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r/buildapc • 4 yr. ago

SunbleachedAngel



Are PSU power cables interchangeable? (the one you plug into the wall)

[Build Help](#)

So my younger brother forgot it in another city and it will take at least 2 days for it to be mailed. Can he use one from his older computer? His new PSU is be quiet! Pure Power 11 600W CM (BN298) and his old one is some crappy 450W fro a prebuilt.

Thanks in advance!

95

60



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JohnHallman01 • 4y ago

Yeah 100%

105 Reply ...



SunbleachedAngel OP • 4y ago

It's a \$1200 computer so I wanted to make sure =D

21 Reply ...



sunmonkey • 4y ago

/thread.

17 Reply ...



OzmodiarTheGreat • 4y ago

The exception might be a cable designed for a very low power computer might not be rated for the power draw on a big gaming rig. But that doesn't seem to be the case for OP.

16 Reply ...



YooooZane • 3y ago

I got a 600 watt i want to use a 400watt powercord on will it work?? sorry if it's a dumb question i really dont want to fry something over a little mistake i made

4 Reply ...

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the PC to the Wall outlet. You should be all set!

↑ 5 ↓ ○ Reply ...



znojavaMomce • 4y ago

Yeah 100%

↑ 2 ↓ ○ Reply ...



85sqbodyW91 • 4y ago

Into the wall yes. The wires from the psu into the PC no

⊖ ↑ 84 ↓ ○ Reply ...



SunbleachedAngel [OP](#) • 4y ago

Thanks =)

⊖ ↑ 9 ↓ ○ Reply ...



85sqbodyW91 • 4y ago

You're welcome! Happy New Year.

⊖ ↑ 9 ↓ ○ Reply ...



ComprehensiveCow8258 • 2y ago

Happy New Year

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ○ Reply ...



[deleted] • 2y ago

dang if only I broke the power cable 22 hours earlier I could have wished you happy new year on time, happy 2nd day of new year

↑ 2 ↓ ○ Reply ...



sawcondeesnutz • 4y ago

The 3-pin cable from psu to the wall is totally interchangeable.

↑ 19 ↓ ○ Reply ...



Lactobeezor • 4y ago

Power cable from wall to power supply. Yes

⊖ ↑ 12 ↓ ○ Reply ...

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↑ 2 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



RavenRA • 4y ago

There is a different socket in 1000w+ psu, with different cable for higher (20?) amp wall socket. Below 1000w they are interchangeable, even pc/mac.

⊖ ↑ 12 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



ICEpear8472 • 4y ago

Not necessarily. It actually depends on the voltage of your power grid if and when you need those cables. The normal ones (C13/C14) are rated up to 10A. So in the US where mains electricity gives your 120V you could transfer up to $120V * 10A = 1200W$ via those cables. In Europe (and many other regions) the mains voltage is higher at 230V so the normal cables are good up to $230V * 10A = 2300W$.

The other cable type which might be used for high powered PSU are the C19/C20 ones. To my knowledge they are rated up to 16A. So it allows for up to 1920W with 120V and 3680W with 230V.

In regions with 230V you probably where seldom actually need the C19/C20 cables and plugs. But for PSUs which are sold worldwide they are still used since those PSUs might of course be used in a region with only 120V.

↑ 7 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



Jolly-Ad7653 • 4y ago

Learned something new today.

Apparently there are standard 18ga (10A) cords and higher power ones made of 14ga which go to the full 15A.

↑ 6 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



Kelsenellenelvial • 4y ago • Edited 4y ago

Generally you can fit a standard cable into a Mac socket, but the Apple cables usually have some custom design that prevents them from being used in a standard socket. For example, the socket on an iMac has a slightly recessed ring, a standard cable fits within it fine, but that ring on the cable will prevent it from fitting in most standard sockets. I.e the Apple device and cables are both non-standard and designed so that the standard cables fit the Apple socket, and the Apple cables fit an Apple Socket, but for some reason Apple doesn't want their cables to fit the standard socket in other manufacturers devices.

↑ 2 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



[deleted] • 4y ago

IEC or kettle power leads for sure. Just make sure you use a quality cable.

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The cable is like 5 months old, should be fine

⊖ ↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...



msanangelo • 4y ago

age isn't the only factor. it's also the gauge of the wire that dictates how much power it can handle.

↑ 10 ↓ ○ Reply ...



Runaround46 • 4y ago

No they are not! This may be only for more extreme cases. But the wire gauge of the power cable determines the current capacity. A 1000w power supply drawing approx 8 amps won't work with a AWG 18 cable rated for 5 amps. (Just an example)

⊖ ↑ 4 ↓ ○ Reply ...



SunbleachedAngel [OP](#) • 4y ago

It's between a 450W and 600W ones, should be fine

⊖ ↑ 6 ↓ ○ Reply ...



