

UK Plugs

BT 631A UK Telephone Plug - 6P6C BS 6312 British Standard Modular Connector, Gold-Plated Contacts, Side Latch, for Flat Telephone Cable, Bulk OEM, Custom Logo, Free Samples



Key specifications

Model No.	PR-BT631A-6P6C
Connector Type	BT 631A UK telephone plug, 6 position 6 contact (6P6C)
Standard	BS 6312 (British Standard telephone connector)
Latch Position	Side-mounted (BS 6312 profile — not RJ11 compatible)

Product summary

- **Genuine BT 631A Profile to BS 6312** – The British Standard telephone plug with its distinctive side-mounted latch, moulded to fit any standard UK Type 600 telephone socket, LJU master socket or extension outlet.
- **All Six Contacts Populated (6P6C)** – Six positions, six gold-plated contacts. Supports Line A and Line B, the earth/bell circuit and the reserved pins, so it covers system phones, multi-line equipment and legacy bell wiring — not just a basic single line.
- **Not an RJ11 — and That Matters** – The side latch and pin assignment make BT plugs physically incompatible with RJ11 sockets. UK phone lines run on pins 2 and 5; RJ11 uses pins 3 and 4. Specify this part when the equipment is British, not American.
- **Gold-Plated Copper Alloy Contacts** – Phosphor bronze blades with selective gold over nickel for low, stable contact resistance on a low-voltage analogue circuit where oxidation is the main long-term failure mode.
- **Insulation-Displacement Blades** – Contacts pierce the conductor insulation cleanly on crimping, so terminations stay gas-tight and reliable through years of plugging and unplugging.
- **For Flat 6-Way Telephone Cable** – Dimensioned for standard flat modular telephone cord, 26–28 AWG stranded, with a positive strain-relief bar that grips the jacket rather than the conductors.
- **Clear Polycarbonate Body, UL 94V-0** – Virgin resin, high-clarity mouldings so the conductor order can be inspected through the housing before and after crimping. Burr-free for consistent assembly-line feeding.
- **Backward Compatible With 431A Sockets** – 431A and 631A are intermateable; the 431A is simply this plug with the outer two contacts absent. One part number covers both four-wire and six-wire jobs.
- **Bulk, OEM and Private Label** – 100 pcs/bag, jars, blister cards or your own printed carton and barcode. Custom logo from 10,000 pcs, low MOQ, free samples for qualified buyers.
- **Factory Direct** – Manufactured in our own plant with ISO 9001 process control and full lot traceability. No trading company in the chain.

Product page:
<https://www.cnplugs.com/product/bt-631a-uk-telephone-plug-6p6c/>
Category: UK Plugs

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Product details

BT 631A UK Telephone Plug: The 6P6C BS 6312 British Standard Connector, Made in Our Own Factory

If you have arrived here holding a plug with the latch on its side, you are holding a British telephone plug and not an RJ11, whatever the listing you bought it from claimed. That distinction is the whole reason this page exists. Prounta manufactures the BT 631A plug — six positions, six gold-plated contacts, moulded to British Standard BS 6312 — for cable assembly houses, telecom wholesalers, alarm and lift installers and distributors serving the UK, Ireland and Commonwealth markets. This page explains exactly what the part is, how it differs from the American connectors it is constantly confused with, and how to specify it correctly the first time.

What a BT Plug Is, and Why It Is Not an RJ11

British telephone sockets were introduced in their present plug-and-socket form on 19 November 1981, when British Telecom moved to the "New Plan" wiring policy so that subscribers could buy and connect their own telephones rather than rent them. The connectors are specified in British Standard BS 6312, and they are described in detail in the Wikipedia article on [British telephone sockets](#). They resemble the American modular connectors used for RJ11 — same general family, same idea of positions and contacts — but with one deliberate, decisive difference.

The retaining latch is mounted on the side of the plug body, not underneath it. That is why a BT plug will not enter an RJ11 socket and an RJ11 plug will not lock into a UK Type 600 socket. The two are physically incompatible by design, not by accident. Every photograph on this page shows that side latch clearly, and it is the fastest way to confirm you are ordering the right part: look at the latch, not at the pin count.

