

My Cable Mart

Fiber Optic HDMI (Active) Cable

Installation Instructions and Cautions



Our Fiber Optic Hybrid HDMI cable carries an active EQ/boost chip which supports data rates up to 18 Gbps (the full bandwidth possible under HDMI 2.0). Following these recommendations should ensure that you get full performance out of this cable and that the cable will not become damaged during installation.

I. Try It First!

Please, if at all possible, verify that this cable works with your application before doing anything that will permanently install it, e.g., pulling it through conduit. The best course of action is to run your most demanding source through this cable in the open -- and only then to install it.

II. Mind The Signal Flow Direction!

Because this is an "active" HDMI cable, it will work only if installed running in the correct direction. The connectors are marked "Display" and "Source"; the "Source" end should be toward where the signal originates (e.g., your Blu-Ray player or Satellite box or AV receiver) and the "Display" end should be toward your television.

III. If Pulling, Pull Gently and Not on the Connector!

If you must pull this cable through a wall cavity or conduit, please bear in mind that an HDMI cable has nineteen small wires at each end, secured by solder joints. It is very easy to damage even the most robust HDMI cable -- pulling hard enough to compromise even one of the nineteen connections will ruin it. These connection points, where the cable joins the connector, are the most vulnerable part of the HDMI cable. Accordingly, if you must pull the cable, your pull rope should NOT be attached to the

connector body but should instead be attached to the cable jacket. After firmly attaching your pull rope to the cable jacket, you may want to lightly tape the connector to the pull rope with masking tape, just to avoid its becoming snagged on the way through, but all pull force must be concentrated on the jacket, not on the connector. With patience and care, an HDMI cable can be pulled through conduit; when choosing conduit, be sure to choose something substantially larger than the connector head. We do not recommend anything smaller than one-inch inside diameter.

If a plastic pull harness is included in your package, use THIS pull-harness to attach to the HDMI connector end when pulling through wall, ceilings, or other tight places.

IV. Straighten Cable Out Before Pulling

Cable should never be pulled from a coil sitting on the floor. If there is nobody to feed the cable into the conduit or cavity at the other end, unroll the cable and let it lie, straightened out, on the floor before pulling. This will avoid the cable developing twists which can both make pulling more difficult and result in internal damage to the cable.

V. Avoid Kinking the Cable, especially near connectors

One very common cause of damage to HDMI cables occurs when a connector has been inserted into the back panel of a device, and then that device is pushed back against a wall or other obstacle, sharpening the bend. This can easily break either the connector itself or the internal wiring joints between the cable and connector. HDMI cables should be given room for a gentle bend, the usual rule being that the radius of the bend should be no smaller than ten times the cable diameter.