

**TELEPHONE WITH A RECEIVER AROUSING BONE-CONDUCTION
AND AIR-CONDUCTION HEARING**

Technical Field

5 The present invention generally relates to a telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing which converts an input electric voice signal into vibration and acoustic signals by using the receiver. More particularly, it relates to a telephone with a receiver
10 arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing which induces a person to sense a sound through bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing during a telephone call, makes a hearing-impaired person with conductive hearing loss and an old person who has difficulty in air-conduction hearing use
15 bone-conduction hearing, and makes an ordinary person having a normal sense of hearing use either bone-conduction hearing in a noise environment or air-conduction hearing in a normal environment.

20 **Background Art**

 A conventional receiver consisting of a general telephone loudspeaker is an air-conduction receiver. An air vibration sound being an output signal of this loudspeaker passes through the outer ear of a pinna and an external
25 auditory meatus by an auditory mechanism, is converted into mechanical vibrations of the tympanic membrane and three small bones of the middle ear, is then amplified, and is transmitted to an auditory nerve through a cochlea of the inner ear comprising a sensorineural system, thereby making
30 the telephone user perceive a sound of the other person.

 Accordingly, a hearing-impaired person who has a lesion in the outer or middle ear and an old person who has a

lowered hearing ability can hardly use a telephone call. The ordinary people having a normal hearing ability feel inconvenience in a telephone call under a noise environment.

Since the person who has difficulty in hearing can
5 perceive a voice signal through a bone vibration, a bone-conduction telephone using a bone-conduction vibrator as a receiver has been developed. However, in this case, this telephone includes both an air-conduction hearing hand-set employing an air-conduction receiver for the ordinary people
10 and a bone-conduction hearing hand-set employing a bone-conduction receiver for the hearing impaired, or includes only a bone-conduction hearing hand-set. As a result, the size of the conventional telephone becomes increased, the cost of production is expensive, and an additional telephone
15 is needed when the ordinary person and the hearing impaired person live in the same place because they feel inconvenience in using one telephone.

Disclosure of the Invention

20 Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the conventional art.

25 It is an objective of the present invention to provide a telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing, which uses a vibrator assuring an effective transmission of the air vibration, uses a vibrator of smoothly arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction
30 hearing as a receiver, is capable of hearing a vibration signal through bone-conduction hearing as well as an acoustic signal through air-conduction hearing, makes a



hearing-impaired person with conductive hearing loss and an old person who has difficulty in air-conduction hearing use bone-conduction hearing, and makes an ordinary person having a normal sense of hearing use either bone-conduction hearing in a noise environment or air-conduction hearing in a normal environment.

To achieve the above object, a telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing in accordance with the present invention includes:

10 an overvoltage protecting circuit for protecting a telephone's circuit from external overvoltage via a subscriber's line;

a ring signal controller which is connected to the overvoltage protecting circuit, controls sound volume of a ring signal informing a person of a terminating call, and
15 outputs the ring signal to a loudspeaker;

a voice signal/subscriber's line controller which is connected to the overvoltage protecting circuit, controls the subscriber's line by the terminating call and an
20 originating call, and controls a transmitting/receiving of both an electric voice signal and a DTMF dial signal;

two-wire/four-wire converter which is connected to the voice signal/subscriber's line controller, and performs two-wire/four-wire conversion in order to separate the receiving
25 or the transmitting of the electric voice signal;

an amplifying circuit which is connected to the two-wire/four-wire converter, and amplifies the electric voice signal from the two-wire/four-wire converter in order to be received in a receiver of a hand-set;

30 a hand-set which includes a receiver and a transmitter, the receiver which receives and converts the electric voice signal from the amplifying circuit into a vibration signal



and an acoustic signal and enables the vibration signal and the acoustic signal to be heard by using bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing, respectively, and the transmitter which converts an input voice signal into an electric signal and transmits the electric signal to the two-wire/four-wire converter;

a dial button for receiving a telephone number of the other person as an input;

a control circuit which is connected to the dial button, detects each number of the input telephone number, and controls the voice signal/subscriber's line controller;

a DTMF signal generator which is connected to the control circuit, and generates a DTMF signal corresponding to each number applied from the dial button in response to a control of the control circuit; and

a hook switch which is connected to the voice signal/subscriber's line controller, and initially controls the originating call and the terminating call.

