AES standard for professional audio -
Audio application of
25-way D-type connectors
in balanced circuits

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Abstract

This document describes a standard contact assignment and gender convention for users of the 25-contact
D-type connector as a multi-channel balanced audio interconnection, in analogue or AES3 digital form, to
facilitate interconnection of equipment from different suppliers using standardized cables. The intent is to
simplify the rapid and reliable interconnection of equipment in temporary installations, perhaps using rented
equipment, although the method may be extended to permanent installations where appropriate.

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Foreword

This foreword is not part of the AES59-2012 AES standard for professional audio - Audio application of 25-way D-type connectors in balanced circuits.

The standard was proposed by S. Drummond and developed under project AES-X183 by the SC-05-02 working group on Audio Connectors.


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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”.

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Introduction
In sound systems it is often necessary to connect pieces of equipment from different manufacturers. This
document describes a standard contact assignment and gender convention for users of the 25-contact D-type
connector as a multi-channel balanced audio interconnection, and thus to facilitate interconnection of
equipment from different suppliers using standardized cables. The intent is to simplify the rapid and reliable
interconnection of equipment in temporary installations, perhaps using rented equipment, although the method
may be extended to permanent installations where appropriate.

1 Scope
This standard specifies a contact assignment and gender for 25-contact D-type connectors used to connect
multiple audio signals in balanced analogue or AES3 digital form. This document shall not consider the
suitability of connector and cable types for specific applications. This document shall not consider issues of
safety.

NOTE Use of this connector may be restricted by safety regulations.

2 Normative references
The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated
references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document
(including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60807-1, Rectangular connectors for frequencies below 3 MHz, Pt 1: Generic specification, International
Electrotechnical Commission, Geneva, Switzerland

IEC 60807-2, Rectangular connectors for frequencies below 3 MHz, Pt 2: Detail specification - trapezoidal
shells - round pins, International Electrotechnical Commission, Geneva, Switzerland

AES14, AES standard for professional audio equipment - Application of connectors, part 1, XLR-type polarity
and gender, Audio Engineering Society, New York, NY., US.

AES26, AES recommended practice for professional audio - Conservation of the polarity of audio signals,
Audio Engineering Society, New York, NY., US.