Stethoscope. Within it you'll find general information along with facts specific to Littmann stethoscopes.

Eartips

Eartips are the parts that fit into your ear. They should fit snugly, sealing out ambient noise and helping you to focus on auscultation. All Littmann stethoscopes are fitted with snap-tight, soft-sealing eartips.

Eartube

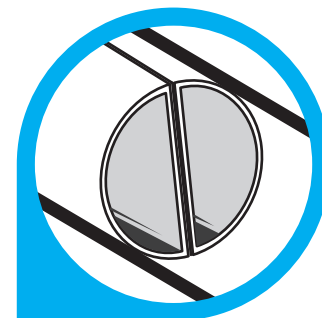
Sound travels from the chestpiece through flexible tubing and then through the metal eartubes. Littmann stethoscope eartubes are made of an aerospace aluminum alloy that provides both strength and lighter weight.

Headset

The headset is made up of two eartubes, the yoke and the eartips. Littmann stethoscope headsets can be adjusted to ensure a proper fit into your ear canals by squeezing or pulling apart the eartubes.

Tubing

Tubing provides the path for sound. Littmann stethoscopes feature next-generation tubing that provides improved resistance to skin oils and alcohol for longer tubing life.



Dual-lumen Tubing

3M™ Littmann® Cardiology Stethoscopes have dual-lumen tubing: two sound paths inside one outer tube which helps eliminate the rubbing noise generated by traditional twin-tubed stethoscopes.

Stem

The stem connects the stethoscope tubing to the chestpiece. On Littmann stethoscopes with two-sided chestpieces, the stem is used to index, or open, the side of the chestpiece that you wish to use.

Chestpiece

The chestpiece is placed on the patient to capture sounds. Some Littmann stethoscope models have a one-sided chestpiece with a tunable diaphragm. Others have a two-sided chestpiece with a diaphragm on one side and a bell on the other. Some bells are always open, others are closed with a tunable diaphragm, depending on the model.

Tunable Diaphragm

A tunable diaphragm is a 3M invention that lets you easily switch between hearing high- and low-frequency sounds simply by adjusting the pressure on the chestpiece.

Learn more about using a stethoscope.

The 3M™ Littmann® Learning Institute App is packed with auscultation training resources that help you sharpen your ability to hear through a stethoscope. The basic version of the app is a free download from the iTunes App Store (for iOS devices) or from Google Play (for Android devices).

www.littmann.com

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