The second difference is electrical, and it catches out far more people than the mechanical one. **A UK telephone line runs on pins 2 and 5 of the BT plug. RJ11 puts the line on pins 3 and 4.** This is why plugging an American telephone or modem cord into a UK socket through a simple mechanical adapter often produces nothing at all: the adapter solved the shape problem and left the wiring problem untouched. Anyone building leads for the UK market needs to know which convention each end follows before cutting a single conductor.

631A or 431A? Choosing the Right One

There are two BT plugs in common use and the relationship between them is simpler than most sources make it sound. **The 431A is a 631A with the two outer contacts left out.** Both have six positions in the housing; the 431A populates four of them, the 631A populates all six. They are intermateable and both fit the standard Type 600 socket.

Pin Numbering: The Detail That Causes Most Wiring Errors

This deserves its own section because the published information is genuinely contradictory. When BS 6312 was drawn up, the pin numbering was reversed between the plug and the socket, so that pin 6 on the plug connects to pin 1 in the socket, pin 5 to pin 2, and so on. A great many wiring diagrams online were produced by someone reading socket numbering and applying it to plug pins, which is why two apparently authoritative sources will confidently disagree.

The working convention used across the UK trade is this: hold the plug with the contacts facing you and the side latch to the right, and number the pins from the outside inwards, starting at pin 1 nearest the release lever. On a 431A, contacts 1 and 6 are absent, so counting starts at pin 2 — which is precisely why UK line documentation refers to pins 2 and 5 rather than 1 and 4. The functional assignment across the six ways is: pin 1 reserved, **pin 2 Line B**, pin 3 bell, pin 4 earth, **pin 5 Line A**, pin 6 reserved. In modern installations the bell and earth conductors are frequently unused, since the ring capacitor now lives in the master socket, but they remain wired in a great deal of existing infrastructure and in system-phone cabling — which is exactly the case for a six-way plug.

One further trap worth stating plainly: a flat telephone cord terminated with the pins on the same side at both ends produces a *reversed* connection, because the two plugs face opposite directions. If you are building a straight-through lead, the cable must be presented consistently, and if you are building a crossover lead, it must not. Verify the first article with a continuity tester before releasing a production run. This is the single most common defect we see returned in telephone lead manufacturing, and it costs nothing to catch at unit one.

Contacts, Materials and Build

The contacts are phosphor bronze — a copper alloy chosen because it holds spring temper and has the hardness to displace conductor insulation cleanly. We describe the metallurgy accurately rather than advertising "pure copper" contacts as some sellers do; pure copper is too soft for an insulation-displacement blade and would relax under load. The plating is selective gold over a nickel barrier layer, which matters more on a telephone circuit than many buyers expect: analogue voice runs at low voltage and low current, so contact resistance rising through oxidation is the dominant long-term failure mode, producing crackle, hum and intermittent dropouts long before anything fails outright. Gold over nickel keeps the interface stable for the life of the installation.

The housing is moulded from virgin polycarbonate to UL 94V-0, with high clarity so the conductor colour order can be inspected through the body both before and after crimping — a small feature that pays for itself in any production environment with a visual QC step. Mouldings are burr-free and dimensionally consistent for reliable feeding in semi-automatic crimp lines. The strain-relief bar grips the cable jacket rather than the conductors, so repeated plugging and unplugging does not work the terminations loose. As a member of the wider [modular connector](#) family, the part follows the same six-position geometry as other 6P connectors while retaining the BS 6312 body and latch profile.

Who Buys This Part, and Why We Still Make It

Analogue telephony in the UK is a mature market, and that is precisely why it is a good one to supply properly. The installed base is vast: millions of master and extension sockets, alarm panels and auto-diallers, lift emergency telephones, card payment terminals, fax machines, door entry systems and legacy PBX handsets, all of which continue to need leads, repairs and spares. Meanwhile the number of manufacturers still tooled for BS 6312 parts keeps falling as attention moves elsewhere. Steady replacement demand and a thinning supplier base is a favourable combination for a factory whose tooling is already amortised and whose minimum order quantities are low.

Our customers for this part are cable assembly houses building UK telephone leads, telecom and electrical wholesalers stocking for the trade, alarm and lift maintenance companies, and distributors serving the UK, Ireland, and Commonwealth markets that adopted BS 6312 conventions. If you are assembling leads, tell us the cable you use and we will confirm fitment against its actual dimensions before you order. Browse the full [telecom connector range](#) for adjacent part numbers, including handset and multi-way variants.

