

Quick Help

Connecting headsets to computers

USB I love you...

There are several types of headsets used. Within SIDE, we mostly use USB headsets. Apart from having excellent sound, they are simple to connect - they plug in to any USB socket on the computer.



... and then there's analogue

In most home and school situations, headsets are "analogue". They use 3.5mm jacks.



My other jack

The two jacks represent the microphone and speakers - or "in" and "out." Sadly, jack (plug) colours vary. The most common are **green** for out (speakers) and **pink** for in (microphone). At SIDE we buy tend to buy Verbatim brand - they are robust and excellent value, but use the colours **black** for out (speakers) and **blue** for in (microphone).

IN
(MICROPHONE)



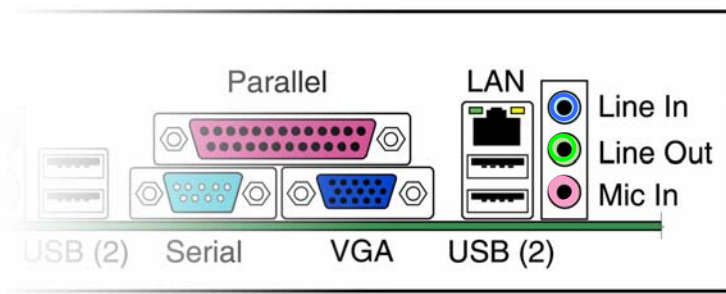
OUT
(SPEAKERS)



(Don't get me started about all the silly, non-standard colours on things like iPod connectors...)

Connecting the analogue headset

There are various colour combinations of plugs (jacks) and sockets used. On MOST computers, the audio connectors (back) are like this:



Blast

Many SIDE computers have an additional high-quality sound card called a Sound Blaster. In fact, it replaces the normal "on-board" connectors.

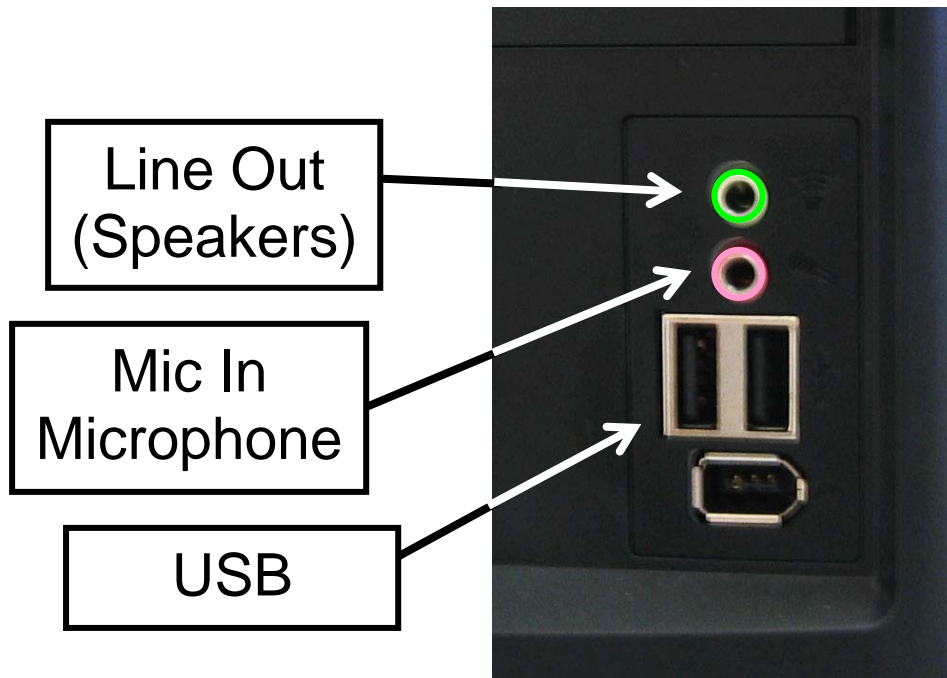
Did you spot the different use of colours?

An added complication is the fact that when this card is installed, the normal on-board sound ports (like those above) don't work. If you've got a Sound Blaster, you must use it.



The easy way out

Confused? The simple solution should be to just use the front connectors. BUT be warned. On some computers, they are not connected or configured. In this case, you're forced to to the back panel.



Front of typical SIDE computer

Pas de deux?

Can you use two headsets on one computer at the same time in applications like Centra?

Short answer:

Analogue: YES

USB: NO

To do this, a little adapter is needed. Two adapters are needed for a single computer - one for the microphone jacks, and one for the speakers. These adapters are available in most electronics and entertainment stores.

