

## USING A MIC SPLITTER FOR LIVE RECORDINGS

By Bruce Bartlett



★★★★★ (116 Reviews)

If your sound system uses only dynamic mics, you can use a microphone Y-cable for live recording work. It has one female XLR which you connect to a mic, and two male XLRs which you connect to a house PA mixer and also to your recording system. In other words, the Y-cable splits a mic signal to feed two destinations. Here's an example of a Y-cable:

[https://www.amazon.com/.../ref=cm\\_cr\\_arp\\_d\\_bdcrb\\_top...](https://www.amazon.com/.../ref=cm_cr_arp_d_bdcrb_top...)

This makes it easy to record a live band in concert. Record with a recorder-mixer like a Zoom R16. Use your own mics on the instruments, and split just the vocal mics. Or split all the mics to feed both the PA and your recording system.

To prevent ground loops and hum, power your recording device from the same AC outlet strip that the house mixer is using. That way, the two devices are at the same ground voltage, preventing a 60 Hz hum current from flowing between them.

A Y-cable splitter works for dynamic mics but not condenser mics, which require phantom power. That's because a Y-cable does not block phantom power from one mixer from going into another. That can cause hum and hiss.

Some engineers prefer to use a transformer-isolated mic splitter. It prevents phantom power from the house mixer from reaching your recording system. Also, an isolated splitter prevents ground loops between two audio systems. Here's an example of a transformer-isolated mic splitter:

<https://www.sweetwater.com/.../SplitPro--art-prosplit...>

Insert the splitter(s) at the house-mixer end of the snake.