
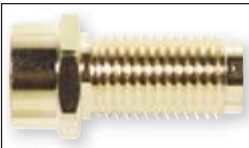





Anatomy of a Coaxial Connector

There are a wide variety of coaxial connectors available today. These connectors are offered in numerous interface types and attachment methods. Illustrated below are some common elements and functions shared by most of these coaxial connectors.

Crimp Ring	Coupling Body	Outer Conductor	Dielectric Support	Center Conductor
				
Attachment sleeve to cable outer conductor.	Attachment mechanism to mating connector.	Outer conducting element for signal transmission.	Non-conductive spacer between center and outer conductor.	Center conducting element for signal transmission.

Building Your Own Coaxial Cable Assembly

In order to successfully build your own coaxial cable assembly, you must make the following decisions:

1. Select a cable type

Many parameters come into play in making this decision from electrical performance properties such as impedance, shielding and attenuation to mechanical properties such as diameter, center conductor construction (solid vs stranded) and jacket material. A selection of the most commonly used cable is listed on [pages 172 and 173](#).

2. Select a connector type

Numerous connector interfaces exist such as BNC, TNC, SMA, F or RCA

to name just a few. Each has a different application and come in both male and female versions. A selection of the most popular types is listed on [pages 165-169](#).







3. Select an attachment method

In general, there are three basic methods to attach a coaxial connector to a coaxial cable. They are crimp, clamp and twist-on. Each of these methods is illustrated below.

4. Select a tool

If a crimp attachment method was selected then a crimp tool will be needed. The crimp cross reference chart on [page 175](#) will assist you in selecting the correct tool.

Crimp Method: This is the most common connector attachment method. In this case the cable shield is crimped to the connector using the crimp ring. The connector center conductor is attached to the cable center conductor by crimp or solder.

					
Cut cable to length and slide crimp ring onto free end.	Strip free end with Coaxial Cable Stripper.	Slide pin onto center conductor making sure base of pin meets dielectric. Crimp in place.	Fan braid and slide plug over pin.	Pull crimp sleeve over braid and ring.	Crimp in place.

Clamp Method: The clamp method is often used for weather exposure applications or when crimp tools are not available. In this case the cable shield is clamped between the connector body and back nut. The connector center conductor is usually soldered to the cable center conductor.

		
Cut cable and slide nut into position. Strip and flair braid.	Position braid clamp and crimp or solder pin.	Attach main body to back nut.

Twist-On Method: This method is most often used in field applications because of its simplicity and the need for no special tools.

		
Prepare cable with strip tool.	Position connector body.	Twist connector body onto cable.

Crimp Tool:

When using a crimp connector, the HT330K tool kit can be a valuable item ([page 175](#)). This kit contains dies for all the commonly used crimp sizes. In addition, this kit comes complete with a cable cutter and a rotary cable stripper - helpful tools for building a cable assembly.



Plug or Jack:



A PLUG utilizes a center pin = MALE GENDER



A JACK utilizes a center socket = FEMALE GENDER



See The Video

www.L-com.com/Videos/A19

Solid or Stranded:



SOLID center conductor: best attenuation but somewhat stiff.



STRANDED center conductor: more flexible but slightly higher attenuation.