Additional advantages, objects and other features of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and in part will become apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art upon examination of the following or may be learned from practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and attained as particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Brief Description of Drawings

The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description given hereinbelow and the accompanying drawings which are given by way of illustration only, and thus are not limitative of the present invention,



and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a telephone with receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3A is a side view of a head illustrating a good transmission portion of bone-conduction hearing; and

FIG. 3B is a plan view of a head illustrating a good transmission portion of a bone-conduction hearing.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

The preferred embodiment of the present invention will become apparent from a study of the following detailed description, when viewed in light of the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a telephone with receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention; FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention; FIG. 3A is a side view of a head illustrating a good transmission portion of a bone-conduction hearing; and FIG. 3B is a plan view of a head illustrating a good transmission portion of a bone-conduction hearing.

As shown in FIGS. 1 to 3B, the present invention relates to a telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing so as to make a person

possible to hear voice and acoustic signals through bone-conduction hearing and air-conduction hearing.

As shown in FIG. 2, the receiver 6a includes:

main vibration sources 25 and 25a which vibrate by
5 converting an input electric voice signal into a variation of a magnetic field;

vibration generators 22, 23 and 24 which serve as a permanent magnet, make magnetic circuits, generate a secondary magnetic field, create attraction and repulsion
10 operations between the secondary magnetic field and the magnetic field of the main vibration sources 25 and 25a, and make the main vibration sources 25 and 25a vertically vibrate in a gap formed between the magnetic circuits;

auxiliary vibrators 26, 27 and 28 which reinforce a
15 vibration of the main vibration sources 25 and 25a, include an air-conduction vibrator 26 arousing air-conduction hearing, and include bone-conduction vibrators 27 and 28 arousing bone-conduction hearing;

a vibration transmitter 30 which directly transmits an
20 entire vibration by both the vibration of the main vibration sources 25 and 25a and the vibration of the bone-conduction vibrators 27 and 28 of the auxiliary vibrators 26, 27 and 28 to a portion 31 where a bone-conduction hearing transmission is very good, and thus arouses bone-conduction hearing; and

25 vibration stabilizers 21 and 29 for stably maintaining the vibrations of the main vibration sources 25 and 25a and the auxiliary vibrators 26, 27 and 28.

A cylindrical bobbin 25 whose inner parts are vertically penetrated includes a voice coil 25a for a
30 vibrator. The voice coil is wound on the bobbin 25, converts a voice signal into a magnetic field's variation, and the impedance of the voice coil corresponds to a

predetermined impedance of the vibrator. Here, the bobbin 25 and the voice coil 25a serve as the main vibration sources.

A yoke 22 is partially inserted into the receiver shown in FIG. 2 through an inner side of a lower part of the bobbin 25. An electromagnet 23 and an upper plate 24 are sequentially positioned on the yoke 22 along with an exterior part of the yoke 22, and make a gap between them and the bobbin 25 at the exterior side of the bobbin 25. The upper plate 24 supports the electromagnet 23. The yoke 22, the electromagnet 23 and the upper plate 24 serve as a permanent magnet, and are operated as vibration generators consisting of the magnetic circuit.

The gap of the magnetic circuit has a shape having a small leakage magnetic flux so as to maintain a smooth vibration of the voice coil 25a, and is narrowly designed to enhance the efficiency of the magnetic circuit.

A frame 21 is positioned at the outside of the magnetic circuit including the yoke 22, the electromagnet 23 and the upper plate 24. A damper 26 is attached to a circumference of the bobbin 25, and is mounted on the upper plate 24. A hat-shaped coil cap 28 whose upper and lower parts are opened, is positioned on an upper circumference of the bobbin 25. A vibration plate 27 of a plate spring is connected to the external side of the coil cap 28, and is mounted on four portions of an upper circumference of the frame 21.