Runaround46 • 4y ago

Yeah should be fine! But deff could not hurt to check. A 5amp rated cable is pushing it at 600w full draw, where its perfect for a 450w power supply. Current capability should be labeled on the power cable, if not a AWG is and you should be able to figure out the amperage rating from the NEC based on the insulation type.

⊖ ↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...

⊕ [deleted] • 1y ago



Runaround46 • 4y ago

<https://dfarq.homeip.net/computer-power-cord-awg-why-it-matters/>

↑ 5 ↓ ○ Reply ...



c_delta • 4y ago

Any cable with that sort of plug on the PSU end *should* be rated for 10 amps. Does not mean that it *is*, but if it is not, whoever brought that cable to the market should be slapped with a copy of the IEC 60320 standard.

⊖ ↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...

⊕ [deleted] • 4y ago

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external power supply. If it has 3 prongs and is the same plug shape, it should be fine. That's why I always look at the length of the cables when I am reconfiguring my setup or moving it. Often monitors have the shortest cords so I put the shortest one for my PC because it's close to the power strip and then use the longer ones for my monitor.

⊖ ↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...



Kelsenellenelvial • 4y ago

Yep, you can also get international versions of those cables for other countries. They're specifically intended for use with power supplies that are compatible with all the worlds mains electrical standard so users can use their device in another country just by switching out the cable and manufacturers can sell the same product in multiple countries by just include if the appropriate cable.

↑ 4 ↓ ○ Reply ...



em_drei_pilot • 4y ago

Yeah, tons of things use IEC 60320 C13/C14, it's a standard. You just need to be sure the wires are sized appropriately for the draw, which shouldn't be an issue on a 600w power supply,

↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...



BLT1122 • 3y ago

Little late to the thread but I just got an asus rog strix 1000watt psu and the power cable they sent me has a short in it somewhere. If I bend the cable in a certain spot my psu cuts off. I tried just leaving it alone and not messing with it but I just had it shut off mid game without anything touching it. My previous psu was a 600watt thermaltake. Any suggestions here? Would it be safe to just swap psu to wall cable and run with it?

⊖ ↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...



SunbleachedAngel [OP](#) • 3y ago

PSU to wall is safe, they are all the same (some might be different in different countries but you should be okay) I'm doing this with my pc for almost a year now and no problems

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ○ Reply ...



BLT1122 • 3y ago

So even though my old ac cable is an 18 gauge and the new psu came with a 16 gauge that shouldn't matter? I'm going from a 600 to a 1000watt I really don't want to fry anything

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ○ Reply ...



SunbleachedAngel [OP](#) • 3y ago

Shouldn't matter

↑ 1 ↓ ○ Reply ...

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So glad this was the first result when I googled the same question

⬇️ 3 ⬆️ Reply ...



SunbleachedAngel OP • 2y ago

the normal cables are not interchangeable but the one that goes into the wall usually is

⬆️ 1 ⬇️ Reply ...



c_delta • 4y ago

Reading title: "NOOOOOOOOOO.... oh, yes, actually, *that* one is fine":

⬆️ 2 ⬇️ Reply ...



[deleted] • 4y ago

As long as it's from the wall to the psu it should be fine but I'd make sure it's a decent quality cable too

⬆️ 1 ⬇️ Reply ...



dacq • 4y ago

In the long term the original should be used though. Be Quiet even say this.

⬆️ 1 ⬇️ Reply ...



[deleted] • 4y ago

Can be used? Yes.

Should be used long term? No.

Cheap PSUs may have cheaped out on that cable so you should not use it long term. It's best to swap to the intended PSU cable when you can. Instabilities in the power supply could cause strange errors that are difficult to debug.

⬆️ 1 ⬇️ Reply ...



MyMomsSecondSon • 4y ago

I used an old one I had to replace the missing one from a slow cooker I bought. Didn't burn my house down even a little.

⬆️ 1 ⬇️ Reply ...



Bushpilot • 4y ago

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I use the thickest ones I can (highest gauge) More copper means better electrical flow, less heat, etc (though I've never heard of a failure from a generic cord... an old Alienware laptop used a too small cable that would get pretty warm).

I got tons in my spare wire drawers from years of computery things.... I got cables no one knows what they are for any more... maybe I need to get to the recycling center.

↑ 1 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



A_L_E_X_W • 4y ago

Wait, from reading these comments and presuming you're all talking about use in the US, after you saying that different rated cables are physically the same and interchangeable but could be under rated for the purpose? With no fuse in the plug?

That seems downright dangerous by design.

In the UK all* plugs have the same 3 pin design with a maximum of 13A but with a fuse within the plug. So you could have say a 2A cable made with tiny gauge wire but it'll be protected by the 2A fuse so it's never dangerous. Of course you could change that that fuse but you'd be modifying the bought part and make that choice yourself. Most IEC cables are rated to 13A in reality though.

