CH Sound Design

RingMaster User Guide
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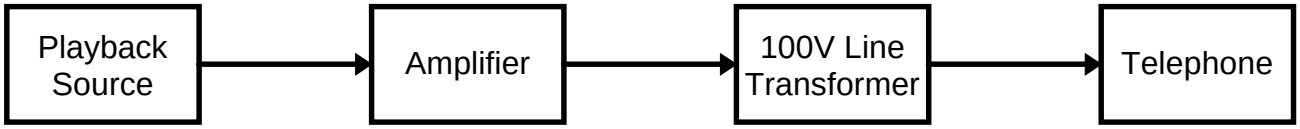
RingMaster provides a simple and inexpensive facility for ringing on-stage telephones. The system comprises a series of wave files which replicate the ring signals used by various telephone systems throughout the world. All that is needed to ring a telephone is to amplify the signal appropriately, and then send it to the telephone. The following diagram shows one way of doing this:



- The playback source can be just about anything, provided that it is able to be started reliably on cue. The wave files are supplied as 44.1kHz, stereo, 16 bit, as this is the most universal format, and allows easy burning to a CD. They could however be converted to MP3, used on an iPod, or whatever. All wave files are supplied with a 30 second duration.

- The amplifier can again be just about anything. The required output power is only a few Watts, so a 10W amplifier should be fine. The only point to watch is that the amplifier is happy driving the line transformer. Most are, but some aren't. An alternative is to simply use a low cost PA amplifier which already has a 100V output. This then eliminates the need for the external transformer.

- The 100V line transformer is the only "special" part in the system, but should be easily obtainable from most electronic suppliers. A 5W transformer should be fine.

IMPORTANT

RingMaster will not stop sending the ring signal to the telephone once the receiver has been picked up. The telephone will stop ringing, as this is taken care of by a switch inside the telephone. However, if an actor was to then hold the receiver close to their ear, they could be subjected to excessive SPL. Thus it is most important to disconnect the telephone's ear piece internally. Also, be sure to have stopped RingMaster before the actor replaces the receiver!

APPLICATION HINTS

Since a wave file is being used to produce the ring signal, it can be easily edited if required. For example:

- The time delay between successive ring cycles could be shortened if it seems too long. The timings of the supplied wave files are accurate, but nonetheless a shorter time might work better with your production.

- The wave files could be detuned slightly, so that if there is a scene with multiple phones on a desk all ringing at once, they can all sound slightly different. Obviously each phone will then need its own playback source, amplifier and line transformer. This approach would probably work best with mechanical bell type telephones.

- Multiple detuned wave files could be loaded into a sampler, and hooked up to a MIDI keyboard. This would then allow a telephone to be “played” musically.