Herein, the damper 26 reinforces an air vibration according to a vibration of the bobbin 25, and thus serves as the air-conduction vibrator arousing air-conduction hearing. The coil cap 28 and the vibration plate 27 reinforce a vibration according to a vibration of the bobbin

25, and thus serve as bone-conduction vibrators arousing bone-conduction hearing. The damper 26, the coil cap 28 and the vibration plate 27 make auxiliary vibrators. In addition, the vibration plate 27 has a cross shape to achieve a smooth transmission of the air vibrations of the bobbin 25 and the damper 26, and a curvature for reinforcing a vertical vibration is formed on a predetermined position in the cross.

A vibration contact portion 30 being the vibration transmitter is coupled with an external part of the coil cap 28. The vibration contact portion 30 directly transmits an entire vibration by the main vibration sources 25 and 25a and the auxiliary vibrators 26, 27 and 28 to a portion 31 where a bone-conduction hearing transmission is very good, thereby arousing bone-conduction hearing. Also, the vibration contact portion 30 determines a height and curvature in consideration of a contact portion between a human face and itself 30, and is then installed to the receiver of FIG. 2. In order to maintain a smooth vibration of the vibration plate 27 at a coupling portion between the vibration plate 27 and the coil cap 28, the vibration contact portion 30 maintains empty spaces having a predetermined size along with four branches of the cross of the vibration plate 27 when the vibration contact portion 30 is connected to the coil cap 28.

A predetermined top cover 29 is mounted on a step-like portion of the frame 21. Four portions of the vibration plate 27 are supported by the frame 21 and the top cover 29, and are fixed. In this case, in order to achieve a smooth transmission of the air vibrations of the bobbin 25 and the damper 26, a gap having a predetermined size is formed between the top cover 29 and the vibration contact portion

30. Also, the frame 21 and the top cover 29 stabilizes a vibration of the bobbin 25 functioned as a main vibration source, stabilizes vibrations of auxiliary vibrators (i.e., the damper 26, the vibration plate 27 and the coil cap 28), and thus stably maintains an entire vibration of both the main vibration sources and the auxiliary vibrators. Accordingly, the frame 21 and the top cover 29 are operated as vibration stabilizers.

In the meantime, a printed circuit board (PCB) terminal 20 is connected to the receiver through one side of the frame 21.

The aforementioned receiver arousing the bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing in accordance with the present invention will be operated as follows.

When the external voice signal is transmitted to the voice coil 25a through an electrode (not shown), a magnetic field is generated by a current flowing in the voice coil 25a, and an attraction/repulsion operation is generated between the magnetic field by the current flowing in the voice coil 25a and a magnetic field by the vibration generators. Accordingly, main vibration sources perform a vertical vibration in the gap of the magnetic circuit of vibration generators. The coil cap 28 which is connected to the upper circumference of the bobbin 25 and the vibration plate 27 of a plate spring which is connected to the external side of the coil cap 28 and has a curvature at a predetermined position in the cross, sequentially move upward and downward. As a result, the vibrations of the coil cap 28 and the vibration plate 27 further reinforce the bobbin 25's vibration, and thus arouse bone-conduction hearing through the vibration contact portion 30 being vibration transmitter.

Also, the bobbin 25's vibration generates an air vibration of the damper 26, and further reinforces the vibration. The air vibrations of the bobbin 25 and the damper 26 become to arouse air-conduction hearing. At this
5 time, the cross-shaped vibration plate 27 and the top cover 29 which maintains a gap between the vibration contact portion 30 and itself make a smooth transmission of the air vibrations of the bobbin 25 and the damper 26. The frame 21 and the top cover 29 maintain a stable entire vibration
10 including the vibrations of both main vibration sources and auxiliary vibrators.

Accordingly, the vibrations of the bobbin 25, the coil cap 28 and the vibration plate 27 arouse bone-conduction hearing through the vibration contact portion 30, and the
15 air vibrations of the bobbin 25 and the damper 26 arouse air-conduction hearing.

