

## CHAPTER 2

# CONNECTIONS

## AC Power Hookup

The NanoCompressor comes with a power adapter suitable for the voltage of the country it is shipped to (either 110 or 220V, 50 or 60 Hz).

To turn on the NanoCompressor, plug the small end of the power adapter cord into the NanoCompressor's [POWER] socket and the male (plug) end into a source of AC power. It's good practice to not plug in the NanoCompressor until all other cables are hooked up.



*Alesis cannot be responsible for problems caused by using the NanoCompressor or any associated equipment with improper AC wiring.*

## Line Conditioners and Protectors

Although the NanoCompressor is designed to tolerate typical voltage variations, in today's world the voltage coming from the AC line may contain spikes or transients that can possibly stress your gear and, over time, cause a failure. There are three main ways to protect against this, listed in ascending order of cost and complexity:

- **Line spike/surge protectors.** Relatively inexpensive, these are designed to protect against strong surges and spikes, acting somewhat like fuses in that they need to be replaced if they've been hit by an extremely strong spike.
- **Line filters.** These generally combine spike/surge protection with filters that remove some line noise (dimmer hash, transients from other appliances, etc.).
- **Uninterruptible power supply (UPS).** This is the most sophisticated option. A UPS provides power even if the AC power line fails completely. Intended for computer applications, a UPS allows you to complete an orderly shutdown of a computer system in the event of a power outage, and the isolation it provides from the power line minimizes all forms of interference—spikes, noise, etc.

## Audio Connections

The connections between the NanoCompressor and your studio are your music's lifeline, so use only high quality cables. These should be low-capacitance shielded cables with a stranded (not solid) internal conductor and a low-resistance shield. Although quality cables cost more, they do make a difference. Route cables to the NanoCompressor correctly by observing the following precautions:

- Do not bundle audio cables with AC power cords.
- Avoid running audio cables, or placing the NanoCompressor itself, near sources of electromagnetic interference such as transformers, monitors, computers, etc.

- Never unplug a cable by pulling on the wire itself. Always unplug by firmly grasping the body of the plug and pulling directly outward.
- Do not place cables where they can be stepped on. Stepping on a cable may not cause immediate damage, but it can compress the insulation between the center conductor and shield (degrading performance), or reduce the cable's reliability.
- Avoid twisting the cable or having it make sharp, right angle turns.

## Typical Applications

The audio inputs and outputs are typically used in one of three ways:

- from the output of a line-level instrument (like a guitar or keyboard with either a mono or stereo output), and out to an amplifier or mixer input; or,
- from the insert of a mixer channel or master out
- from the stereo buss outputs of a mixer to a mix-down tape machine or amplifier.

These applications are outlined and illustrated in detail on the following pages.

## Connecting Directly to an Instrument



*When connecting audio cables and/or turning power on and off, make sure that all devices in your system have their volume controls turned down.*

The NanoCompressor has two 1/4" unbalanced inputs