

The logo for 'easet' features a lowercase 'e' in orange with a horizontal bar above it, followed by 'aset' in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR THE  
ENTERTAINMENT TECHNICIAN

**Essential Terminology  
For the Entertainment  
Technician**

**Multimedia/Projection**

**3 Pin**

See also: XLR Connector

**4 Pin**

See also: XLR Connector

**5 Pin**

See also: XLR Connector

**A****Adapter**

Device that transitions between two or more dissimilar types of connectors

Synonym: Reverser, Sex Changer, Turnaround

**Air Packs**

Portable modules small enough for air transportation that can be assembled to control audio and multimedia feeds

**Amp Room**

See also: Rack Room

**Amplifier**

Electronic equipment that increases the level of a signal

**Amplifier Room**

See also: Rack Room

**Analog**

Variable signal continuous in both time and amplitude

**ATSC**

Advanced Television Standards Committee - the North American television standard that defines high definition and digital protocols for broadcasting

**Automation**

See also: Show Control

**Automation Control System**

See also: Show Control

**Automation Operator**

Person responsible for the automation control system

**Automation Programmer**

Person responsible for establishing cues for a computerized control system

**Automation System**

See also: Show Control

**B****Balanced Signal**

Type of audio signal with two conductors plus shield

**Banana Connector**

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

**Beta**

See also: Magnetic Tape

**Betacam**

Trade name (Sony)  
See also: Camcorder

**BlueRay**

Enhanced optical digital recording disk format developed to hold high definition video content

**BNC Connector**

Bayonet Neill Concelman locking connector used with coaxial cables  
Synonym: Baby N, Bayonet Nut Connector, British Naval Connector

**British Naval Connector**

See also: BNC connector

**C****Cable Tie**

Locking plastic strap used to bundle or attach loose items  
Synonym: Ty-wrap, Wire Tie, Wire Wrap, Zip Tie

**Camcorder**

Combination video camera and recorder in a portable size for hand held field production

Synonym: BetaCam, DigiBeta, DV-Cam

**Camera Head**

Manually controlled apparatus that allows for pan and tilt of the camera

Synonym: Friction Head

**Camera Platform**

Permanent or temporary platform on which a camera is located

**Carousel**

See also: Slide Projector

**Cassette**

See also: Magnetic Tape

**Cassette Deck**

See also: Tape Deck

**Cat 5**

See also: Ethernet Cable

**Cat 5e**

See also: Ethernet Cable

**Cat 6**

See also: Ethernet Cable

**Category 5**

See also: Ethernet Cable

**Category 6**

See also: Ethernet Cable

**CD**

Media used to optically record and playback digital content, typically data or audio files

**Ceiling Mount**

Hardware that attaches equipment to the ceiling

**Co-Ax**

See also: Co-Axial Cable

**Co-Axial Cable**

Two conductor cable with one insulated conductor centered inside a shielded outer conductor

Synonym: Co-Ax

**Component Video**

Analog method of processing and distributing video signals using three separate visual channels

Synonym: RGB-HV, Pb, Pr, Y, Y-B, Y-R

**Composite Video**

Standard USA method of processing and distributing video pictures where all visual and synchronized information is carried on one combined signal

Synonym: NTSC

**Cordless**

See also: Radio Frequency

**Cradle Screen**

See also: Roll Up Screen

**Crash**

System failure

**D****Digibeta**

See also: Camcorder

**Digital**

Information represented by a string of numbers

**Digital File**

Group of discrete values recorded in electronic form

**Digital Light Process**

Texas Instruments type of solid state visual data capture and projection

Synonym: DLP®

**Digital Projector**

Optical electronic system that projects an image from a digital source

**DLP®**

See also: Digital Light Process

**Dressed Cables**

Cables run in a neat and secure manner

**DTV**

See also: Digital Television

**DV-Cam**

See also: Camcorder

**DVD**

Media used to optically record and playback digital audio and video content and data

**DVD Deck**

Usually an installed unit See also: DVD Player

**DVD Player**

Machine for playback of DVD media

**DVD Recorder**

Has recording capability and is usually portable See also: DVD Player

**DVI**

Digital Video Interface - standard and connectors for linking digital video devices

**E****Earwig**

See also: Personal Monitor

**Equipment Rack**

See also: Rack

**Ethernet Cable**

Wires and connectors that are specified for Ethernet signals  
Synonym: Cat 5, Cat 5e, Category 5, Cat 6, Category 6, Network Cable

**Ethernet Router**

Switching or electronic patching system that sends digital signals from one source to several destinations

**F****F Connector**

Screw-on round coaxial cable connector Synonym: RF connector

**Fast-Fold®**

Trade name (Da-Lite®) See also: Folding Frame

**Fiber**

See also: Fiber Optic

**Fiber Optic**

Technology that uses glass or plastic threads (fibers) to transmit data via light  
Synonym: Fiber

