

## Re: pins, cables

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- *From:* Allan Adler <ara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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John Fields <jfields@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

In the US, pins and sockets are generally described as having mating diameters equivalent to AWG sizes. That is pins (male contacts) and sockets (female contacts) of like gauges will mate properly. Pins and sockets are available loose from any of the major connector manufacturers and can be had as crimp-type or solder-type. Crimp types are much more convenient to use and, with the proper choice of contact and crimp tool, can produce connections superior to those available using solder. Another advantage to using crimp contacts is that after the contacts have been crimped onto the wires, they're just poked into the right locations in the connector inserts, eliminating the need to solder at the connector.

Thanks for this synopsis.

Single wires can easily be prepared for probing a connector by crimping on the proper sex contact on one end, and then terminating the other end with whatever you need: banana plug, alligator clip, mini-hook, etc.

OK. Do you know any online illustrations of this technique?

It's a good idea to use a little shrink tubing over the crimped area of the contact in order to give the wire a little strain relief.

Makes sense.

I suggest you go to Digi-Key's site, find loose pins and crimp tools from various manufacturers and then go to their sites for a more detailed view of what's out there. (What's out there is HUGE!)

Re: pins, cables

Thanks, I took a look. It will take some getting used to.

You're in for a surprise when you find what good crimp tools cost!

Radio Shack sells a crimping tool for about \$39. Will it do the job?

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Ignorantly,

Allan Adler <ara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

\* Disclaimer: I am a guest and \*not\* a member of the MIT CSAIL. My actions and

\* comments do not reflect in any way on MIT. Also, I am nowhere near Boston.

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