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AES standard for audio connectors - Modified XLR-3 Connector for Digital Audio

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Abstract

This standard covers new connector types in order to identify AES3 equipment, signals and transmission circuits (tie lines). By extension, the same connectors will also identify AES42 microphone connections. The new “digital” connectors are based on the conventional analogue three pole XLR-type connectors with the difference of additional keying. The keying is realized in a manner as to prevent mating with conventional XLR-type connectors. Furthermore new “compatible” connectors that mate with both “digital” and conventional types are being specified.

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Foreword

This foreword is not part of AES62-2011, *AES standard for audio connectors - Modified XLR-3 Connector for Digital Audio*.

AES3, *AES standard for digital audio engineering - Serial transmission format for two channel linearly represented digital audio data* standardizes the serial digital transmission of two channels of digital audio over balanced, twisted-pair cable. The need for a unique connector type to identify AES3 equipment, signals and transmission circuits (tie lines) was considered by the SC-04-04 working group on Microphones when considering AES42, *AES Standards for Acoustics - Digital interface for microphones*, and by the SC-02-02 Working Group on Digital Audio Interfaces - responsible for the maintenance of AES3.

Following a questionnaire and a resulting report, conducted and prepared by SC-02-02 under project AES-X119, a suitable connector strategy was developed in the SC-05-02 working group on Audio Connectors under project AES-X105. As a result of this work, this document proposes new connector types for AES3 digital audio signals over balanced, twisted-pair cable.

Ray Rayburn
Chair, SC-05-02 working group on audio connectors
2011-05-04

Note on normative language

In AES standards documents, sentences containing the word “shall” are requirements for compliance with the document. Sentences containing the verb “should” are strong suggestions (recommendations). Sentences giving permission use the verb “may”. Sentences expressing a possibility use the verb “can”.

