Crossover cables

A *crossover cable* can directly connect two devices without a switch. You can use a crossover cable to connect two computers directly to each other, but crossover cables are more often used to daisy-chain switches to each other.

If you want to create your own crossover cable, you must reverse the wires on one end of the cable, as shown in Table 7-3. This table shows how you should wire both ends of the cable to create a crossover cable. Connect one of the ends according to the Connector A column and the other according to the Connector B column.

TABLE 7-3 Creating a Crossover Cable

Pin	Connector A	Connector B
1	White/green	White/orange
2	Green	Orange
3	White/orange	White/green
4	Blue	Blue
5	White/blue	White/blue
6	Orange	Green
7	White/brown	White/brown
8	Brown	Brown

Crossover cables aren't as widely necessary as they used to be, because most switches can now automatically detect whether a crossover cable is necessary and adjust internally to allow you to use a standard cable instead of a crossover cable.


TIP

If you study Table 7-3 long enough and then compare it with Table 7-2, you may notice that a crossover cable is a cable that's wired according to the 568A standard on one end and the 568B standard on the other end.

Wall jacks and patch panels

If you want, you can run a single length of cable from a network hub or switch in a wiring closet through a hole in the wall, up the wall to the space above the ceiling, through the ceiling space to the wall in an office, down the wall, through a hole, and all the way to a desktop computer. That's not a good idea. For example, every time someone moves the computer or even cleans behind it, the cable will get moved a little bit. Eventually, the connection will fail, and the RJ-45 plug will