RJ-45 Plug - with clip facing down

568A

Ensure that the copper ends are all flush with the end of the RJ-45 connector before crimping it

568B

Be careful! Keystone jacks usually include both 568A and 568B colour coding and the marking is not always very clear.

So, which one is preferred?
The only difference between the A and B standard is that the green and orange pairs are terminated to different pins. But here’s the thing, neither one is technically superior to another when used in Ethernet applications. From what I can understand is that all new installations should be carried out using the TIA/EIA developed 568A. Or, hey, make your choice by going eeny-meeny-miney-mo...

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<tr>
<th>Pin #</th>
<th>568A</th>
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Cat 5e Installation - Quality Check List

1. The minimum cable bend radius of 25mm not exceeded
2. Twist rates maintained to within 13mm of each termination point
3. No stretched segments (maximum cable pulling tension = 11kgs)
4. Point-2-point cabling limited to 90m
5. The minimum power cable / UTP separation of 300mm maintained
6. Cables routed well clear of electrical devices (i.e. fluorescent lights, etc.)
7. Cables not tightly bound and bundled
8. Slack neatly coiled and concealed
9. Termination points labeled at both ends
10. Trunking neatly mounted
11. Patch Panels and network points correctly mounted
12. Patch leads neatly routed in # U cabinet
13. Good quality connectors and keystones used (no el-cheapo’s)
14. Grommets used to protect cable when passing through metal studs
15. Plenum rated cable used where mandated
16. Testing done - cabling supports the network’s bandwidth requirement
17. Site left clean and tidy

Need to run another 100Mbps Cat5e link, but too lazy or don’t have enough of the good stuff in your wallet? And, this being the case, why not simply pop in a Cat5e splitter at both your network point and switch? Note that they must be used in pairs.

Cat5e cables have 8 wires (4 pairs) and under 10 or 100MbpS, only the green and orange pairs are actually used; Pin #’s 1, 2, 3, and 6. This freely translated means that you can run two 10 or 100Mbps data links by utilizing all the wires in your cable. Before you ask, nope, a splitter cannot be used on a 1000Mbps data link – since it requires all 8 wires to operate.