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ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR THE
ENTERTAINMENT TECHNICIAN

**Essential Terminology
For the Entertainment
Technician**

Audio/Sound

3 Pin

See also: XLR Connector

5.1 Surround

See also: Surround Sound

7.1

See also: Surround Sound

A**A-1**

See also: Audio Department Head

A-2

See also: Audio Assistant

Amp

See also: Audio Amplifier

Amp Room

See also: Rack Room

Amplifier

See also: Audio Amplifier

Amplifier Room

See also: Rack Room

Arm

See also: Audio Boom Arm

Audience Mic

See also: Hanging Microphone

Audio Amplifier

Electronic equipment that increases the level of a sound signal
Synonym: Amp, Amplifier, Power Amplifier

Audio Assistant

Person who works under the direction of the Audio Department Head
Synonym: A-2

Audio Board

See also: Audio Mixer

Audio Cabinet

Enclosure containing sound equipment
Synonym: Audio Rack, Rack, Rack Cabinet

Audio Department

Equipment and personnel involved in all audio aspects of a production
Synonym: Sound

Audio Department Head

Person in charge of the audio crew
Synonym: A-1

Audio Desk

See also: Audio Mixer

Audio File

See also: Audio Track

Audio Jack

Outlet connector in an audio patch bay
Synonym: Jack

Audio Matrix

See also: Audio Router

Audio Mixer

Console that receives audio inputs for selecting, processing and blending the output to other audio equipment
Synonym: Audio Board, Audio Desk, Board, Console, Mixer, Mixing Board, More...

Audio Patch

See also: Audio Patch Bay

Audio Patch Bay

Panel of audio jacks that enables interconnection among audio signals
Synonym: Audio Patch, Jack Field, Patch Bay, Patch Panel

Audio Power

Dedicated electrical service for audio systems
Synonym: Sound Power, Tech Power

Audio Rack

See also: Audio Cabinet

Audio Router

Switching or electronic patching system that sends audio signals from one or more sources to several destinations
Synonym: Audio Matrix, Media Matrix

Audio Signal

Audio information carried by an electrical current

Audio Source

Signals from microphone, tape, computer, CD, musical instrument, and other sound pick-ups

Audio System

See also: Public Address System

Audio Technician

Member of the audio crew
Synonym: Sound Tech

Audio Track

Single channel of recorded audio or individual identified recorded sound elements
Synonym: Audio File, Cut Track

B**Baby N**

See also: BNC Connector

Backline Tech

See also: Backline Technician

Backline Technician

Person who sets up musical equipment
Synonym: Backline Tech

Balanced Signal

Type of audio signal with two conductors plus shield
Synonym: Balanced Line

Balanced Line

See also: Balanced Signal

Banana

See also: Banana Connector

Banana Connector

Plug that has non-locking pins with spring sides
Synonym: Banana

Beltpack

1) Intercom station worn by a crew person that connects and controls a headset of the intercom system
See also: Wireless Microphone Pack

Biscket

See also: Portable Intercom Station

BNC Connector

Bayonet Neill Concelman locking connector used with coaxial cables
Synonym: Baby N

Board

See also: Audio Mixer

Body Mic

See also: Lavalier Microphone

C**Cassette Deck**

See also: Tape Deck

Cassette Recorder

See also: Tape Deck

Choir Mic

See also: Hanging Microphone

Clear-Com®

See also: Intercom

Clip

See also: Microphone Clip

Cluster

See also: Speaker Cluster

Com

See also: Intercom

Com Box

See also: Wall Intercom Station

Console

See also: Audio Mixer

Console/ Mixer Operator

Member of the audio crew who operates the audio console/ mixer
Synonym: FOH, Front of House, Foldback Mixer, Sound Mixer

Cut

Discrete audio recorded selection

Cut Track

See also: Audio Track

D**Dance Mic**

See also: Floor Surface Microphone

DAT

See also: Digital Audio Tape

DI

See also: Direct Input Box

DI Box

See also: Direct Input Box

Digital Audio Tape

Format for recording digital video and audio on a very small video tape cassette

Synonym: DAT

DIN

Trade name (Deutsche Industrie Normen) Standardized multipin connector

Synonym: Midi Plugs

Direct Box

See also: Direct Input Box

Direct Input Box

Converts an unbalanced line level signal to a balanced signal

Synonym: DI, DI Box, Direct Box

Dynamic Microphone

Common electro-mechanical sound pickup device

E**Ear Bud**

Small speaker that fits in the ear

Earphone

See also: Headphone

Earwig

See also: Personal Monitor

F**Floor Microphone**

Stand-supported microphone on the floor

Synonym: Floor Mic

Floor Mic

See also: Floor Surface Microphone, Floor Microphone

Floor Surface Microphone

Microphone designed to be placed directly on the floor
Synonym: Dance Mic, Floor Mic, PMZ