The aforementioned receiver arousing the bone-conduction and the air-conduction hearing is used in a telephone according to the present invention. If the
20 telephone according to the present invention is used in a normal environment, the originating/terminating operation of a signal is identical with that of a general telephone.

The operations of the telephone using bone-conduction hearing will now be described with reference to FIG. 1.

25 As to a terminating call, when a subscriber using the telephone with the receiver arousing the bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing and the other subscriber are connected to each other, the electric voice signal via a subscriber's line passes through the overvoltage protecting
30 circuit 1, the voice signal/subscriber's line controller 3 for controlling the subscriber's line by a terminating call and the electric voice signal, and the two-wire/four-wire

converter 4 performing a two-wire to four-wire conversion to make a signal receiving possible. Then, the electric voice signal is transmitted to the amplifying circuit 5.

When the amplified electric voice signal from the
5 amplifying circuit 5 is transmitted to the hand-set 6, the receiver 6a converts the electric voice signal into vibration and acoustic signals. As a result, the hearing-impaired person with conductive hearing loss and an old person who has difficulty in air-conduction hearing can use
10 bone-conduction hearing via a good transmission portion 31 of a bone-conduction hearing, as shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B. More specifically, the hearing-impaired person and the old person use bone conduction hearing via a mastoid 32 to which a transmission of a bone-conduction hearing is best. Also,
15 an ordinary person having a normal sense of hearing can use either bone-conduction hearing via the mastoid 32 in a noise environment or air-conduction hearing used for a general telephone in a normal environment.

In the meantime, as to an originating call, an electric
20 voice signal from the transmitter 6b of the hand-set 6 passes through the two-wire/four-wire converter 4 performing a four-wire to two-wire conversion to make a signal transmitting possible, and the voice signal/subscriber's line controller 3 for controlling the subscriber's line by
25 the originating call and the electric voice signal. Then, the electric voice signal is transmitted to the overvoltage protecting circuit 1, and an output signal of the overvoltage protecting circuit 1 is transmitted to the other person via a telephone line.

30 Furthermore, the receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing in accordance with the present invention can be applicable to a cordless telephone or a

radio communication system.

The present invention makes a hearing-impaired person with conductive hearing loss and an old person who has difficulty in air-conduction hearing use bone-conduction hearing during a telephone call, and makes an ordinary person having a normal sense of hearing use bone-conduction hearing in a noise environment, thereby facilitating a telephone call. The present invention does not need a plurality of receivers for air-conduction hearing and bone-conduction hearing, and includes functions of both air-conductive hearing and bone-conduction hearing into only one receiver. Specifically, since the present invention adopts a vibrator structure to maintain a smooth transmission of the air vibration, it has an economical advantage and a practicality. Accordingly, the ordinary person having a normal sense of hearing can use the telephone according to the present invention in a normal environment by using air-conduction hearing. Further, the present invention can be applicable to an apparatus for enhancing a hearing ability of a hearing impaired person, to a telephone for military use, and also to a music receiving apparatus for bone-conduction hearing.

Although the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been disclosed for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention as recited in the accompanying claims.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing, comprising:

5 an overvoltage protecting circuit for protecting a telephone circuit from external overvoltage via a subscriber's line;

a ring signal controller which is connected to said overvoltage protecting circuit, controls sound volume of a
10 ring signal informing a person of a terminating call, and outputs said ring signal to a loudspeaker;

a voice signal/subscriber's line controller which is connected to said overvoltage protecting circuit, controls said subscriber's line by said terminating call and an
15 originating call, and controls a transmitting/receiving of both an electric voice signal and a DTMF dial signal;

two-wire/four-wire converter which is connected to said voice signal/subscriber's line controller, and performs two-wire/four-wire conversion in order to separate a receiving
20 or a transmitting of the electric voice signal;

an amplifying circuit which is connected to said two-wire/four-wire converter, and amplifies said electric voice signal from said two-wire/four-wire converter;

a hand-set which includes a receiver and a transmitter,
25 the receiver which receives and converts said electric voice signal from said amplifying circuit into a vibration signal and an acoustic signal enables said vibration signal and said acoustic signal to be heard by using bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing, respectively, and said
30 transmitter which converts an input voice signal into an electric signal and transmits said electric signal to said two-wire/four-wire converter;





a dial button for receiving a telephone number of the other person as an input;

a control circuit which is connected to said dial button, detects each number of said input telephone number,
5 and controls said voice signal/subscriber's line controller;

a DTMF signal generator which is connected to said control circuit, and generates a DTMF signal corresponding to each number received from said dial button in response to a control of said control circuit; and

10 a hook switch which is connected to said voice signal/subscriber's line controller, and initially controls said originating call and said terminating call.

2. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-
15 conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said receiver includes:

a main vibration source which vibrates by converting a voice signal applied from an external voice signal source into a variation of a magnetic field;

20 a vibration generator which generates a secondary magnetic field, create attraction and repulsion operations between said secondary magnetic field and said magnetic field of said main vibration source, and makes said main vibration source vibrate in a vertical direction;

25 an auxiliary vibrator which reinforces a vibration of said main vibration source, includes an air-conduction vibrator arousing air-conduction hearing, and includes a bone-conduction vibrator arousing a bone-conduction hearing;

a vibration transmitter which directly transmits an
30 entire vibration by both a vibration of said main vibration source and a vibration of said bone-conduction vibrator of said auxiliary vibrator to a good transmission portion where



a bone-conduction hearing transmission is very good, and thus arouses bone-conduction hearing; and

a vibration stabilizer for stably maintaining said vibrations of said main vibration source and said auxiliary vibrator.

3. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said main vibration source of said receiver includes:

a cylindrical bobbin of which inner parts are vertically penetrated; and

a voice coil for a vibrator, for being wound on a circumference of said bobbin, and converting a voice signal into a magnetic field's variation.

4. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearings as set forth in Claims 2, wherein said vibration generator of said receiver includes:

a yoke which is partially inserted said receiver through an inner side of a lower part of said bobbin;

an electromagnet which is positioned to make a gap between said electromagnet and said bobbin at exterior side of said bobbin; and

an upper plate which is positioned on said electromagnet, and supports said electromagnet.

5. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said vibration generator of said receiver serve as a





permanent magnet, makes a magnetic circuit, and forms a gap to make said main vibration source be vibrated within said gap.

5 6. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said air-conduction vibrator of said auxiliary vibrator is a damper mounted to a circumference of said bobbin and mounted on said upper plate.

10 7. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said vibration stabilizer of said receiver includes:

15 a frame which is positioned at outside of said magnetic circuit make by said vibration generator of said receiver; and

 a top cover which is mounted on a step-like portion of said frame.

20 8. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said top cover of said receiver maintains a gap between said top cover and said vibration transmitter in
25 order to achieve a smooth transmission of air vibrations of said bobbin and said damper.

 9. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim
30 2, wherein said bone-conduction vibrator of said auxiliary vibrator of said receiver includes:

 a hat-shaped coil cap connected to an upper





circumference of said bobbin, of which upper and lower parts are opened; and

a vibration plate of a plate spring, which is connected to an external side of said coil cap and is connected to
5 four portions of an upper circumference of a step-like portion of said frame.

10. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim
10 9, wherein said vibration plate of said receiver has a cross shape in order to achieve a smooth transmission of air vibrations of said main vibration source and said damper.

11. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-
15 conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said vibration plate of said receiver has a curvature formed on a predetermined position within said cross shape in order to reinforce a vertical vibration.

20 12. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said vibration transmitter of said receiver is a vibration contact portion which maintains empty spaces having a predetermined size along with four branches of a
25 cross of said vibration plate, in order to maintain a smooth vibration of said vibration plate at a coupling portion between said vibration plate and said coil cap when said vibration contact portion is connected to said coil cap.

30 13. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said frame and said top cover of said receiver



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support four portions of a cross shape in said vibration plate.

14. The telephone with a receiver arousing bone-
5 conduction and air-conduction hearing as set forth in Claim
9, wherein said frame and said top cover of said receiver
support four portions of a cross shape in said vibration
plate.

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