Subject: Inserting Output Plug Into Input Socket
Posted by Jorel on Mon, 22 Nov 2010 04:32:26 GMT
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I have mistakenly inserted my headphone into the microphone socket in my computer. Honestly, I have done it a lot of times. Will this create a problem in my sound card? Right now, I need to insert the headphone plug just halfway because I won't hear any voice when I completely insert the plug.

Subject: Re: Inserting Output Plug Into Input Socket
Posted by Adveser on Mon, 22 Nov 2010 06:38:04 GMT
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Damage? No.

Plugging headphones into the mic input of a computer inverts the poles and tuns them into a transducer though, which is interesting.

Subject: Re: Inserting Output Plug Into Input Socket
Posted by Jorel on Wed, 24 Nov 2010 14:04:52 GMT
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Now that I know it didn't damage the hardware, I need to find out what caused the problem of speaker output of the sound card.

Can you explain a bit how plugging a headphone to a microphone input will result to a transducer? I thought microphones and headphones/speakers are already transducers.

Subject: Re: Inserting Output Plug Into Input Socket
Posted by Adveser on Wed, 24 Nov 2010 17:35:19 GMT
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The headphones only working halfway in usually means that the wiring has a short in it. A stereo headphone plug is a tip-ring-sleeve configuration and if you get sound with only two of the three contacting the jack and nothing with all three, then there is a short.

You say the hardware is fine on the card/mobo, but I've worn out many headphones jacks. I didn't know how at the time, but eventually you can wear the metal down to the point solid contact becomes impossible

I usually only call a microphone or guitar pickups a transducer myself, so that might have been confusing. Inverting the polarity of any speaker turns it into a (piss poor) microphone and vice versa. Microphones don't make good speakers as you can imagine except for certain supertweeters over the years doing this.