

# Why do receivers have two LNB jacks?

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**State-of-the-art technology** can do really much. Sometimes even too much, and that's when it sometimes gets out of hand. Which basic features does a receiver really need, and which features are nothing more than nice add-on features?

Let's have a look at the antenna connection, which links the receiver to the LNB. There is one global type of connection, the so-called F-type socket. The cable originating from the satellite antenna is equipped with an F-type connector which is screwed onto the socket. If you have ever tried to connect an F-type connector yourself and almost broke a finger along the way, you'll forever remember what kind of connector this is.

So why does a receiver need two LNB jacks? Well, one is the antenna input of course and in most cases it is labelled LNB IN or IF INPUT. But then there's the second jack with a similar name, like LNB OUT or IF OUTPUT. Only rarely does it carry the more appropriate name LOOP.

If you have a reception system consisting of only one receiver you can safely ignore the second jack, and the same is true if you own a twin receiver. The only purpose of the LOOP jack is to connect a second receiver to the existing equipment. In such a setup the first receiver remains physically connected to the LNB through its LNB IN jack. The LNB IN jack of the second receiver is then connected to the LOOP jack of the first receiver. If a scart connection between the two receivers is also established (using the VCR scart on the first box) both receivers can be mutually operated: while one receiver is in standby mode, the other takes care of controlling the frequency, transponder and polarisation of the LNB.

A setup like this might be more convenient than it first appears to be. In Europe there are still some analog transponders in use so that it can make sense to connect an analog receiver to the digital receiver. Radio enthusiasts might use this possibility to connect an ADR receiver to the main digital receiver. It may also make sense to set up a kind of cascade with two or any number of additional receivers, in which each box has its specific purpose such as TV or radio reception, or the reception of free-to-air or encrypted programs. The LOOP output even allows to install and try out a new receiver before replacing the existing receiver.

Just to make sure no mix-ups can occur we should briefly also mention two other jacks which have nothing to do with the LNB connection. They can only be found on receivers with an integrated UHF modulator which transmits the video and audio signal to the TV set on a specified UHF channel. These days, all new TV sets feature a dedicated video input for improved picture quality, however, and that's why many new receivers come without a modulator.

If available, jacks labelled TO TV signify the output to the TV, which also carries all signals that are added from a terrestrial antenna that is connected to the ANT IN jack. As these are also F-type jacks in North America, as opposed to the coax connections used in Europe, this sometimes gives rise to confusion.