

## XLR connectors



These are the industry standard microphone connectors, robust and relatively simple to install. There are a number of ways in which they can be wired.

### (i) BALANCED operation

Pin 1 connects to screen (Signal earth)

Pin 2 connects to signal + (Live)

Pin 3 connects to signal - (Return)

### (ii) UNBALANCED operation

Pins 1 & 3 connect to the screen of the cable

Pin 2 connects to signal conductor

The PIN numbers are identified on the XLR plug and an easy way to remember how they should be wired is:

X = Earth (Pin 1)

L = Live (Pin 2)

R = Return (Pin 3)

An unbalanced microphone can only be used up to a maximum of 10 meters away from the amplifier. Any more than this and noise problems become apparent. A balanced microphone will allow cable runs of up to 100m without any loss of performance. For unbalanced operation, a single core screened microphone cable can be used, but for a balanced line a twin core screened cable is required.