What is the difference between straight-thru and cross pinning?

Straight-thru means each contact is straight pinned to its respective contact (1-1, 2-2, 3-3, etc.). Crossed pinning means contacts are pinned through to the opposite contact. Example: on an 8 position RJ45: 1-8, 2-7, 3-6, etc.

When using a coupler between two patch cords it is important to choose the correct type. As the diagrams illustrate, if the desired pinning from end to end is crossed then the coupler and cables must be crossed. For straight pinning, all cables and couplers must be straight-thru type.