

# AC Power Connectors / Cables – Basic Information

Different types of AC power cables and connectors used!

It would be a good idea to know and understand the different types of AC power cables and what their intended uses are. There are differences in the amperage in power cables that needs to be considered when powering up your equipment (for safety reasons). There is a brief description below for the main AC power cables.



**IEC-C13 Cable**

This is basically the standard AC power cable used on the majority of audio equipment used today.



**NEMA, 1-15P to IEC C7 125V Polarized**  
A "Polarized 2-Prong power cable used on CD / DVD / MP3 Players, Audio processors, etc.



**The Non-Polarized version of the NEMA, 1-15P to IEC C7 125V power cable.** Both sockets are rounded.



**NEMA 1-15P to IEC-320-C5** is typically used for laptop chargers, small projectors, etc. Also referred to as a "Mickey Mouse" AC cable.



**Whirlwind #HBL5266C**

**Edison Plug – Male 125V / 15A**



**Whirlwind #HBL5269C**

**Edison Plug – Female 125V / 15A**



**PowerCon Cable**

This type of cable is manufactured by Neutrik and is used for equipment power connections. Looks exactly like (and works like) the SpeakOn connector – It is inserted into the equipment chassis and twists into a locking position.

The Edison plug is the most common type of power connector that is used in the entertainment industry. Pre-made Edison extension cords are usually assembled using 12 gauge SO electrical cable and 15A (15 Amps)

Edison connectors. SO cable is pretty much the standard due to its durability and it meets certain Code requirements for Theatrical stage lighting and equipment.



**Edison Plug – Male 20A Edison Plug – Female 20A**

This is the 125V / 20A version of the Edison plug that is built for equipment needing up to 20 amps. It is distinguishable by the "sideways prong" (notice that one of the prongs are sideways). Be aware of the amperage requirements of your equipment and use the correct size AC plugs.



**Male**

**Female Twistlock**

**Twistlock Edison Plugs – NEMA L5-20A**  
This is a larger 125V version Edison plug that is rated at 20A, and is designed to lock in place (plug it in and twist into the locking position). Mainly used for stage lighting. There are also many other Twistlock versions such as the 125Volt / 30-amp version – NEMA L6-30A.