

# A Glossary of German Technical Terms page - 1

In 1966 the problem of deciphering a data sheet or diagram printed in the German language was common in Australia where a considerable proportion of professional electronic equipment sold originated in Europe. The following is a list of some common expressions found in diagrams and literature. Also we had quite an influx of migrants from Europe many of who brought domestic radio equipment with them. Much of this has since found it's way into the collections of radio collectors. Radio and Hobbies magazine came to our rescue in 1966 and this list is based on that.

German	English	German	English
1. Harmonische	1 <sup>st</sup> harmonic	Aussen, außen	Extern, external
2. Harmonische	2 <sup>nd</sup> harmonic	Austastpegel	Blanking level
3. Harmonische	3 <sup>rd</sup> harmonic	Austastimpuls	Blanking pulse
Abschirmung	shield	Bananenstecker	Banana plug
Abschluss	termination	Bandfilter	Band filter
Abschluß	termination	Basis	base
Abschwächer	attenuator	Basisstrom	Base current
Abstimmen	Tuning	Basisspannung	Base voltage
Abtasten	Record, scan, sample	Batterie	Battery
Abwärtswandler	Buck converter	Begrenzer	Limiter stage
Aceton	Acetone	Betreiben	Operate
Akkumulator	Accumulator	Bildröhre	Picture tube
Alternative	Alternative	Breite	width
Amperemeter	Ammeter	Bremsgitter	Suppressor grid
Analysieren	Analyser	Brücke	Bridge
Anode	Anode, Plate	Brumm	Hum
Anordnung	arrangement	Buchse	Socket
Antenne	Antenna		
Anzeiger	Indicator	Dämpfung	Damping
Aufnahme	recording	Dämpfungsfaktor	Damping factor
Aufwärtswandler	Boost converter	Destilliertes Wasser	Distilled water
Ausgang	output	Diode	Diode
Ausgangsleistung	Output power	Drossel	Choke, coil
Ausgangsstufe	Output stage	Durchschaltung	Interconnection
Ausgleichen	equaliser	Durchschalten	Interconnect
Ausgleichsimpuls	Equalising pulse		

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German	English
Einstellen, eingestellt	Adjust, adjusted
Einheit	Unit
Eingang	Input
Elektronenblitzröhre	Electron flash tube
Empfänger	Receiver
Empfindlichkeit	Sensitivity
Erde	Earth
Ersatz	Replacement
Alternative	Alternative
Farbe	Colour
Fassung	Socket
Feder	Spring
Feldstärke	Field strength
Feinsicherung	Low current fuse
Fernsehempfänger	Television receiver
Fernsteuerung	Remote control
Fremd (Außen)	External
Flach	Flat
Formung	Shaper
Gebrauchsanweisung, (Bedienungsanleitung)	Operating manual, instructions
Gehäuse	Case, housing
Gehäuseerde	Chassis earth
Genauigkeit	Accuracy
Geräusch	Noise
Gestell	Frame
Gestellerde	Frame earth
Gleichrichter	Rectifier, detector
Glimmlampe	Glow lamp
Glühfaden	Filament

German	English
Grundton	Fundamental frequency
Halbleiter	Semiconductor
Hall	Echo
Halter	Clamp
Halten, haltet	Holds, clamps
Heissleiter, Heißleiter	Thermistor NTC
Heizfaden	Filament
Heizleistung	Heater power
Hersteller	Manufacturer
Hexode	Hexode
Heptode	Heptode
Hochfrequenz	High frequency
Hochfrequenz-lautsprecher, Hochtöner	Tweeter
Hochleistung	High power
Hochspannung	High tension
Impedanz	Impedance
Impuls	Pulse (aperiodic)
Impulsbildung	Pulse generator
Impulsgeber	Pulse stage
Innerlich	Internal
Isoliert	Insulated, isolated
Kaltleiter	Thermistor PTC
Kanal	Channel
Kapazität	Capacity
Kathode	Cathode
Klein	Small, miniature
Kollektorstrom	Collector current
Kolophonium	Rosin

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German	English
Kondensator	Capacitor
Kopfhörer	Headphones
Kühlung	Cooling
Kühlkörper, Kühlblech	Heatsink
Kupferdraht	Copper wire
Kurzschluss	Short circuit, closed circuit
Laden, es lädt	Charge, it charges
Ladegerät	Battery charger
Langspielschallplatte, Langspielplatte	Long-playing record
Lautsprecher	Loudspeaker
Leistung	Power, power unit
Leistungsfaktor	Power factor
Leistungsverstärker	Power amplifier
Leiterplatte, Platine	Printed circuit board
Leitungsverstärker	Line amplifier
Links, die linke Seite	Left, the left side
Löschkreis	Quench circuit
Löten	Soldering
Lötzinn	Solder
Magisches Auge	Magic eye tube
Magnetisch	Magnetic
Magnetischer Tonabnehmer	Magnetic pickup
Masse	Ground
Messen, mißt, (Gemessen)	Measure, measures, (Measured)
Meßschaltung	Test point
Mikrofon	Microphone

German	English
Mischen, Mischer, mischt, (Gemischt)	Mix, mixer, mixes, (Mixed)
Mutter	Nut
Muttergenerator	Master generator
Nachbildung	Dummy
Netz	Mains
Netzversorgung	Mains power supply
Netzwerk	Network
Netzverzweigung	Network branch
Netzvergleich	Mains comparator
Niederfrequenz	Low frequency
Norm	Standard
Oberton	Overtone, higher harmonic
Öl	Oil
Ohmmeter	Ohmmeter
Patrone	Pickup cartridge
Pegel	Level
Pentode	Pentode
Phase	Phase
Phasendiskriminator	Phase discriminator
Phasenregelschleife	Phase locked loop (PLL)
Phasenwinkel	Phase angle
Platine, Leiterplatte	Printed circuit board
Punkt	Point
Puls	Pulse (periodic)
Quarz	Crystal, quartz
Quarzoszillator	Crystal oscillator

