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Subject: Troubleshooting

Posted by [Ssal](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2017 01:00:01 GMT

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When your system just stops working and if it looks like a cable problem, what's the best way to start troubleshooting - especially when you're a bit clueless about which cable goes where?

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting

Posted by [Gemmel](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2017 01:02:30 GMT

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I wish I could offer better answers but the best I can think of right now is to disconnect it, take out all the cables and re-connect everything all over again.

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting

Posted by [Hylo](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2017 14:49:06 GMT

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If the whole thing's not turning on, check your power. If that doesn't help, then disconnect each component in turn, and see if you can isolate the problem area. If you have some spare good cables, then swap those cables in and if the problem goes away, swap the old ones back one at a time until you've isolated the bad cable. I'm kind of assuming you don't have a cable tester available.

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting

Posted by [Cortney](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2017 18:31:41 GMT

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I also had the thought of swapping the cables with new ones one by one. It's the only solution I can think of concerning that particular problem.

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting

Posted by [Silver](#) on Sat, 11 Feb 2017 15:55:17 GMT

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Buy a cable tester, that's the quickest way. Swapping them into different ports is kind of senseless if something stopped working and you haven't touched the cords since the installation.

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sat, 11 Feb 2017 22:46:09 GMT

Hi, The first clue is did both channels stop working. If so the it is a piece of equipment that stopped working. If only one channel is not working then try swapping things from right to left and see if the problem moves to the alternate channel when something is swapped. Just do one pair at a time though. For example both input cables from a phono. Both speaker sets. etc If everything stopped working then it may be as simple as a power cord (if it uses detachable ones) being loose or has come off. Possibly a fuse. Also it could be a bad outlet. Try plugging everything into another outlet.

IMO cables seldom fail without giving warning and like I said only in one channel at a time.

Good hunting  
Bruce

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting  
Posted by [cwemoy](#) on Sun, 12 Feb 2017 17:43:52 GMT  
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Silver wrote on Sat, 11 February 2017 09:55Buy a cable tester, that's the quickest way. Swapping them into different ports is kind of senseless if something stopped working and you haven't touched the cords since the installation.

I have never owned a cable tester and I think this is the right time to get one. It can be frustrating when a system isn't working and one is clueless.

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting  
Posted by [Cortney](#) on Mon, 13 Feb 2017 02:03:46 GMT  
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Now that I think about it, a cable tester should have been my first idea too. I had a similar problem a couple of years ago and that's how I resolved it.

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting  
Posted by [Gemmel](#) on Mon, 13 Feb 2017 02:05:13 GMT  
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There are just some tools that you should never be without at home. A cable tester is one of them. It will save you tons of frustration when you're in a situation like this.

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting  
Posted by [Ssal](#) on Mon, 13 Feb 2017 02:06:52 GMT

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THanks for all your help guys. I managed to find out what the problem was, but in the future, I'm definitely getting a cable tester. Would have saved me lots of time.

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Subject: Re: Troubleshooting

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Mon, 13 Feb 2017 14:00:55 GMT

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Hi, I hear all the comments on a cable tester....but in the 50 plus years I have been doing electronics and now over 10 as a designer and primary support person for an electronics company I have never used one. They have merit if you do CATV and networking as the cables are often a source of problems but in audio it is simpler just to swap cables. In nearly all instances you need to disconnect both ends anyhow. Just my two cents.

For those who must own one...something that will give you both continuity and lack of shorts at the same time is the only one to have. They have two parts usually. one at the far end and a test set at the near end.

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