Mono plug to stereo jack

Sound Design Stack Exchange is a question and answer site for sound engineers, producers, editors, and enthusiasts. It only takes a minute to sign up. I'm trying to get an understand of the effects of stereo and mono cables and jacks. This is complex because my mixer has both only mono jacks, and my devices -- most of them -- only have stereo outputs. Further, my microphone in on my computer is a mono and all of stereo-outs our balanced mono. Which one of these do I need an adapter for? Can I plug a stereo cable into a mono jack? Obviously -- it doesn't make sense to plug a mono cable into a stereo jack, but what happens if I do? The simplest way to see these for yourself is to look at the metal connections on your jacks. You'll find a stereo one has one more metal ring than a mono one. The mono jack has a tip and a sleeve, and where that sleeve is overlaps the stereo jack's ring and sleeve, so plugging a stereo jack into a mono plug effectively shorts your right channel to ground at the source, giving you a left channel only. Similarly plugging a mono jack into a stereo socket will allow you to hear your left channel only as your right channel in the amp will be grounded. Either of these combinations probably won't cause problems if your circuitry isn't designed to cope with that shorting, but it could, especially with old electronics, or badly designed circuits. The best plan is to use an adapter - a stereo socket to two mono plugs avoids you shorting right channel to ground. You can without any concerns plug a stereo cable into an unbalanced mono jack ; as long as you only send mono signals i. L and R channels equal it will work just fine, except for the usually -3 dB pan law and possible short-cicuiting of the ring connector; the latter is however unlikely and not harmful for line connections. It can be harmful for e. You can also plug a stereo cable into a balanced mono jack , but there's a caveat here: if you send mono signals, the L and R channels will exactly be cancelled by the common mode rejection, so you should pan anything you send hard-left. Both balanced to unbalanced mono vice versa usually works without problems, except obviously you won't get noise surpression in either case. Plugging a mono cable into a stereo jack will not work well. Neither is usually acceptable, that's a major reason why hardly any professional device has stereo inputs. Please note, iPhone has a handy feature to convert stereo to mono output - no need to buy more connectors if this solution will work for your application :- - thanks everyone. I have also had this problem. No adaptor plugs seem to exist for 3. So, I used a 3. Then I used an RCA male to 6. It's a hassle but that then allows a standard instrument jack to jack lead to head off to the line in input on the amp and not lose either of the left or right channels coming from your laptop or phone's 3. Sign up to join this community. The best answers are voted up and rise to the top. Stereo and mono cables and jacks? What happens when you cross them? Ask Question. Asked 8 years, 4 months ago. Active 6 months ago. Viewed k times. X C K M X? Improve this question. Evan Carroll Evan Carroll 5 5 gold badges 12 12 silver badges 21 21 bronze badges. Add a comment. Active Oldest Votes. Improve this answer. Kyle Barbour 3 3 bronze badges. So if you have a stereo jack on a computer, a mono jack on the mixer, does an adapter merge the two waves? And, in the case I want to connect a stereo-headphone jack on my computer -- to a mono-jack on my mixer, how do I do it? That is mixing both channels there is not such thing as a special "merging" of audio sources, what you probably mean is mixing with both channels at the same level , so you need what I said: stereo to dual mono. Not recommended, but should usually work, though impedance differences may cause the mix to be skewed unlike in a balanced connection, a stereo connection is technically not required to have matched impedance And if the impedance is too low headphone connections , the stereo difference is dissipated as a lot of current which may damage the output. If you short tip and ring of a balanced connection together, well, you basically just short both signal phases against each other and thus get no signal at all or a very feeble signal. Show 3 more comments. Allan Watson Allan Watson I also did this to get around the problem. I don't know why this was downvoted ohwell, I probably do know, it's a very ugly hack. But I upvoted you again because this actually works and is easy to do without making your own cables. The Overflow Blog. Podcast How to use interference to your advantage â€" a quantum computingâ€¦. Level Up: Mastering statistics with Python â€" part 2. Featured on Meta. Opt-in alpha test for a new Stacks editor. Visual design changes to the review queues. Linked 1. Related 1. Hot Network Questions. Question feed. Menu Menu. Search Everywhere Threads This forum This thread. Search titles only. Search Advanced searchâ€¦. Everywhere Threads This forum This thread. Search Advancedâ€¦. Log in. Category 1 Category 2 Category 3 Category 4. Support UI. X Donate Contact us. New posts Trending Search forums. What's new. New posts New profile posts Latest activity. Current visitors New profile posts Search profile posts Billboard Trophies. How to connect a mono jack to a stereo plug? Thread starter lowepeterjohn Start date Jan 18. Sidebar Sidebar. JavaScript is disabled. For a better experience, please enable JavaScript in your browser before proceeding. Previous Next Sort by votes. Jan 4. 4 0 10 0. I have a nifty lavalier microphone with a 3. Do I understand right that if I just plug the 3. If this is the case, what is the best way to solve this problem? If I understand wrong, please let me

