

Studio Tech

Electrical Connections in the Studio

3-prong – very common, grounded;

2-prong – rare, Roland devices, occasionally others, not grounded;

DIN plug – various shapes and styles – several ‘pins’ often in a circular layout, usually has a guide flange; (thought not for AC, a MIDI plug is a DIN plug)

AC adaptors – various configurations, convert to reduced AC levels (9-12V 250-750 mA- common range), or also to DC, same range; Universal adaptors; wall warts;

batteries – various configurations, usually 1.5 V (AA, AAA, C, D) or 9V (square with both poles on top), sometimes rechargeable NiCad (nickel cadmium);

ground lifter – also called a ‘cheater’, a small AC plug extension which allows a grounded plug to have its ground pin disconnected, sometimes helps reduce ground hum or buzz, dangerous and illegal in Ontario;

power bar – common everywhere, feature as many as 6 or 8 outlets from a single wall socket, usually configured according to a certain wattage max and Amp max;

surge suppression – helps tame spikes in the voltage which can occur in AC outlets;

UPS – Uninterrupted Power Supply – a battery which stores an hour (or more) of backup power; in case of blackout, AC passing through it to the main studio power lines is switched over to battery automatically;

power conditioning – cleans out line noise (balancing and filtering the signal), can also isolate AC outlets from each other;