

AV Cable & Connections Guide



75-Ohm Coaxial Connection

Coaxial cable or connections are commonly used for connecting up TVs, satellite receivers, aerial distribution equipment etc. These cables combine video and audio signals into one modulated signal pathway. The RF video format is the most widely supported type of connection in A/V components but should only be used in applications where no other dedicated video and audio connections are available.



Composite Video Connection

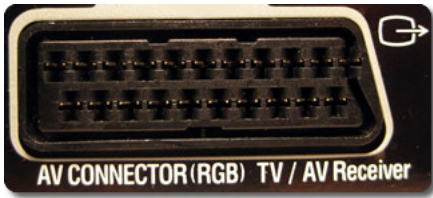


Composite or RCA video it is a convenient and commonplace all-in-one video connection. Typically yellow in colour, composite video ports are found on a multitude of video components from TVs to camcorders. Colour and brightness signals are carried over a single cable, and they can be particularly susceptible to interference and noise.



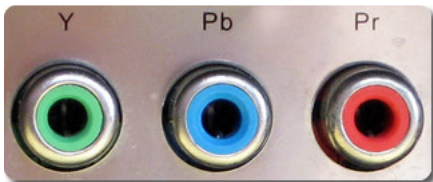
S-Video Connection

S-Video is the next best connection when component video is not available. This connection is commonly found on many high quality analogue and digital AV components. Breaking out the video signal into two separate parts, one for colour and one for brightness, improve picture sharpness over composite video, and makes colour reproduction more precise.



SCART Connection

The SCART Connection is a common type of audio/video cable used throughout Europe and UK for connecting DVD players, VCRs, and other components to Televisions. The connector has 21 pins with each pin assigned to pass either an analogue video or analogue audio signal. SCART connections can be configured to pass Composite, S-Video or Interlaced (Y, Cb, Cr) Component and RGB analogue video signals and conventional stereo audio. SCART Connectors cannot pass progressive scan digital video or digital audio signals.



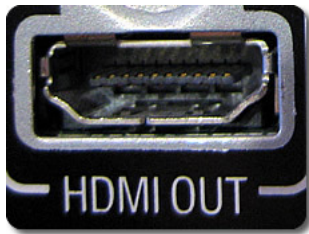
Component Video Connection

Component connections are available on most high definition televisions, DVD players, and modern satellite receivers. Component video splits video information into three separate signals, two for colour, and one for luminance or brightness. This further improves picture clarity, colour, and sharpness above S-Video.



DVI Cable Connection

Available on many earlier HDTVs and computer LCD screens, DVI (Digital Visual Interface) is a digital interface with 24-bit colour that is ideal for high-resolution displays. Because it comes in a few varieties, you will need to check the specific DVI connection on your equipment to match the cable. DVI does not support digital audio signals.



High-Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI™) Cable Connection

This digital audio and video interface does it all. HDMI™ delivers uncompressed high-definition video (up to 1080p with 12-bit colour), eight channels of digital audio for 7.1 surround sound and an integrated control channel - all in one relatively compact cable and connection.



Analogue Stereo Audio Connection

"Line level" audio cables deliver stereo audio sound signals via two cables, one for Left, and one for Right. These cables typically use standard RCA / phono jacks colour red and white to connect components. Although it is a widespread connection, line level audio cannot deliver the precise, balanced sound that modern audio components deliver. In addition, these cables can be particularly susceptible to noise and interference, so proper shielding and termination are important to maintain sound quality.



Fibre Optic / TOSlink Audio Connection

Also known as TOSlink, fibre optic cables are commonly used to provide digital 5.1 or 7.1 home theatre surround from DVD and CD players. Fibre optic cable delivers digital audio via pulses of light and is thus immune to RF interference and electrical noise. However, fibre optic cables can be subject to timing inaccuracies.

Digital Coax S/PDIF Audio Connection

Digital coax's wider bandwidth produces less timing inaccuracy jitter than fibre optic cables. Digital Coax cable may appear similar to a standard composite video cable, but it carries signals at a much higher frequency, so standard RCA composite video cables should never be used to connect digital coax outlets.