HEARING AID

Bet you can hear a watch ticking across the room... with your ears covered!

THE SETUP
Find a long solid piece of wood, like a dining-room table or a stair rail. Place a watch at one end. Put your ear tightly against the other end. Place your hand over the other ear. Listen.

INSIDER INFORMATION
You can hear the watch ticking loud and clear. This strange hearing aid really is quite simple. Sound waves travel through the wood more directly to your ear than through air because there are fewer things in the way to deflect them. In the air all sorts of currents keep the sound from reaching your ear. So you can hear the watch ticking through the wood when you can’t hear it in the air.