

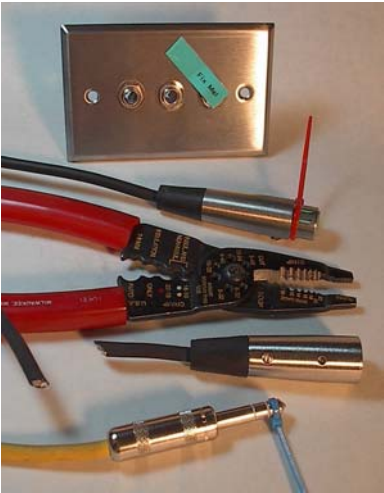
## Clean it!

(That's not dust; it's my electromagnetic shield!)

### A guide to summer and winter audio system cleaning

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Now is a good time to set up a sound system-cleaning schedule for the year. Here are some tips.

- 1) **Clean all connections.** This can be done by simply unplugging and reinserting the jacks 4 or 5 times.
  - a) Caution: We recommend not using any chemical, oil or even alcohol cleaners on your jacks. Alcohol can have water content that can cause corrosion. Oil cleaners collect dirt and chemical cleaners can remove anti-corrosive plating. These are major problems for 1/4-inch jacks.
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- 2) **Check the entire length of your cables for:**
  - a) Cuts or splits
  - b) Shorts
  - c) Signs of strain (kinks, bends and bruises)
- 3) **Add strain relief where needed.**
- 4) **Fix all bad connectors and remove all bad cables from circulation.** I recommend that when a bad cable is found cut off the bad connector. If this is not possible, take a tie wrap (or zipper tie) around the tip to prevent its use until it can be repaired. Make sure to mark bad jacks and prevent their use. Bad cables and jacks hurt systems...plus every time there is a pop, scratch, cut out or hum...everyone will turn and look at you to see what you did to cause it!
- 5) **Replace connectors** when broken, bent, corroded or if the connectors have multiple shorts.
- 6) **Clean equipment** these include mixers, amplifiers, and equalizers.
  - a) Document all settings before beginning!!! Digital cameras work only if you can accurately read where the knobs and faders are set
  - b) Make sure all equipment is off and unplugged.
  - c) Clean all air vents remove dust and dirt (especially amplifiers). Only use a vacuum on air vents, every where else use air duster (air in a can.)
  - d) Dust mixer off, use air duster to blow off dust.
  - e) Use a dry, clean cloth to get heavier dirt. (Avoid pushing dirt into the fader track)
  - f) Use product like "Endust" to clean extra heavy dirt...Spray it on a cloth and then wipe the cloth on the dirt. Never spray liquid on an electronic device. (Unless you want to see pretty sparks or repair bills.)
  - g) Remove all old tape from the mixer and cables. Then, if necessary re-apply. This will help prevent permanent gummy build up.
  - h) Take all faders and knobs (Refer to 6.a) push/turn them all the way up and all the way down four or five times. This will help to keep them clean. Do this to every knob and every fader. (Don't forget the equalizer and amplifier controls.)
  - i) Clean cassette tape heads as recommended by the manufacturer.
  - j) Reset all settings (see 6.a); plug the system in and turn it on. Test the system to confirm that the system has been returned to its proper position.
- 7) To prevent damage cause by battery acid, **remove the batteries** from unused equipment.

**Repeat every three to six months!!**