FOH (Front of House)

See also: Console/Mixer Operator

Foldback

Audio mix for performers

Foldback Mixer

See also: Console/Mixer Operator

Foldback Monitor

Stage area loudspeakers positioned for the performers to hear themselves and/or other sound sources
Synonym: Monitor, Stage Monitor, Wedge

Front of House Mix Position

Audio control location in the audience area
Synonym: Mix Position, Sound Board/Console Position

G**God Mic**

See also: VOG (Voice of God)

Gooseneck

Flexible extension that can be bent to hold a microphone in a certain position

Guitarland

Area near the stage used by guitar technicians to tune and store instruments

H

Hand Mic

See also: Handheld Microphone

Handheld Microphone

Microphone to be held by the performer

Synonym: Hand Mic

Hanging Microphone

Suspended overhead microphones

Synonym: Audience Mic, Choir Mic, Overhead Mic

Headphone

Small loudspeakers designed to be worn over or in one or both ears

Synonym: Earphone, IFP, Muffs

Headset

Headphone and/or microphone assembly

Headset Mic

See also: Headset Microphone

Headset Microphone

Small microphone worn with a headset

Synonym: Headset Mic

High Impedance

Electronic input/output circuits with an impedance of several thousand ohms or more

Synonym: High Z

High Z

See also: High Impedance

House Mix Position

See also: Front of House Mix Position

I

IFB

See also: Personal Monitor

IFP

See also: Headphone

In-Ear

See also: Personal Monitor

Intercom

Closed audio system that provides for communication among show personnel

Synonym: Clear-Com®, Com

Intercom Base Station

Central unit that provides power and audio signals to all remote stations (wall, beltpack, wireless)

Synonym: Main Station, Master Station

J

Jack

See also: Audio Jack

Jack Field

See also: Audio Patch Bay

L

Lapel

See also: Lavalier Microphone

Lapel Mic

See also: Lavalier Microphone

Lav

See also: Lavalier Microphone

Lavaliere

See also: Lavaliere Microphone

Lavaliere Microphone

Small microphone worn on a performer

Synonym: Body Mic, Lapel, Lapel Mic, Lav, Lavaliere

Lectern Microphone Stand

Gooseneck with a clip or flange on one end to attach to the podium

Synonym: Podium Mic Stand

Level Check

See also: Sound Check

Line Level

Audio signal of 1 volt or more between audio components

Loud Speaker

Electro-mechanical device that converts audio signals into acoustic sound waves

Synonym: Speaker

Low Impedance

Electronic input/output circuits with an impedance of a few hundred ohms

Synonym: Low Z

Low Z

See also: Low Impedance

M**Main Station**

See also: Intercom Base Station

Master Station

See also: Intercom Base Station

Media Matrix

See also: Audio Router

Mic

See also: Microphone

Mic Boom

Synonym: Mic Boom
See also: Microphone Boom Arm

Mic Clip

See also: Microphone Clip

Mic Level

See also: Microphone Level

Microphone

Electro-mechanical device that converts acoustic energy into electrical energy
Synonym: Mic, Mike, Pickup

Microphone Boom Arm

Adjustable extension for a microphone stand

Microphone Clip

Part that actually holds the microphone in place, often unique to each type of microphone
Synonym: Clip, Mic Clip

Microphone Level

Low level audio signal such as generated by a microphone
Synonym: Mic Level

Microphone Stand

Freestanding, telescoping, vertical assembly on a base to support microphones

Midi Plugs

See also: DIN

Mike

See also: Microphone

Mix Position

See also: Front of House Mix Position

Mixer

See also: Audio Mixer

Mixing Board

See also: Audio Mixer

Mixing Desk

See also: Audio Mixer

Monitor

See also: Foldback Monitor

Monitor Mixer

Audio console used to provide audio foldback mixes for the performers

Mono

See also: Monophonic

Monophonic

Single channel of audio Synonym: Mono

Muffs

See also: Headphone

Multi-track

Recorder/Playback device with 4 or more separate tracks

Synonym: Tracks

N**Neutrik®**

See also: speakON

NL4

See also: speakON

O**Overhead Mic**

See also: Hanging Microphone

P

Pack

See also: Wireless Microphone Pack

Patch Bay

See also: Audio Patch Bay

Patch Panel

See also: Audio Patch Bay

Personal Monitor

Earphone style audio monitor that is fitted into the artist's ear

Synonym: Earwig, IFB, In-Ear

Phone Connector

Ring and tip 1/4" diameter audio connector most often used for line level signals

