

on the other side of the ear mold,

- fixing a hard bushing to a first end of the sound tube,
 - engaging the first end of the mounting tool with the second end of the sound tube,
 - pulling the mounting tool, and hereby the sound tube and the bushing, back through
- 5 the sound conduit of the ear mold until the bushing is seated correctly inside the ear mold,
- removing the hard mounting tool from the sound tube, and
 - trimming the second end of the sound tube flush with the ear mold.

The soft ear molds may be further be disadvantageous in that traditional ear wax

10 guards, such as disclosed in e.g. US-B1-9795562 can't be used. The main reason for this is that the soft ear molds are not capable of accommodating an ear wax guard or an ear wax guard bushing in the same manner as a hard ear mold. It has therefore become common practice to use the soft ear molds without an ear wax guard. A consequence of this is that the sound tube has to be cleaned regularly which is more cumbersome than

15 simply replacing an ear wax guard.

It is therefore a feature of the present invention to overcome at least these drawbacks and provide a soft custom ear mold that permits the use of an ear wax guard.

It is another feature of the current invention to provide a method for manufacturing a soft custom ear mold.

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention, in a first aspect, provides a method of manufacturing a soft custom ear mold according to claim 1.

According to the first aspect, there is provided a method for manufacturing a soft custom ear mold having an ear wax guard bushing comprising the steps of:

25 providing an outer part of a soft custom ear mold with a through going conduit having holding means, providing an inner part of a soft custom ear mold comprising a first bushing, a sound tube and an ear wax guard bushing arranged such that the first bushing is fixed to the sound tube and the first end of the ear wax guard bushing is fixed to a first end of the sound tube, wherein the first bushing, the wax guard bushing

30 and the sound tube are separate components prior to being assembled into the inner ear

mold part, providing an elongated tool with an end adapted for engaging a second end of the ear wax guard bushing, putting the elongated tool through the soft custom ear mold conduit, fixing the elongated tool to the second end of the ear wax guard bushing; inserting the inner part into the ear mold conduit by pulling the elongated tool having said inner part attached, through the ear mold conduit until said first bushing is properly positioned in said holding means, and disengaging the elongated tool from the ear wax guard bushing.

This provides a manufacturing method that is simple to carry out and only requires the use of inexpensive tools.

10 The invention, in a second aspect, provides a soft custom ear mold according to claim 4.

According to the second aspect, there is provided a soft custom ear mold comprising: an inner ear mold part that comprises a first bushing, a sound tube and an ear wax guard bushing, an outer ear mold part that is adapted to fit an individual ear canal and comprises a sound conduit having holding means adapted to engage the first bushing of said inner part, wherein the first bushing, the wax guard bushing and the sound tube are separate components prior to being assembled into the inner ear mold part, wherein the first bushing is fixed onto a first end of the sound tube and the wax guard bushing is fixed onto the second end of the sound tube, wherein said holding means defines the correct positioning of said inner part in the sound conduit of said outer part whereby positioning of the ear wax guard bushing in the soft custom ear mold is provided.

This provides a soft custom ear mold that permits the use of an ear wax guard that can be replaced by the hearing aid user in a simple manner.

25 According to a third aspect, there is provided a hearing aid comprising a soft custom ear mold according to the second aspect.

According to a fourth aspect, there is provided an elongated tool comprising a pointed thread, a forward part and a rearward part, wherein the pointed thread is adapted such that the tool when engaging the inner surface of a wax guard bushing enables the wax guard bushing to be pulled through an outer part of a soft custom ear mold, and wherein the forward part has a narrow diameter adapted to fit inside a conduit in the outer part

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of the soft custom ear mold and with a length sufficient to extend through the conduit to protrude at the other end, and wherein the rearward part is thicker than the forward part and is adapted to provide a grip for manipulation.

Further advantageous features appear from the dependent claims.