



## **PAMA Recommendations for Neutral Nomenclature in Pro Audio**

*Document Version 1.0*

*June 2021*

The Professional Audio Manufacturers Alliance (PAMA) has identified outdated language and terminology issues increasingly recognized as discouraging a spirit of inclusivity within the professional audio community. PAMA worked in collaboration with Audinate and a few other member organizations, using an Audinate framework as a starting point. PAMA circulated a survey to member companies to gather feedback regarding problematic language (e.g., master/slave in clocking references and eliminating male/female in reference to connector topology) and soliciting input on alternate, neutral terminology.

The result is a list of suggested terms to replace current terminology.

The goal of the project is to introduce and create normalcy around neutral language in the audio industry. PAMA encourages pro audio companies to embrace neutral nomenclature as one step toward meaningful change. This is a living document that will continue to evolve with ongoing input from the industry at large.

Term	Context	PAMA Recommendation	Audinate Language Compared to PAMA
Grand master/ master/slave	• IEEE 1588 / PTP • USB • SPI • I2C / I2S	N/A	Primary Leader in place of grand master Leader in place of master Follower in place of slave
Grand master/ master/slave	Others	primary / secondary	In the case of other standards, select from alternatives such as primary/replica, primary/secondary, controller/dispatcher, manager/worker, mixer/leaf, aggregator/collector, publisher/subscriber, initiator/responder.
Gendered language (e.g. he / she / him / her / his / hers, etc )	Any	neutral terms similar to “the user”	Use neutral terms like they, them, their or “the user”, etc. Avoid clunky phrases like: “he or she”, “his/hers”, “(s)he”, etc
Male/Female replacement	Any	plug / socket	N/A
Whitelist/Blacklist	Any	inclusion / exclusion list	Use allowlist/denylist; alternatives such as allowed/blocked, inclusion/exclusion list, safelist/blocklist can also be used as appropriate.
Crazy, insane, cripple	Any	Be sensitive to word choice; avoid unnecessarily gendered language; write/speak with inclusivity in mind	<a href="#">See Avoid ableist language for guidelines.</a>
Sanity check	Any	validate / verify	The word “check” alone often conveys the same meaning. Otherwise consider validate, verify, quick check, initial check, confidence check, soundness check
Dummy	Any	placeholder	Unused, placeholder, no-op, base, fake/mock/stub