Synonym: Phone Jack

Phono Connector

Friction contact center pin and a nonlocking sleeve used for two conductor wires, typically in red, white and yellow

Synonym: RCA Connector

Pickup

See also: Microphone

Platter

See also: Turntable

Playback

Playing of pre-recorded audio content

Podium Mic Stand

See also: Lectern Microphone Stand

Pop Screen

Protective screen placed in the front of a microphone to reduce the popping and breathing noises produced by close vocal work

Portable Intercom Station

Box with a built-in speaker and microphone connected to the intercom system

Synonym: Bisket, Bisket Station, Portable Station

Portable Station

See also: Portable Intercom Station

Power Amplifier

See also: Amplifier

Program Monitor

Live audio feed of the stage activity throughout the venue

Public Address System

Audio system designed to amplify the spoken word at a level and clarity for comprehension in a public assembly space

Synonym: Audio System, PA, Sound System

PZM

See also: Floor Surface Microphone

R**Rack**

See also: Audio Cabinet

Rack Cabinet

See also: Audio Cabinet

RCA Connector

See also: Phono Connector

RCA Phono

See also: Phono Connector

Record Player

See also: Turntable

Recording Engineer

Person who operates the sound recording equipment

Reel to Reel

See also: Tape Deck

Reproducer

See also: Tape Deck

Ring Out

Checking that all elements of a sound system are working correctly

Rubbers

See also: Windscreen

S**Sampler**

Digital audio device that captures, reproduces and/or modifies sounds

Shock Mount

Suspension mounting system for sensitive microphones

Snake

Portable multi-conductor cable with multi-pin connectors, fanouts, or junction boxes at each end

Sound

See also: Audio Department

Sound Board/Console Position

See also: Front of House Mix Position

Sound Check

Testing the sound system and audio levels before a performance

Synonym: Level Check

Sound Cue

Predetermined sound effect

Sound Delay Towers

Towers on which loudspeakers are placed at a distance from the stage to cover a large audience area

Sound Effects

Artificially created or enhanced sounds used in a production for artistic purposes

Sound Mixer

See also: Console/Mixer Operator

Sound Pickup

Converts vibrations from musical instruments into an audio signal

Sound Power

See also: Audio Power

Sound Reinforcement

Process and systems used to increase acoustical performance sound levels for an audience

Synonym: Sound System

Sound System

See also: Sound Reinforcement, Public Address System

Sound Tech

See also: Audio Technician

Speaker

See also: Loud Speaker

Speaker Cabinet

Enclosure containing the loudspeaker components

Speaker Cluster

Grouping of loudspeakers

Synonym: Cluster

speakON

Neutrik® connector designed for loudspeaker power connection

Synonym: Neutrik®, NL4

Stage Monitor

See also: Foldback Monitor

Stereo

See also: Stereophonic

Stereophonic

Two distinct channels of audio information that may create the perception of spatial separation

Synonym: Stereo

Subwoofer

Speaker designed to play very low frequencies

Surround Sound

Multiple speakers and audio channels mixed to create the perception that the sounds envelopes the listener

Synonym: 5.1 Surround, 7.1, THX

T**Tape Deck**

Machine for recording and/or playback of signals on a magnetic tape;

Requires additional components to be audible

Synonym: Cassette Deck, Cassette Recorder, Reel to Reel, Reproducer, Tape, More...

Tape Recorder

See also: Tape Deck

Tech Power

See also: Audio Power

THX

See also: Surround Sound

Track

See also: Multi-track

Turntable

Equipment that plays back an analog vinyl disk

Synonym: Platter, Record Player

U

Unbalanced Line

Line consisting of one conductor plus shield

V

VOG (Voice of God)

An over-riding and separate sound system used during the rehearsal process to give direction to cast and crew
Synonym: God Mic

W

Wall Box

See also: Wall Intercom Station

Wall Intercom Station

Wall mounted intercom box
Synonym: Com Box, Wall Box

Wedge

See also: Foldback Monitor

Windscreen

Cover for a microphone that helps reduce wind or breath noises; may be color coded for easy identification
Synonym: Rubbers

Wireless

See also: Wireless Microphone

Wireless Microphone

Cordless Microphone with radio transmitter
Synonym: Wireless

Wireless Microphone Pack

Battery and transmitter of a wireless microphone
Synonym: Beltpack, Pack

Wireless Microphone Technician

Person who sets up and maintains the wireless microphones

X**XLR**

See also: XLR Connector

XLR Connector

Trade name (ITT-Cannon) Multi-pin locking connector

Synonym: 3 pin, XLR