*You can get unfused 2 pin lighting plugs which are good for 5A, not many people use them though and the sockets will be protected by a 5A fuse upstream.

↑ 1 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



4131295 • 4y ago

Related question: I have a 750W seasonic focus PSU, let's say I upgrade to an 1000W seasonic focus PSU. Is it still potentially dangerous to use the old internal power cables?

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ [Reply](#) ...



SunbleachedAngel [OP](#) • 4y ago • Edited 4y ago

Absolutely yes, it can fry your stuff. Never do this

↑ 3 ↓ [Reply](#) ...

⊕ [\[deleted\]](#) • 2y ago



scudmonger • 4y ago

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think this its 100% compatible but its not. Plugged it in and after running the computer for a bit, it got very warm and I started smelling burnt plastic. My newer computer's power supply came with a much, much thicker cable to the wall to support the 750 watts. I am guessing the old cable that started to melt was probably designed for a small premade computer that had a 200 watt power supply.

⊖ ↑ -2 ↓ ○ Reply ...



MajesticGiant • 4y ago

Their cables are perfectly fine. Your issue was you proly used a 5A cable on a 10A PSU. 200->750 is almost 400% the power, vs 450->600 which is like 30% power difference. That much should be built in simply for redundancy sake

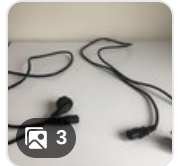
↑ 2 ↓ ○ Reply ...

⊕ [deleted] • 4y ago



r/pcmasterrace • 9 mo. ago

How to differentiate PSU power cables?



32 comments



r/buildapc • 7 yr. ago

psu cables cross compatible?

35 upvotes · 70 comments



r/watercooling • 8 mo. ago

What PSU cable is this?



66 upvotes · 39 comments



r/buildapc • 6 mo. ago

Are PSU extension cables safe?

4 upvotes · 5 comments



r/pcmasterrace • 3 mo. ago

Bought custom PSU cables and I'm in love with them.



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If I buy a new psu that is the same model and brand of the last but just with a bigger wattage, can I reuse the cable?

970 upvotes · 401 comments



r/CableManagement • 4 mo. ago

New custom PSU cables

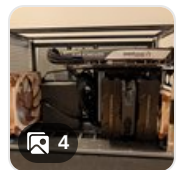
112 upvotes · 9 comments



r/ncasedesign • 1 mo. ago

Are my PSU cables too bent?

6 upvotes · 9 comments



r/PcBuild • 4 yr. ago

Are PSU power cables interchangeable? (the one you plug into the wall)

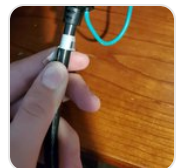
1 upvote · 2 comments



r/pcmasterrace • 4 yr. ago

What is this green cable thing that is in the power cord that came with my ROG power supply?

8 upvotes · 23 comments



r/PcBuildHelp • 8 mo. ago

Can I use the 12v 2x6 cable from my PSU?

5 upvotes · 19 comments



r/techsupport • 1 mo. ago

Computer destroyed my power cables???

2 upvotes · 22 comments



r/buildapc • 2 yr. ago

Is it ok to use PSU cables from a different manufacturer?

4 comments

[Skip to main content](#)[Log In](#)POWER SUPPLY INLET
CABLE

10 upvotes · 3 comments



r/pcmasterrace • 4 yr. ago

Do different ac power cords have any difference, or they are essentially the same?

1 upvote · 9 comments



r/computers • 5 mo. ago

What power supply port is this ?

2 upvotes · 5 comments



r/techsupport • 1 yr. ago

Do all IEC cables have the same power specifications if from the same region?

2 upvotes · 15 comments



r/DIY • 3 yr. ago

How to connect a simple plug to a wall power supply?

2 upvotes · 12 comments



r/Motors • 4 yr. ago

Do i need a resistor to run this fan (found in a broken power supply - see the images. 12V DC 0.12A 1.44W written on the label) thanks in advance.

4 upvotes · 6 comments



r/NoStupidQuestions • 4 yr. ago

How can I get ethernet in a different room on a different level to the router without trailing the cable up the stairs?

6 comments



r/buildapc • 3 yr. ago

Is it Safe to Plug a High-End PC up to an Extension Cord/Power Strip?

5 upvotes · 41 comments



Log In



38 upvotes · 31 comments



r/PcBuildHelp • 5 mo. ago

Can i use this cable to power a 5080?

129 upvotes · 112 comments



r/UsbCHardware • 3 yr. ago

why do different cables have different capabilities? it's not just connectors and wire gauge?

27 upvotes · 33 comments



r/australia • 6 mo. ago

Am I going crazy or do all power board cables go the same way?

45 comments

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