

SEVEN TIPS FOR USING MIC CABLES

By Bruce Bartlett

1. To avoid tangling thin mic cables, wrap the cable in figure-eights around your index finger and pinkie, then wrap the cable with the supplied Velcro strap.



2. Our mics have thin but rugged mic cables. If you don't want thin cables on stage, put the mic's XLR connector on the floor close to you, or in your pocket. Then connect a standard mic cable and run it across the stage.
3. Here's a problem with phantom power used with some old mic cables. The female XLR receptacles change their depth after a lot of cable use, so the XLR pins don't contact in the right order when the male XLR plugs into the female XLR. That momentary voltage can blow out the mic circuit. To prevent that, use new mic cables. Or plug in the mic first, then turn on phantom power.

Also, hot-plugging a mic into phantom power could create an arc that generates radio frequencies, which can blow out microphone circuits. Always plug in mics first, then turn on phantom power.

4. Clean XLR pins and sockets with Caig Labs DeoxIT. This prevents crackles and distortion due to corrosion. <https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/DeoxIT--caig-laboratories-deoxit>
5. To prevent hum, route mic cables away from power cords; separate them vertically where they cross.
6. Wind your mic cables onto a large spool, which can be found in the electrical section of hardware stores. Plug the cables together as you wind them.
7. It is messy and time-consuming to run mic cables from several mics all the way to a mixer. Instead, you can plug all your mics into a stage box with several connectors. The snake—a thick multiconductor cable—carries the signals to the mixer. At the mixer end, the cable divides into several mic connectors that plug into the mixer.