Which Cable do I Need

What are you trying to do?

A. Plug a microphone into something?
All but a handful of our microphones take XLR cables. Most of our sound equipment takes XLR cables. Most people will use an XLR-XLR cable. If you want to reserve this cable, search under "Brown", "Blue", "Green" etc in the reservation system. Using the color code to search for the item returns much faster results. These cables come in different lengths, each of which has a color code.

We have a variety of lengths of XLR-XLR cables. In Usher, you should search by the color code: “Blue” = 12“-18” (30-45 cm) “Red” = 3’ (1 m) “Yellow” = 5’ (1.5 m) “Brown” = 10’-20’ (3-6 m) “Green” = 25’ (7.5 m) “Orange” = 30’-50’ (9-15 m)

In order to make reserving many of these cables faster, we have some cables grouped in groups of two or three. They are not physically associated with each other. They are only associated in this way to facilitate faster reservations.

B. Plug a microphone into a DSLR or other camera which does not have an XLR input. You will need an XLR-Mini BALANCED cable. If you want to reserve this cable, search under “XLR Mini” in the reservation system.
C. Allow two people to monitor audio? You want what we call a “Boom Cable”. We have several kinds of “Boom Cables”. The type of equipment you are using will determine which boom cable you need. If you want to reserve this cable, search under “Boom cable”.

Add extra mics to a Sound Devices recording device? You need an “XL-2” This is a short blue cable with an XLR on one end and a multi-pin connector on the other end. If you want to reserve this cable, search under “XL-2” in the reservation system.
Link a Sound Devices Mixer to a Sound Devices recorder? Ask for a linking cable. This is a short black cable called an “XL-1” by the manufacturer. If you want to reserve this cable, search under “Linking” in the reservation system.

If you cannot find any of these items or you need further assistance call us at 512-471-6565 or email RTFCheckout@austin.utexas.edu