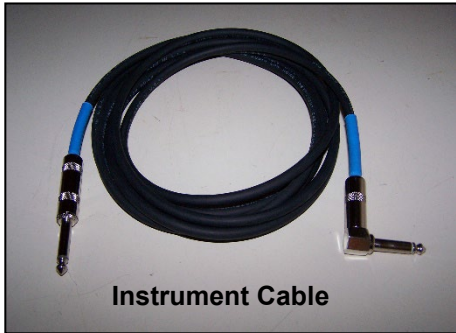# Audio Cables – Common Cables you will encounter as a Technician

Instrument Cable

Guitar / Bass / Keyboard
Uses two 1/4" Mono connectors (Unbalanced), and sometimes uses right angle 1/4" connectors on one or both ends of the cable.

Microphone Cable (XLR)
Uses Male and Female XLR connectors (Balanced). This cable is also commonly used as "patch cables" in PA systems.

Dual 1/4" Stereo (TRS)
Uses two 1/4" TRS Stereo connectors (Balanced). This cable is mainly used as "patch cables" in PA systems.

Ethernet – CAT6 Cable
Hosa # CAT-600BK
Ethernet (Network) cables are used to transmit high fidelity audio signals over longer distances, while exhibiting low latency (delay).

1/4" TRS to Male XLR
Balanced connection that is mainly used as a patch cable in PA systems (Ex: 1/4" TRS mixer output to Male XLR amplifier input).
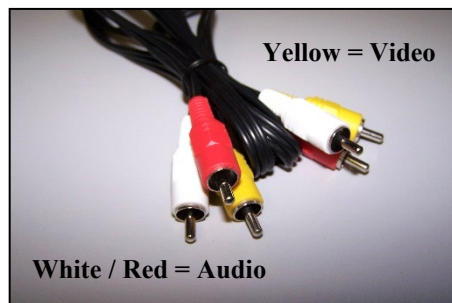
Video Clip!

The silentPLUG – Guitar / Bass Cable Automatically mutes the signal (shorts the Unbalanced connection) to avoid pops and hums when unplugging instruments. Note: For instrument use only!

Video Clip!

1/4" TS to TA4F
Commonly used with hooking up an Acoustic Electric Guitar to Wireless Microphone Bodypacks. More details on Wireless Handout.

Yellow = Video

White / Red = Audio

RCA (Phono)
Cable is used with unbalanced connections. Mostly used with older CD / Stereo / VCR system hookup, and some current AV applications.

1/8" to 1/8" (3.5mm cable)
Uses two 1/8" 3.5mm Stereo connectors (Balanced). This cable is used with media players, headphone extenders, mini recording devices, laptops, iPads, etc.

speakON Cable
Very common speaker cables that are used with Amplifiers and Speakers that have speakON connectivity.

HOSA #SKT-400

1/4" to Banana Speaker Cable
This speaker cable is mainly used in PA systems (Amplifier to Speakers). It depends on the amplifier and speaker jacks (many amplifiers and speakers still utilize this cable).

HOSA #SKJ-600BN

AVCSS Tech World
Basic Audio & Technical Information