Custom Logo, Private Label and Factory-Direct Supply

Is a BT plug the same as an RJ11?

No. They belong to the same broad modular connector family but are not interchangeable. The BT plug specified in BS 6312 has a side-mounted latch, while RJ11 has a bottom-mounted latch, so neither will seat and lock in the other's socket. The wiring differs too: UK lines use pins 2 and 5, RJ11 uses pins 3 and 4. Sellers who list BT plugs as "RJ11" are being loose with terminology and it causes real ordering mistakes.

What is the difference between a 431A and a 631A?

Only the number of contacts fitted. Both use the same six-position body; the 431A populates four positions and the 631A populates all six. They are intermateable and both fit a Type 600 socket. Use the 431A for a standard single line, and the 631A — this product — for system phones, multi-line equipment, bell and earth wiring, or simply to keep one part number covering every job.

Which pins carry the phone line in the UK?

Pins 2 and 5: pin 2 is Line B and pin 5 is Line A. Pin 3 carries the bell circuit and pin 4 the earth, both of which are unused in many modern installations because the ring capacitor now sits in the master socket. Pins 1 and 6 are reserved and are the two positions absent from a 431A.

Why does my American phone cable not work in a UK socket?

Two separate reasons, and an adapter usually solves only one. Mechanically, the latch positions differ, so the plug will not fit without an adapter. Electrically, the line sits on different pins at each end — 2 and 5 in the UK, 3 and 4 on RJ11 — so a straight-through cable through a mechanical adapter may leave the line unconnected. You need either a correctly wired crossover lead or an adapter that remaps the pins, depending on what the telephone base expects.

Can I use this plug on round telephone cable?

It is designed for standard flat modular telephone cord with the conductors laid side by side, which is what virtually all UK telephone leads use. Round cable does not present the conductors in the flat plane the contacts

expect and will give unreliable terminations. If you have a round-cable application, contact us and we will advise on the right approach.

Do I need a special crimp tool?

A standard 6-position modular crimp tool that accepts BT plugs will do the job. Because the latch is on the side, some cheaper RJ11-only tools do not seat BT plugs correctly in the die — check the tool is rated for BS 6312 plugs before running a production batch, or you will crimp inconsistently and not know why.

Will these still be needed with the UK PSTN switch-off?

Yes, for a long time. New voice services are moving to IP, but the physical installed base of sockets, extension wiring and connected equipment does not disappear when the exchange technology changes — alarm panels, lift telephones, payment terminals and countless handsets remain in service and still need leads and repairs. We continue to hold tooling and stock for this part precisely because replacement demand is steady while the number of suppliers is shrinking.

Technical specifications

Specification	Published value
Model No.	PR-BT631A-6P6C
Connector Type	BT 631A UK telephone plug, 6 position 6 contact (6P6C)
Standard	BS 6312 (British Standard telephone connector)
Latch Position	Side-mounted (BS 6312 profile — not RJ11 compatible)
Mating Socket	UK Type 600 socket, LJU master and extension sockets; mates with 431A sockets
Contacts Populated	6 of 6 positions
Pin Assignment	1 reserved · 2 Line B · 3 bell · 4 earth · 5 Line A · 6 reserved
Contact Material	Phosphor bronze (copper alloy)
Contact Plating	Selective gold over nickel (thickness options on request)
Termination	Insulation displacement, crimp
Housing Material	Transparent polycarbonate (PC)
Cable Type	Flat 6-way modular telephone cord, stranded
Conductor Size	26–28 AWG stranded
Current Rating	1.5 A per contact
Voltage Rating	150 V AC (rms)
Contact Resistance	≤ 20 mΩ
Insulation Resistance	≥ 500 MΩ @ 500 V DC
Dielectric Strength	1000 V AC / 1 minute, no breakdown
Durability	≥ 750 mating cycles
Operating Temperature	-40 °C to +85 °C
Colour	White standard; clear, black and custom colours available
Required Tool	Standard BT/6P modular crimp tool
Compliance	RoHS, REACH, ISO 9001, UL-recognised materials
Packaging	100 pcs/bag, 50/100 pcs jar, blister card, OEM carton
MOQ / Lead Time	Stock from 1,000 pcs; custom logo from 10,000 pcs; 7–15 days