



# ASH SPDIF Mk. I/II SPECIFICATIONS

## ZU AUDIO ASH S/PDIF Mk. I/II DIGITAL S/PDIF CABLE SPECIFICATIONS + INFORMATION

**Design** Specifically designed and manufactured by Zu to meet the needs of the new high resolution digital files, this cable is very capable in both the recording/mastering or home high-end playback environments.

Features include ZuB3 field geometry, formatted for minimal reflection S/PDIF interconnection, Teflon TFEP dielectric compounds, concentric lay silver alloy conductors, high magnitude shielding with 100% coverage, improves significantly the overall fidelity of the cable but also makes it impervious to fidelity loss due to atmospheric influence.

**Launched** 2003

**Directional** directional arrow (signal propagation indicator) visible on logo boot near source connector

**Device Under Test** Ash 75Ω 3.3' [1m] terminated RCA > RCA

**Bend Radius** 1.7" [4.3cm]

**Cable Diameter** 0.34" [0.86cm]

**E&M Architecture** ZuB3

**Cp (open)** pin / ground 270 pF

**Ls** pin 1.5 uH

ground 1.2 uH

**Tolerance** 0.1%

**Shield Details** braided high magnitude shielding, shunted to cable ground at load terminal

**Manufacturers Country Of Origin** Ogden, Utah—USA

**Life Expectancy** lifetime

**Warranty & Service** lifetime, limited, does not cover misuse or abuse



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Ash is a 75 ohm interconnecting patch cable designed for S/PDIF digital audio transmission. Ash cable assemblies are made to specific lengths to ensure the highest possible tolerance.

## DIRECTION OF SIGNAL PROPAGATION

Ash is a directional cable. We pay attention to direction of manufacture and identify this by placing the labels at the source end, with direction arrow, and with the text reading in the direction of recommended signal flow. "Ash" as printed would read away from the source (transmitter), and toward the load (receiver). Example: digital source > digital to analog converter.

## CONNECTOR OPTIONS AND DETAIL

Ash is available with either RCA or BNC termination.

RCA ends may feature standard type plugs or locking type. Standard RCA plugs simply push on and slide off. Locking type plugs require you to loosen the outer barrel, slide the connector on, and then cinch it up. All things being equal about the two types of connectors, we do not feel either type has a sonic advantage over the other.

The advantage of a locking type RCA plug: easy, low insertion force connection—the user loosens the barrel, allowing the coaxial shell to open up a bit, then easily slides the plug onto the socket. Once connected the user tightens the barrel which ensures a solid connection. The disadvantages: first time users may not know how to use them, or find them complicated or tedious. Barrels are not captured and may become lost when moving the unconnected cables. Higher cost.

Advantage of standard RCA plugs: they're simple, and completely functional. Disadvantages arise when the outside ground part of the connection is too tight. Really tight fitting RCA plugs are not fun to connect, forcing you to brace the front side of the equipment you are connecting. Disconnecting of excessively tight fitting plugs can tear low quality female connectors out of the chassis.

Advantage of BNC connectors: they are cool, work well, lock, and they are fun. There is some debate about them performing better. On this point I would not lose any sleep over, the output / input interface + interconnect, function as a whole and the ol' RCA plug has proven to be very capable.



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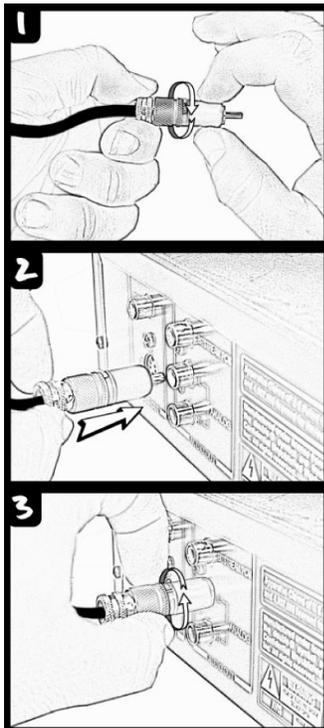
## ASH MAINTENANCE

No maintenance is required for the cable or the connector. All conductors are completely sealed, including the connectors which are fully potted with epoxy. If your connector contacts ever become dull or tarnished you will need to clean them. This is likely to never be a problem with nickel, gold or rhodium plated connectors. Pure copper or silver contacts that are not plated may require cleaning. If your connector contacts are nice and bright, don't worry about it; and the only time you need to check them would be if you disconnect the cables. In fact, anytime you are making an electrical connection make it a habit to inspect the contacts and clean them if they are tarnished or dirty.

Zu does not recommend any contact enhancing products for the Ash, or any Zu interconnecting patch cable.

## BURN-IN

Ash Mk.II does take several weeks to sound its best, most however find it to be better than what they are running right out of the box. Please do not worry about or use any special burn-in systems or procedures, just listen and enjoy. Complete burn-in is roughly 400 hours, due to the exclusive use of Teflon. Zu does not recommend any contact enhancing products.



## LOCKING RCA-TYPE CONNECTOR USAGE

Hold the rear of the connector with your left hand. With your right hand loosen the barrel (clockwise, as pictured) until it hides the outer ground portion of the plug (usually a couple of turns—720 degrees).

Once loose, plug it in. It should slide on very easily. If it's anything but smooth and easy, you need to loosen the barrel a bit more.

Now plugged in, simply rotate the barrel counter clockwise to lock it down.