

Question: How do I use a LAN tester to check network cables?

Answer: A LAN tester is a quick and easy way of checking network cables for any faults. It lets you identify open or short circuits on cables and networks and informs which wire or wires are causing the fault.

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Most LAN testers work in much the same way. For the purpose of this demonstration we will be using our TOO835 LAN tester (right).



TOO835

Testing Cable

To test a cable simply switch the master unit to 'ON' or 'S' (for slower easier to read indicators). Connect one end of the cable to the master unit and the other end to the remote. The lights on both the master unit and the remote should then illuminate in sequential order from '1' to 'G'.

The order in which the lights illuminate shows if the cable is wired correctly as explained in the sections below.

No Fault

If the cable is wired correctly the lights on both the master unit and the remote will illuminate in order from '1' to 'G' with no interruptions (Example shown below).

When testing RJ11 cable, the lights on the master unit will illuminate in order from '1' to 'G' where as the lights on the remote will only illuminate from '2' to '4'.



This CCTV installation tip is aimed at helping you to install CCTV equipment. If you are looking for answers on "how to fit CCTV" or perhaps "how to network a DVR or NVR" or even "how to get CCTV on your mobile phone" why not check out our full range of CCTV installation tips at: www.systemq.com

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Open Circuit (Wire not connected to pin)

If a wire has an open circuit the corresponding light will not illuminate on either the master unit or the remote. If the cable has less than 2 wires connected then no lights will illuminate.

In the example below both wires '2' and '4' have open circuits.



Short Circuit (Wire connected to the wrong pin)

1 Pair Connected Incorrectly

If 1 pair of wires are connected incorrectly the lights on the remote unit will indicate which 2 wires they are. Whilst the master unit illuminates in sequential order from '1' to 'G', the lights on the remote will illuminate in the order the wires are actually connected.

For example if wires '2' and '4' have been swapped, when light '2' illuminates on the master unit, light '4' would illuminate on the remote. Therefore when light '4' illuminates on the master unit, light '2' would illuminate on the remote as shown in the example below.



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2 Pairs Connected Incorrectly

If 2 pairs are connected incorrectly, whilst the lights on the master unit illuminate in sequential order, the corresponding lights will not illuminate on the remote.

For example if pair '2' and '3' and pair '5' and '6' are wired incorrectly, lights 2,3,5 and 6 would not illuminate on the remote as shown below.



More than 2 Pairs Connected Incorrectly

In the event that more than 2 pairs are connected incorrectly the corresponding lights on both the master unit and the remote would not illuminate.

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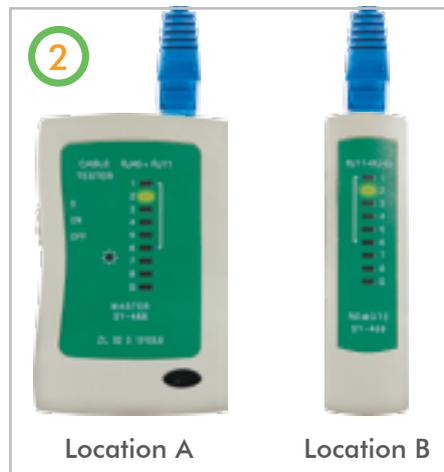
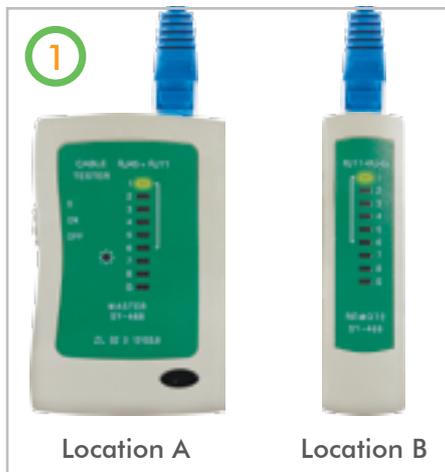
Testing A Network

As well as cable testers, LAN testers can also function as network testers. This is easier done with 2 people, one at each location. However if testing by yourself monitoring the remote should help you identify any problems in the network.

To test a connection between 2 directly wired sockets in locations 'A' and 'B' follow the steps below:

- 1 Disconnect any cables from all other sockets in the network.
- 2 Detach the remote from the master unit.
- 3 Use a cable to connect the master unit to the socket in location A.
- 4 Use a cable to connect the remote to the socket in location B.
- 5 The master unit and the remote then function just the same as when testing cable.

NOTE Be sure to test the 2 cables connecting the master unit and remote to the sockets in locations A and B. Otherwise this may lead to a false diagnosis as the problem may be in the cable used and not the network.



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