

What is a Snake?

A Quick Guide To Cables For Your PA System.

The snake is a convenient way to get all your audio signals to and from the stage and mixing console.

1 Stage microphones are connected to the snake's female XLRs inputs at the box on stage. (Using Pro Co microphone cables, of course.) Instrument signals can be run through the snake, too. Connect the instrument using a Pro Co instrument, guitar or keyboard cable to a Pro Co Direct Box and then by a Pro Co microphone cable to the snake's female XLRs on the box. (Do not use speaker cables here.)

2 Your individual input signals are connected to your mixing console's microphone inputs (including the instruments) using the snake's fan out male XLRs.

3 The unamplified mixed signals from your console return to the stage by your snake's return channels. These signals are usually input signals for stage monitor or P.A. amplifiers. Return connectors are usually female XLRs or 1/4" phone plugs on the snake's fan out.

4 The return stage monitor and P.A. signals are delivered to your power amplifier(s) by male XLRs or female 1/4" phone connectors on the box. Use Pro Co microphone or instrument cables. (Do not use speaker cables here.)

5 Always use Pro Co speaker cables to connect between your power amplifier and your loudspeakers. Use the shortest length and largest gauge speaker cables you can to reduce power loss and improve speaker control. (Do not use instrument cables here.) Use the largest gauge cable you can afford and you will never be sorry.