**FireWire**

Trade name (Apple) See also: IEEE 1394

**Fluid Head**

See also: Camera Head

**Fog Screen**

See also: Water Screen

**Folding Frame**

Collapsible structure for attaching screens  
Synonym: Fast-Fold®

**Folding Frame Screen**

Projection surface, front or rear, attached to folding frame

**FP Screen**

See also: Front Projection Screen

**Friction Head**

See also: Camera Head

**G****Geared Head**

See also: Camera Head

**Gray-Scale**

Standard reference chart used to calibrate luminance and contrast in a video system

**Grommited Screen**

Projection surface designed to be stretched and attached to a frame

**H****HDMI**

See also: High-Definition Multimedia Interface

**HDTV**

See also: High Definition Television

**High Definition Television**

High quality digital with wide screen format

Synonym: HDTV

**High Impedance**

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

Synonym: High Z

**High-Definition Multimedia Interface**

Audio/Video digital transmission connector system for uncompressed video

Synonym: HDMI

**Hot Head**

See also: Remote Head



## **I**

### **i.LINK®**

Trade name (Sony) See also: IEEE 1394

### **IEEE 1394**

Protocol for high speed digital data transfers  
Synonym: FireWire, i.LINK®

### **IMAG**

Image Magnification See also: Large Format Display

### **Image-Pro®**

Trade name (Media Cybernetics®) See also: Slide Projector

### **In-Ear**

See also: Personal Monitor

### **Inflatable Screen**

Projection surface and structure supported by air pressure

## **J**

### **JumboTron®**

Trade name (Sony) See also: Large Format Display

## **K**

### **Keystone Effect**

Projection distortion where one side appears larger than the opposite side

## **L**

### **Large Format Display**

Video display utilizing various technologies to present the image usually on a large screen  
Synonym: IMAG, Jumbotron®, LED

**LCD**

See also: Liquid Crystal Display

**LED**

See also: Light Emitting Diode

**Light Emitting Diode**

Solid state device that glows when electrically activated Synonym: LED

**Line Splitter**

See also: Splitter

**Liquid Crystal Display**

Digital data display Synonym: LCD

**M****Magnetic Tape**

Storage media used for recording and playback of audio, video and/or data

Synonym: Beta, Cassette, MiniDV, U-Matic, VHS

**Media Router**

Switching or electronic patching system that sends audio and video signals from one or more sources to several destinations

Synonym: Press Box

**Mic Splitter**

See also: Splitter

**MIDI**

Musical Instrument Digital Interface is a standard for electronic control of musical values

**Mini-DV**

Format for recording digital video and audio on a very small video tape cassette See also: Magnetic Tape

**Mist Screen**

See also: Water Screen

**Monitor**

See also: Video Monitor

**Monitor Wall**

Array of video monitors

**Monochrome Monitor**

Monitor that displays video images or computer data in a single color

**Motion Picture**

Film based system

**Motion Picture Projector**

Film based system for moving image projection

**MP3**

Format used to encode audio and or video content

**MPEG**

The Moving Picture Experts Group - a working group of the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and a system of five standards they created for the digital encoding of audio and video

**N****Network Cable**

See also: Ethernet Cable

**NTSC**

See also: Composite Video

**O****Opaque Projector**

Optical system that reflects light from an object onto a surface

**Overhead Projector**

Projects 8.5 x 11 inches and larger transparencies

# P

## **PAL**

Television system developed by the British and used in most Commonwealth nations

## **Pan**

Horizontal movement of a camera

## **PANI**

Trade name (PANI Projection and Lighting Vertriebs GmbH) See also: Slide Projector

## **Pb,Pr**

See also: Component Video

## **Personal Monitor**

Earphone style audio monitor that is fitted into the artist's ear  
Synonym: Earwig, In-Ear

## **Phono Connector**

Friction contact center pin and a nonlocking sleeve used for two conductor wires  
Synonym: RCA, RCA phono

## **Picture Sheet**

See also: Rear Projection Screen

## **PIGI®**

Trade name (E/T/C Audio Visuel) See also: Slide Projector

## **Pixel**

Smallest digital picture element

## **Plasma Display**

Flat surface display covered with millions of microscopic glass bubbles filled with plasma

## **Playback Person**

See also: Tape Operator

**PLC**

See also: Show Control

**Programmer**

Person who inputs information into control systems

**Projection**

An image in light

**Projection Screen**

See also: Rear Projection Screen

**Projection Surface**

Material that will display images.

