

Stereo Plug

There are 3 connectors on this plug. It carries the left and right channels of a stereo signal. This comes in two sizes 1/4 inch (like a guitar cable) and 1/8 inch (like a headphone cable)



Mono Plug

There are 2 connectors on this plug. It can carry only one signal at a time. If you plug a mono plug into a stereo jack you'll only hear one side of the signal.



1/8 Inch stereo phone plug - Often seen on headphones or "iPod" cables.

Used to connect headphones to iPods or phones.



1/4 Inch mono phone plug - Often called guitar cable or 1/4 inch cable.

Commonly used to connect guitars or keyboards to an amplifier or mixer. Also used to connect speakers to mixer.

Also comes in a stereo version. (See Above)



XLR - Often called “mic cables”

Commonly used to connect microphones to a mixer or PA system. Can also be used to connect an amplifier to a mixer or a speaker to an amplifier.



RCA Connector

Commonly used to connect consumer stereo components. You could connect your CD player to your stereo amplifier.

Can also carry video signals.



RCA Composite Cables

The red and white cables carry left and right audio channels, the yellow carries video. *The three cables are identical to the audio cables - just color coded for convenience.* If you needed to connect a DVD with a TV and didn't have a yellow cable you could connect it with another color as long as you were connecting *video* output to *video* input.



Direct Box

Allows you connect a 1/4 cable to an XLR connector. For example connecting a guitar to a mixer input.

Comes in passive (unpowered) and active (needs batteries or to be plugged in) varieties.



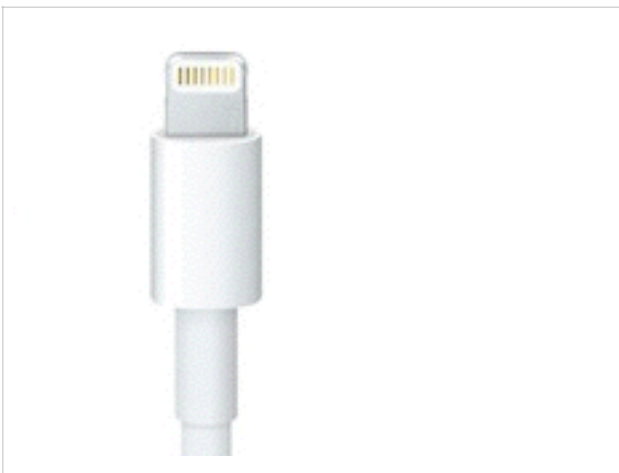
HDMI Connector

Used to connect **digital** audio/video devices together, for example connecting your Blu-Ray player to your T.V. This cable carries both digital audio and video signals and also carries control signals that allow certain devices to control others. Ex. When you turn your Blu-Ray on, your T.V. will also turn on.



VGA Cable

Carries analog video information from a computer to monitor. Can also connect to LCD projectors, and many flat screen televisions have a VGA input so they can be used at computer monitors.



Mac Lightning Cable

Used to power an iPhone/iPod or iPad or to use as a video or data output for iPhone or iPad. Looks similar to a Mac Thunderbolt connector, so make sure the cable is for an iPod/iPad/iPhone not a computer.



Mac Thunderbolt

Used as a data and video output on Macs since 2011/12. Typically used as a video adapter for macs connecting to a HDMI or VGA connector. Can also be used for hard drives or other peripheral.

**USB A**

Computer side plug. Used to carry data from a computer to a peripheral like a computer, external hard drive, audio interface etc.

All USB A (*USB A only*) sockets provide a 5 volt DC signal. That means if you forget your phone charger you can plug it into a computer (or TV or whatever) to charge it.

**USB B**

Peripheral side plug. Used to plug a peripheral like a hard drive or printer into a computer.

**USB Mini A**



Peripheral side plug. Used to connect a small peripheral (phone, camera, etc.) into a computer.

**USB Micro B**

Peripheral side plug. Used to connect a small peripheral (phone, camera, etc.) into a computer. Similar to USB Mini A but with a thinner profile for modern cell phones.

**USB Proprietary (Nikon)**

Used for some Nikon products, looks very similar to USB Micro B.

 A close-up photograph of a Firewire 6 connector, which is a black plastic housing with a silver metal tip and a small rectangular opening for the pins.	<p>Firewire 6</p> <p>Most common Firewire connection, found on older Macs and some PC's. Usually for connecting hard drives, audio interfaces etc. to computer. Can also carry network data from computer to computer.</p> <p>Firewire is being phased out on Macs.</p>
 Two Firewire 9 connectors are shown side-by-side. They are black plastic housings with a silver metal tip and a small rectangular opening for the pins.	<p>Firewire 9</p> <p>Used on some newer Macs, same purpose as Firewire 6</p>
 A Firewire 4 connector is shown, which is a black plastic housing with a silver metal tip and a small rectangular opening for the pins.	<p>Firewire 4</p> <p>Used to connect smaller device to Firewire port. Seen mostly on video cameras, portable hard drives etc. Looks very similar to USB mini B, easy to confuse them.</p>