

PATCHBAY TERMINOLOGY

- TT = Tiny Telephone, a smaller version of the "B-Gauge" or longframe plug. LONGFRAMES first used in TELECOMMUNICATIONS in UK.
- LONGFRAME = special 48 point bays using LONGFRAME PLUGS, sometimes erroneously referred to as "Military". Military plugs are similar, except the true Military plugfinger is shaped a little different. Military plugs are used for headset communications in tanks; LONGFRAME plugs are used with Neve console patchbays, ADC / REAN LONGFRAME bays, etc.
- HARDWIRE = solder contacts, usually a tab or eyelet on the rear of a TT bay.
- DESIGNATION STRIP = attached lettering area, found on TT and LONGFRAME.
- 1/4" Bays usually have stick on strips or paint spots. We can custom order a 1/4" bay with DESIGNATION STRIPS but it's REAL expensive.
- TIEBAR = Strain relief on TT and LONGFRAME bays
- 1/4" BAYS = PHONE PLUG TYPE/48 point, prosumer grade, typically found in music stores (we sell 'em too), NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH LONGFRAME which uses the LONGFRAME PLUG EXCLUSIVELY. These bays have 1/4" TRS jacks on both the front and rear. Configuration options are usually LIMITED to half-normal and open. Full-normal operation is not available with 1/4" music store type bays.
- NORMALLED = CONNECTED
- NORMALS OUT = normalling contacts are available as solder tabs
- FULL NORMAL = TT/LONGFRAME USER CONFIGURATION:
TOP BREAKS, BOTTOM BREAKS (w/plug insertion)
- HALF NORMAL = TT/LONGFRAME USER CONFIGURATION:
TOP SPLITS "like a "Y" cord", BOTTOM BREAKS (w/plug insertion)
- NORMALLING CONTACTS = switch contacts on TT/LONGFRAME bays that are strapped (soldered) by the installer and may or may not engage depending on which contacts are soldered. Each jack has 5 contacts: GROUND, RING NORMAL, RING, TIP, TIP NORMAL. FULL NORMAL STRAPS RING NORMAL TOP TO RING NORMAL BOTTOM. HALF NORMAL STRAPS RING SIGNAL TOP TO RING NORMAL BOTTOM (same for tips). GROUNDS MAY BE BUSSED (connected) or left alone per your individual circumstance.
- OPEN / TIE LINE = THRU CONNECTIONS, NO NORMALS
- MULT = 1-in / 3-out 3-waysignal splitter for TT BAY. Takes up 4 points. About 3dB of gain is lost with this type of split, largely insignificant for cueing or tape copies.
- PHASE REVERSE = USER CONFIGURED swap of TIP/RING for use with reversed phase mics.
- USER CONFIGURATION = NORMAL, HALF NORMAL points created by means of soldering JUMPER WIRES to top/bottom jack contacts.
- PUNCH BLOCK TERMINATION = uses special tool, usually on ADC BAYS which are a LOT more expensive, we don't stock these.
- SIGNAL FLOW = TT/LONGFRAME CONVENTION is usually OUT/TOP to IN/BOTTOM. On 1/4" phone plug "music store" type bays, in/out convention may be reversed and routing options would be limited.
- REAN = Premium quality UK mfg TT / LONGFRAME / 1/4" BAYS.
- NEUTRIK 1/4" = good value 1/4" phone plug front and rear type bay.
- SWITCHCRAFT = quality/value USA TT hardwire patchbay.
- METER = a simple tool for checking your contacts. You can get a nice FLUKE with beep continuity if you're doing a lot of soldering or many bays. You must check your work before placing a bay into service. For light duty tasks, you can use a cheap analog meter (\$12-ish) available at places like Home Depot or Radio Shack.
- CONTINUITY = no DC resistance / your solder contacts are "contiguous / touching".
- DEAD-SHORT = problem with your soldering/continuity, contacts are touching when they shouldn't be touching.
- TT PATCH CABLES = We stock the NEUTRIK BRAND. Made in Switzerland.
- 1/4" TRS LONGFRAME CABLES = We can sell the parts or custom assemble cables.
- 1/4" TRS PHONEPLUG CABLES = We can sell the parts or custom assemble cables.
- TT Plug = Three types: NEUTRIK TT-1 metal boot -REQUIRES \$295 HX-TT tool, NEUTRIK TT-P plastic boot, REQUIRES \$54 RG58 tool or custom die, or the SWITCHCRAFT # 253N/black - no tool required, decent plug, poor strain relief, easy to work with and popular for one shot projects.
- CUSTOM ASSEMBLY = TT to XLR / TT to 1/4". Available per Quote.
- PROFESSIONAL INSTALLER = somebody you should hire if you aren't understanding these terms and concepts. I can provide some entry level info for customers who have purchased TT/LONGFRAME bays from us.
- WHY USE TT BAYS? = Professional studio convention, more routing possibilities, more configuration options, high jackfield density, guest engineers are already familiar with standard TT bay conventions, sturdy metal jacks withstand continual use and will last a long, long time. TT cables are available in 5 lengths and 5 colours. TT to XLR harness useful for Producer supplied outboard and machine interfaces.
- PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION = \$75/hr.