know, so I can just continue plugging the mono jack into the stereo plug for recording without fearing that I may be compromising audio quality? Aug 27, 14, , 7, You must log in or register to reply here. How to get my lg magic remote to control my sony stereo receiver connected through optical cable Audio 1 Jan 26, F Solved! Audio 1 Sep 25, D How to connect wireless headphone or ear buds to old stereo w standard 3. Audio 1 Jul 20, J I have a non smart non blutooth led tv how can i use bluetooth connectivity with bluetooth headphones? Audio 7 Jun 22, 2 Connect mp3 player to home stereo tuner to record fm station? Audio 3 Jun 1, How to get my lg magic remote to control my sony stereo receiver connected through optical cable Solved! How to connect wireless headphone or ear buds to old stereo w standard 3. I have a non smart non blutooth led tv how can i use bluetooth connectivity with bluetooth headphones? Connect mp3 player to home stereo tuner to record fm station? Post thread. Laptop General Discussion. Started by MMohammed Nov 18, Replies: Started by choeandrew Feb 2, Replies: 0. Laptop Tech Support. Android Tablets. Started by adriansarbu Yesterday at PM Replies: 0. Moderators online. Tom's Guide is part of Future plc, an international media group and leading digital publisher. Visit our corporate site. All rights reserved. England and Wales company registration number Top Bottom. Question Subwoofer to stereo speakers connection. Jan 26, Jan 24, Mar 23, Feb 23, Dec 1, Apr 11, Question connect a "weather proof" microphone to my home stereo. Mar 31, Question Connect 2 stereo output to 1 headphone. Mar 1, How to get my lg magic remote to control my sony stereo receiver connected through optical cable. Nov 10, How to connect ibiastek stereo to lg model 50PTC. Oct 31, Connect old stereo thing to old tv. Oct 20, Connecting CD player without rca outputs to stereo receiver. Sep 25, Aug 31, Aug 6, Jul 20, Jun 22, Jun 1, Explore other articles and discussions on this topic. Stereo-to-mono connections, best practices. Self Help Portal. How can I help you? Post to Ask the Community Sign in to ask a question. Articles How to Connecting stereo outputs to mono input Explore other articles and discussions on this topic. How to Information Title, Connecting stereo outputs to mono input. It is not uncommon to try to connect a stereo line-level or headphone-level output device, such as a smartphone, PC audio output, or a CD player, to an input channel of some product. Quite often it is the stereo headphone jack of the source device. The input device is usually balanced XLR or euro-block connectors in pro equipment, but it could also be an unbalanced RCA input connector. For this discussion, we'll assume the input is a balance XLR or euro-block "Phoenix" connector. Ideally, since these stereo outputs are two distinct signals, they should be connected to two separate inputs on the receiving device. Since these are unbalanced, appropriate wiring practices prevail with regard to wiring the balanced inputs, covered in other numerous KB articles and application guides. This signal is a stereo signal to start with. You need a way to "mix" those two signals into one mono signal to feed the line-level input. Very often, an inexperienced audio person will attempt to wire the stereo pair's three wires directly to the input's 3-pin balanced input. They dutifully connect one signal to the plus terminal, the other signal to the negative terminal, and the shield to the ground terminal. When the system is then turned on, they find they have very little signal, if any, available at the input section of the receiving device. And any signal that might be present is lacking in any low-end frequency response, i. What they have essentially done is wired the two unbalanced outputs to a balanced input's inverting and non-inverting connections which is what a balanced input is expecting. The two signal are now exactly degrees out of phase or reversed polarity to each other, thereby canceling each other! Typically, low frequencies drums, bass, keyboards, etc. This is known as "common mode rejection" which is exactly why balanced inputs reject noise and interference so well. For long runs of balanced cable, any such noise picked up by both wires is cancelled at the balanced input stage. The tech can hear that this does not sound right, so the tech Googles for how to connect unbalanced outputs to balanced inputs. The tech reads that the correct way to wire an unbalanced signal to a balanced input is to put the signal wire onto the positive terminal, and the ground shield to the negative terminal with a jumper to the ground terminal of the balanced connection. Or they use a commonly available "Y" connector or cable to join the two signals first into one common signal, then wire the "output" of the Y connector to their balanced input. And guess what? This actually sounds better than before so it must be right! Wiring this way may indeed sound better than the earlier "reversed polarity" wiring, but in the long run may lead to less-than-optimal signal at best. At worst, this could damage the stereo source device, because there is no electrical isolation between

quicksilver 2 4 c marine lubricant with teflon equivalent
cargiruscom
gmc syclone transfer case

the two outputs - one output "sees" the other. This could lead to unintended distortion or even output stage damage. These outputs typically are low impedance signals expecting a relatively

higher impedance connection downstream. But paralleling the two means each channel is loaded by the low impedance of the other channel. The passive mixer should be transformer-coupled, but even simple resistor-based mixer circuits are a VAST improvement over the directly-paralleled coupling of the stereo signals. And the resistor-type "circuit" is really just a few inexpensive, readily-available resistors. There are also ready-made devices which properly connect two unbalance outputs to a balanced input. While not as inexpensive as a few resistors, they are off-the-shelf solutions and certainly less expensive than having to use an active mixer. Here is a wiring diagram showing three resistors providing this passive mixer circuit. Article Total View Count. URL Name. Number of Views Post to Community.