Synonym: Screen

**Projectors**

Device using light to create still and/or moving images on a surface

**R****Rack**

Portable or permanent rack that contains equipment

Synonym: Equipment Rack, Rack Mount, Rack Rails

**Rack Mount**

See also: Rack

**Rack Rails**

See also: Rack

**Rack Room**

Room in which equipment racks are located

Synonym: Amplifier Room, Amp Room

**Radio Frequency**

Any frequency within the electromagnetic spectrum associated with radio wave propagation

Synonym: Cordless, RF, Wireless

**RCA**

See also: Phono Connector

**Rear Projection Screen**

Translucent material used for projection from behind  
Synonym: Picture Sheet, Projection Screen, RP Screen

**Reel to Reel**

See also: Tape Deck

**Remote Head**

Remotely controlled apparatus that allows for pan and tilt of the camera  
Synonym: Hot Head (trade name)

**Reproducer**

See also: Tape Deck

**Resolution**

Refers to the sharpness and clarity of an image

**RF**

See also: Radio Frequency

**RF connector**

See also: F Connector

**RGB-HV**

See also: Component Video

**RJ-11**

See also: RJ-11 Connection

**RJ-11 Connection**

Short for Registered Jack-11, the most common telephone connection  
Synonym: RJ-11

**Roll Up Screen**

Projection surface attached to a roller and housed in a case that can be suspended or floor mounted  
Synonym: Cradle Screen

**RP Screen**

See also: Rear Projection Screen

# S

## **S-VHS**

Enhanced form of standard VHS video tape recording and playback

## **S-Video**

Method of processing and distributing video

## **S-Video Connector**

Small 5 pin round connector used to transmit S-video signals

## **Scene Machine**

Trade name (GAM Products) See also: Slide Projector

## **Screen**

See also: Projection Surface

## **Show Control**

Digital system that manages the operations of multiple production elements

Synonym: Automation, Automation Control System, Automation System, PLC

## **Signal**

Variations in voltage, amperage or electromagnetic waves that are processed by a system

## **Slide Projector**

Displays still transparency film images

Synonym: Carousel, Pani, PIGI®, Image Pro®, Scene Machine

## **SMPTE**

Society for Motion Picture and Television Engineers - group that develops motion picture and television technical standards.

## **SMPTE Time Code**

See also: Time Code

## **Splitter**

Device used to provide two or more signal outputs from a single source

Synonym: Line Splitter, Mic Splitter

**Sticks**

See also: Tripod Stand

**SVGA Monitor**

Super Video Graphics Array system

**Systems Integrator**

Person responsible for configuring different systems components for interaction with each other

**T****Tabletop**

See also: Tabletop Screen

**Tabletop Screen**

Self supported small screen that usually sits on a table or counter  
Synonym: Tabletop

**Tape Deck**

Machine for recording and/or playback of signals on a magnetic tape;  
Requires additional components to be audible  
Synonym: Tape Recorder

**Tape Operator**

Person who sets-up, loads and operates audio and/or video tape sources  
Synonym: Playback Person

**Tape Recorder**

Self contained machine for recording and/or playback of signals on a magnetic tape See also: Tape Deck

**Television Set**

Display device with a tuner for television Synonym: TV

**Tie**

Short length of flexible material that attaches items together  
Synonym: Tie-lines, Zip Tie

**Tie-lines**

See also: Tie



**Tilt**

Vertical, up and down, movement of equipment

**Time Code**

- 1) Electronic signals that allow for precise timing of visual and audio content in film and video; 2) Electronic signals used to synchronize various show control systems
- 2) Synonym: SMPTE Time Code

**Tracks**

See also: Multitrack

**Tripod**

See also: Tripod Stand

**Tripod Screen**

Projection screen supported by a tripod stand, usually a rollup screen

**Tripod Stand**

Three legged support device Synonym: Sticks, Tripod

**Twisted Pair**

See also: Twisted Pair Wires

**Twisted Pair Wires**

Pair of individually insulated conductors twisted together and used to transmit electrical signals or power  
Synonym: Twisted Pair

**Ty-wrap**

See also: Cable Tie

**U****U-Matic**

See also: Magnetic Tape

**Unbalanced Signal**

Two conductor audio signal with one conductor grounded

**USB Connector**

Universal Serial Bus, small rectangular connector used to transmit digital data

**V****VCR**

See also: Video Cassette Recorder

**VGA Monitor**

Video Graphics Array display system

**VHS**

See also: Magnetic Tape

**Video Cassette Recorder**

Equipment used for the tape recording and playback of video programming  
Synonym: VCR

**Video Display**

See also: Video Monitor

**Video Monitor**

Electronic visual display device without television tuner  
Synonym: Video Display, Monitor

**Video Router**

Switching system that sends video signals from one or more sources to several destinations

**Video Switcher**

Video device for selection of sources and their processing

**W****Water Screen**

Projection surface created by pumping water into a thin, flat sheet  
Synonym: Fog Screen, Mist Screen

**Wire Tie**

See also: Cable Tie

**Wire Wrap**

See also: Cable Tie

**Wireless**

See also: Radio Frequency

**X****XLR Connector**

Trade Name (ITT-Cannon); Multi-pin locking connector  
Synonym: 3 Pin, 4 Pin, 5 Pin, XLR

**XVGA Monitor**

Extended Video Graphics Array system

**Y****Y cable**

Three signal cables wired together allowing a signal to be divided (1 into 2) or combined (2 into 1)

**Y,Y-B,Y-R**

See also: Component Video

**Z****Zip Tie**

See also: Tie

**Zoom**

See also: Zoom Lens

**Zoom Lens**

Variable focal length lens Synonym: Zoom