

It is easy to mix up mic cables and speaker cables or guitar and speaker cables. The difference is that good speaker cables have more shielding (insulation) to keep electric impulses from getting in and traveling with the signal that we want. Most speaker cable will say speaker cable somewhere on the rubber part (not the plugs). Look for it before using.

The end of the cable is called the plug. The plug goes into the "jack" which is on the mixer or the keyboard or other equipment.

Adaptors make it possible to plug a device that uses one kind of plug into a device that accepts a different kind. You can't always just grab an adaptor because it looks right - sometimes other things need to be done to the signal in order to make the connection. Adaptors are usually labeled by what kind of ends it has.

Below, a male TSR or 1/4" phono to a male mini-phono



Below, a female RCA to a male mini-phono



A "DI" or **Direct Box**, takes in a 1/4" phono cable (guitar or instrument cable) and adjusts the signal so that you can send it over a XLR (mic) cable. So the input jack is a female 1/4" and the output jack is a male XLR. You can use longer mic cables than guitar cables -- guitar cables pick up a lot of interference when they are long.