Technical Note

Many types of video coax. What're the differences and how select?

In brief, there are three of essential factors: 1) center conductor, 2) insulation, and 3) shield. Each factor has its advantage and disadvantage as described below:

- 1) Center Conductor: two types existing, "Solid" and "Stranded". Stranded conductor is more flexible and therefore the best choice for mobile and stage use.
- 2) Insulation: includes "Solid", "Foamed", and "Highly-foamed" types. Foamed and highly-foamed insulation would perform better attenuation, compared to the solid type thus they are often selected for hi-def video. However, since foamed and high-foamed insulation contain the air physically, they are weak to external pressure. You should pay attention to where and how the cables are installed.
- 3) Shield: we have "Braided" and "Braided with aluminum foil" type. Braided shields include single, double, or triple layers as well as bare copper or tinned copper. Braided with aluminum foil offers perfect screening, but they are not suitable for repeated bending and mobile applications due to the foil's lack of strength. In that case, it's better to choose "Braided".

Double-Layer Braided Shield Braided Shield with Aluminum Foil

What is Propagation Delay?

Propagation delay refers to the time required for a signal to be transmitted from one end of connection to another. In the case of cable transmission, this greatly depends on the materials and construction of the actual cable, and large differences in delay can cause transmission errors if they exceed the receiver delay tolerance.

The following table shows the differences in coaxial cable propagation delay time relative to the insulation type.

Propagation Delay Caused by Coaxial Cable Insulation (reference)

Insulation	Propagation Delay		
Solid PE	5.0 ns/m		
Foamed PE	4.2 ns/m		
Highly-Foamed PE	3.7 ns/m		

■ Typical Transmission Distance as per SMPTE Standard

SMPTE	ST 259			ST 344	ST 292	ST 424	ST 2082-1	
Designation	SD-SDI			540 Mbps-SDI	HD-SDI	3G-SDI	12G-SDI	
Video Format	NTSC	PAL	525/625 (4:3)	525/625 (16:9)	525/625 (4:3) p60	2K 1080i	2K 1080p	4K UHD
Bit Rate	143 Mb/s	177 Mb/s	270 Mb/s	360 Mb/s	540 Mb/s	1.5 Gb/s	3 Gb/s	12 Gb/s
Clock	143 MHz	177 MHz	270 MHz	360 MHz	540 MHz	1.485 GHz	2.97 GHz	11.88 GHz
Cable Loss @ 1/2 Clock	30 dB @ 72 MHz	30 dB @ 88 MHz	30 dB @ 135 MHz	30 dB @ 180 MHz	30 dB @ 270 MHz	20 dB @ 750 MHz	30 dB @ 1.5 GHz	40 dB @ 6 GHz
Model	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
L-2.5CFB	265	242	199	172	139	54	55	32
L-2.5CHD	314	287	237	206	168	66	69	43
L-2.5CHLT	314	287	237	206	168	66	69	43
L-3CFB	344	314	257	222	179	68	69	42
L-3.3CUHD	461	422	306	265	215	85	90	58
L-4CFB	422	314	315	272	220	84	86	52
L-4CHD	447	410	337	294	238	93	98	61
L-5CFB	563	513	420	364	294	112	114	68
L-4.5CHD	551	504	415	361	293	115	119	74
L-5CHD	614	562	464	403	327	128	133	82
L-6CHD	766	700	575	499	403	154	158	95
L-5.5CUHD	769	697	566	491	400	155	161	102
L-7CHD	902	824	678	589	476	184	188	116
L-8CHD	1035	945	777	674	544	208	212	131
L-2.5CHWS	275	247	198	171	138	53	54	32
V4-2.5CHW	288	258	208	178	144	56	57	34
L-3CFW	319	288	230	197	158	60	60	35
L-4.5CHWS	447	405	322	280	225	87	90	50
L-5CFW	535	483	384	333	267	103	105	56

Recommended margin: 2 or 3 dB. See next page for the nominal attenuation.

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