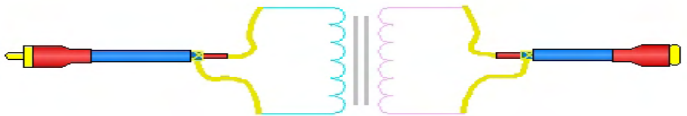
A Simple Data Modes Interface - Jack McEwen, Bolton Group

During the testing of computer Datamode software, I needed a second interface to connect between the Computer and my Yaesu FT-857D.

After spotting the idea on an Internet Forum, I made up an interface using a readily available Ground Loop Isolator, commonly used in car and domestic audio systems to prevent ground loop interference.

A Ground Loop Isolator is simply a pair of 1 to 1 ratio audio transformers in a case, with connecting leads attached.



I had only to make up a couple of cables, with plugs for the 6 pin data port on the FT-857, and Headphone out/ Microphone in, on the computer.

Some information on the pin connection for various radios can be found here :- http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rossjwilkinson/g6gvi/digimodes/connections.html.

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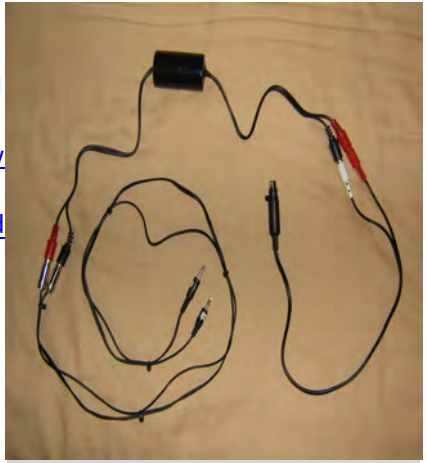
If it is necessary to use the microphone socket of the transmitter, you may need to place a resistor in the cable, to reduce the audio level fed to the microphone input, but with the Data input on the FT-857, this was not needed. Audio levels can be set using the computer mixer and the Digi Gain level control in the FT-857 menu item 037. The VOX level is set using menu item 040.

It is important to note that there is no PTT control on this interface as it was designed for VOX to be used on the transmitter. For radios without VOX it will be necessary to add a suitable PTT control circuit . Such a circuit may be found at http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rossjwilkinson/g6gvi/digimodes/interface.html

The Ground Loop Isolator is available from various Internet suppliers for around £4.00.



The finished product