

“got hum? get ISO-MAX®!”

Catchy phrase, yes? But what does it mean? What is an ISO-MAX®, and why do I need it?

Hello. We'd like to introduce ourselves. We're Jensen Transformers. Since 1974, we have been designing and manufacturing high performance audio and video transformers. In 1993, we introduced the ISO-MAX® line of plug and play devices so that A/V professionals can safely and effectively solve system “ground loop” and interfacing problems. Because they contain Jensen transformers, they do not degrade the signal — only the hum and buzz are gone.

Here are some places that an ISO-MAX can help you, the pro A/V installer:

1. *“My customer’s Home Theater system has a loud hum after connecting the Cable TV’s coax to the DVR. How do I fix it?”*

A little bit of troubleshooting is needed. The first thing to try is to disconnect the cable TV line from the DVR. If the noise is gone, then install our model VRD-1FF between the coax and the DVR input. The VRD-1FF will isolate the coax from the DVR. The signal quality is restored, but the hum is stopped cold.

2. *“The subwoofer still has the hum after the coax was disconnected.”*

This means the “ground loop” is between the receiver’s output and the subwoofer’s input. Use our model SUB-1RR at the sub’s RCA input to stop the noise and restore the audio signal. (\*Use the SUB-2RR for subs with L-R inputs)

3. *“A laptop computer is providing a music source to the system. There’s hum when it’s plugged into an AC outlet and not on battery power.”*

We have two ISO-MAX models for this application: the CI-2RR (RCA’s in & out), or the CI-2MINI (3.5mm jacks in & out). Either will isolate the computer from the system & remove the hum.

4. *“My customer has a preamp that has only XLR outputs, and the power amp has RCA’s. An adapter cable shorts out the XLR’s low side. How can I connect them together?”*

Our model PI-2XX line input isolator has interchangeable connectors, which allow for balanced to unbalanced conversion (XLR to RCA) of the audio signal. Plus, you get complete isolation and immunity from hum, buzz and noise caused by ground loops, RF interference, light dimmers, etc., while maintaining the highest audio quality that Jensen products are known for. The version of the PI-2XX you would use is the model PI-2XR.

5. *“I have the opposite problem. I need to connect RCA outputs to XLR inputs.”*

Install our model PI-2RX at the power amp’s inputs and you are done.

6. *“The passive baluns I used on an analog audio over Cat cable is letting high frequency noises pass through.”*

It’s true, passive baluns offer no high frequency isolation. Jensen solved this problem with a transmitter/receiver combination that maintains true high-performance signal quality throughout the conversion: the CI-RJ2R-set.

7. *“There’s a faint horizontal line that rolls upwards in the video monitor of a CCTV security camera system. Where is that coming from?”*

That’s called a “hum bar”. Small AC power line leakage currents from the chassis of the active source device travel down the shield of the video cable to the monitor, which injects the hum into the image. Our model VB-1BB magnetically couples the video signal from it’s input to output BNC’s, without allowing a physical connection between the source & monitor. This stops the current flow, and eliminates the hum bar.

8. *“I need two more line level feeds, but all there is left is speaker level outputs.”*

Our model SC-2NR (for -10 dBv “consumer” gear) and SP-2SX (for +4 dBu “pro”) will convert the speaker outputs into transformer isolated, line level signals.

9. *“I need to add 16 channels of line level isolation to an audio rack, but your metal boxed PI-2XX’s are too big. I don’t have the space to mount them all.”*

The same high performance line input Jensens are available in a compact 2-channel DIN module, our model DIN-2LI. Eight of these will fit side by side on our ISO-MAX 3RU size rack panel, giving you the 16 channels of isolation you need.

\*Note: All the ISO-MAX models featured here are passive. There are no batteries or power required. No “reset” buttons, no software to update. They just work!

Now for a “tech tip”: ***never*** fix a ground loop noise problem by using a cheater plug or breaking off the third pin on the power cord of AC powered equipment. Installers who do this put their customers at great physical risk, and their company at an even greater liability risk. Using an ISO-MAX® **instead** is the safe and smart choice!

**jensen transformers**

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\*Proudly made in the USA!