

Other Types of Connectors / Termination Devices / Adapters [Video Clip!](#)

This page covers some of the most common "Other" types of connectors, including terminal strips, spade lugs, crimp-on terminals, bell crimps, cable ties, and gel-filled type connectors. All are connectors/termination devices that you will come across (sooner or later) as an audio technician.

[Video Clip!](#)



Bell Crimps

An indoor quick connection for single wire splices, such as terminating the feed wires to 70V speaker transformers and splicing/repairs.

Spade Lugs / Terminals



Spade Lugs / Terminals and Terminal Strips

These are "crimp-on" connections that resemble a "fork" or "spade" that slide easily onto a terminal strip or stud. There are different styles and sizes. There is also a correct and wrong way to crimp a spade lug. [Video Clip!](#)

Terminal Strip



[Video Clip!](#)



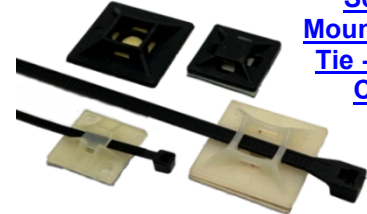
3M Scotchlock Connector

A great quick connection for emergency repairs. Gel-filled and weather/heat resistant for above-ground applications. For speaker repairs, you would use two connectors (one for the common, one for the positive) and squeeze down. [Video Clip!](#)



Wire Nuts

This type of connector is mainly used for electrical cables/splices. It is not recommended to use wire nuts for a "permanent" audio system installation, but usually ok to use if you need to perform a "temporary" repair.



[Screw Mount Cable Tie - Video Clip!](#)

Cable Ties / Sticky Backs

Great for permanent installations to help organize cables in an equipment rack or a mechanical room to keep wires separated. The glue on the sticky back can sometimes separate, so I would sometimes add a "screw" to hold it in place when needed.

Audio adapters that could be useful to Audio Technicians

Courtesy of Switchcraft



Switchcraft #361A

1/4 TS to 1/4 TS Barrell
Used to extend a 1/4" TS cable when the cable is not long enough.



[Video Clip!](#)

1/4 TRS Female to 1/8 TRS
A quick change from 1/4" TRS to 1/8" TRS. Used mainly as a headphone adapter.



RCA Female to 1/4 Mono
Adapts RCA cables to 1/4" TS cables, very useful when testing equipment.



Switchcraft #386AX

Female XLR to TRS Male
This adapter can be useful in certain situations when all you have left is a mic cable (XLR) and you need to plug into a TRS jack.

There are hundreds of audio adapters on the market. As technicians gain experience with audio systems, they will discover which ones will be useful and which are not. These audio adapters should not be used for "permanent" installations, as they are best utilized for "emergency" situations. Stock up – You never know when you'll need one!



Switchcraft #386AX

Male TS to Male TS
I had one of these adapters, but never had to utilize it. I'm sure there had to be a need for it, or a company like Switchcraft would not have manufactured it. Possibly for telephony?

Multi-Pin Connectors

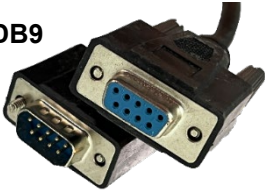
There are different types of connectors used in audio that have a particular purpose called "Multi-Pin" connectors. The technical names for the connectors shown below are DB-25, DB-15, and DB-9. Audio technicians will definitely run into these types of cables during their experiences as a technician. Here are some of the most used types of Multi-Pin (DB) connectors used in audio (and video) that you may come across.

DB15



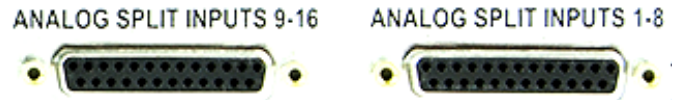
DB-15 (shown above) is used for video (VGA), there are other DB-15 types that are used for Game Ports, Ethernet. The DB-9 (shown below) used to be common for Serial Ports (RS-232). But not used as much anymore.

DB9



Audio Related Multi-Pin Connectors / Connections

The most common Multi-Pin connections used in Audio are the DB-25 connections. A few examples of DB-25 connections are shown below. Although Multi-Pin connections are still in use – Ethernet technology is quickly taking over.



When using DB-25 connections on audio equipment such as multitrack recorders, mixing consoles, sound processors, and some patch bays – you may also need a special DB-25 "snake" cable. The cable shown (right) is a DB-25 to Multiple TRS connectors.

It's built to connect gear with DB25 sockets to equipment with balanced phone jacks (TRS). These cables also come in XLR configurations as well.



Hosa
#DB25 to 1/4" TRS

Courtesy of Hosa

AVCSS Tech World
Basic Audio & Technical Information