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German	English	German	English
Rechts, die rechte Seite	Right, the right side	Stecker	Plug
Regeln, regelt	Adjust, adjusts	Steuergitter	Control grid
(Geregelt)	(Adjusted)	Steuerquarz	Crystal control
Regelung	feedback control	Steuerschalter	Master switch
Regler	Regulator	Steuersender	Master oscillator
Richtantenne	Directional antenna	Stift	Pin
Rille	Groove	Stufenschalter	Step switch
Rohr	Valve or tube		
Röhrenstift	Valve pin	Taststufe	Keying stage
Rückkopplung	Feedback	Teilen, teilt	Divide, divides
Rückspulen	Rewind	Teiler	Splitter, divider
		Tetrode	Tetrode
Schall	Sound	Tieftonlautsprecher, Tieftöner	Woofer
Schallplatte	Record	Tonarm	Pickup arm
Schallplattenspieler	Record player	Tonfrequenz	Audio frequency
Schallplattenwechsler	Record changer	Träger	Carrier
Schalter	Switch	Triode	Triode
Schema	Schematic		
Scheibe, (Unterlegscheibe)	Washer, disk	Überlagerungs- empfänger	Superheterodyne receiver
Schirmgitter	Screen grid	Übertrager	Transformer
Schraube	Screw		
Schraubenzieher	Screwdriver	Verbindung	Connection
Schwefelsäure	Sulfuric acid	Verbinden	Connect
Seitenband (unteres Seitenband, oberes Seitenband)	Sideband Lower sideband, Upper sideband	Verdrahtungsplan	Wiring diagram
Sender	Transmitter	Verhalten	Behaviour
Sicherung (flinke Sicherung, mittelträge Sicherung, träge Sicherung)	Fuse (quick acting fuse, medium acting fuse, slow acting fuse)	Verstärker	Amplifier
Stabilisiertes Netzteil	Stabilised power supply	Verzerrung	Distortion
Starthilfe	Auxiliary start	Verzögerung	Delay
		Voltmeter	Voltmeter
		Vorspulen	Fast forward
		Vorverstärker	Pre-amplifier



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**Notes:** The word “the” has several forms in German, and may be encountered in any of the following forms: der, die, das, des den or dem. In the same way there are several forms of the indefinite article “a” which may appear as ein, eine, eins, einen or einem. The german letter **ß** is called eszett, literally meaning s z. It is similar to the Greek letter beta. However, when the letter is not available (or when a word is in all caps), **ß** is almost always **substituted** by the digraph **ss** rather than sz.

For example: Heiß = Heiss, Weiß = Weiss, Heißleiter = Heissleiter. Uppercase Straße (street) should be written STRASSE rather than STRASZE (there is no upper case letter ß).

All nouns, and other parts of speech used as proper nouns, begin with a capital in German. The tendency for forming compound nouns should also be noted. If the separate parts are known, it is often possible to translate a compound expression. For example, Hochfrequenzlautsprecher is a compound made up of hoch (high) frequenz (frequency) and lautsprecher (loudspeaker). Thus the term translates as high frequency loudspeaker or tweeter. Consider this valid german word:

Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaftskapitän = Danube steam shipping company captain.

Some words, particularly verbs and adjectives, take different endings, according to the case and gender in the case of adjectives and tense or person in the case of verbs. Thus the adjective “isolierte” (insulated) may appear as isoliert, isolierten, isoliertes, isoliertem, while the verb “fassen” can take the following forms: fasse, fast, fasste, fassten.

Many words in German have the Umlaut over the vowel. The Umlaut consists of two dots over the vowel, and is used to show a change of pronunciation from the normal vowel sound. It is always allowed to substitute the Umlaut letters:

Umlaut	Substitution
Ä	Ae
Ö	Oe
Ü	Ue

Umlaut	Substitution
ä	ae
ö	oe
ü	ue
ß	ss or sz

So we can write Oel instead of Öl or Roehre instead of Röhre, but for germans it looks ugly. Substitution of ß with ss is actually very often used.

**Editor:** Oh how publishing has changed over forty five years. With Word Processors today we have all foreign character sets at our disposal and I hope to get time to add the Umlaut (Ü and ü) to these translation soon. If you are fluent in the German language perhaps you may like to do it for me. I can send you the original Word file and while you are typing away you could also fix any mistakes I have made. It was very hard to read the original page from Electronics Australia, the paper was poor quality to start with and has deteriorated badly with age.

To further make the issue more difficult all languages have words added every year and a lot of technical words would have been added to this list since 1966. I can remember an interesting episode when I was a young trainee at Telecommunications Australia (TCA, part of Philips) in the late 1960's. We were building a custom radio controlled control system for a remote water supply and needed a Teleprinter for the installation. Siemens sent us a big box of parts and a hand book (Gebrauchsanweisung) in German.

At first I thought this would not be a problem, we had a young graduate engineer who had migrated to Australia as a teenager. How wrong I was, he did his degree here at Adelaide University and understood very little technical German. Somehow we used the various diagrams and pictures to assemble the thing and it worked.

Corrections made by Ralf Leicht, Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen, Gießen, Germany, 26.12.2019