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**AES** Audio Engineering Society - Pacific Northwest Section

*Around the Puget Sound, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.*

## A Soldering Workshop aka Soldering 101

**Presented by  
Rick Chinn - Uneeda Audio | AES PNW  
and  
AES Pacific Northwest Section**

**Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 7:30pm  
Location TBA**

This workshop teaches participants the fundamentals of soldering wires and thru-hole parts. No previous soldering experience necessary. Since cables are an integral part of any audio system, being able to make your own gives you a leg-up on others who are not so handy with tools and their hands. You can also save money since you can simply purchase good cable and high-quality connectors, and you avoid all of the marketing voodoo that seems to go with *interconnects* no, strike that, **they're just cables**. Beyond that, when a cable breaks, you now have the expertise to fix it yourself instead of having to buy a new one. Of course you may not have *time to do this* but that's a different kind of problem.

There is no particular magic to soldering, once you have mastered the basics, and understand, at least superficially, the underlying principles. Rick taught both of his daughters how to solder before they were 10 (let that be a tacit challenge to anyone reading this).

We will cover tools, solder, and technique.

Participants will be able to make their own microphone cable (plastic insulation) at the workshop. There is no cost for this. Time permitting, we will also cover 1/4" plugs.

Participants will also have the opportunity to make a cable of 50-feet or less from a traditional rubber-insulated braided-shield cable (GEPCO 8412 clone), as well a cable using starquad construction (Canare). There will be cost associated with this because of the cable. Both cable types are \$0.50/foot, but the starquad wire is precut into 20-ft lengths. You are also welcome to bring your own wire and connectors. Bring your checkbook or cash.

**If you are planning to attend, we ask that you [RSVP](#) so that we have an idea of how much space is required, etc. Further, if you plan to make a cable using the rubber-insulated or starquad wire, we ask that you let us know in advance of the meeting with your RSVP. Please indicate how much wire (length of rubber-insulated, or 20ft pieces of Starquad). There is a 500ft spool of the rubber-insulated cable and ?? pieces of Starquad. First come, first served. If you want more starquad than that, you can buy it by the foot from Westlake Electronics in Woodinville.**

### Tools

To make things go faster, we invite you to bring your own tools:

- eye protection of some sort.
- soldering iron, 25w minimum, with a medium sized tip, preferably temperature controlled, 700-degrees.
- wire cutters
- wire stripper (or if you're adept, you can use your wire cutter)
- an awl, machinists scribe, or dental probe (pointy thing that dentists use to provoke patients)
- a [Panavise](#), small machinist's vise, [Solderbuddy](#), or some other contrivance to keep the connector stationary when you try to attack it with a soldering iron.

We reserve the right to critique your soldering tool. Solder will be provided.

## About the Presenter

In addition to serving on the AES PNW Section Committee as the Section Webmaster, recordist, and occasional photographer, Rick operates a company, Uneeda Audio, where he dispenses audio advice to the forlorn, sells a few electronic (audio) kits, and also provides live sound for events and recording services, as well as audio systems consulting. Rick has been soldering since the 6th grade, when his mother bought him a Heathkit. He is a life member of the AES, and holds an FCC General Class Radiotelephone license, an Amateur Radio License, and one US Patent.

## Dave Tosti-Lane

*AES PNW 2012-2013 Section Chair*

**n.b.** *The material presented at our meetings is the opinion of the presenter and not necessarily that of the Society. You are encouraged to conduct your own research and to form your own opinions before adopting the presented material as Truth.*

**Our meetings are open to anyone interested in Audio. AES membership is NOT required for you to attend our meetings.**

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