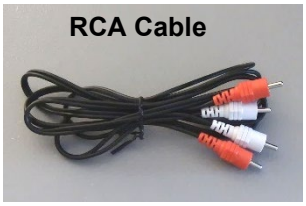
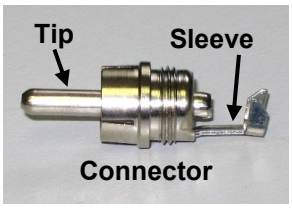
How to Solder an RCA Connector

Video Clip!



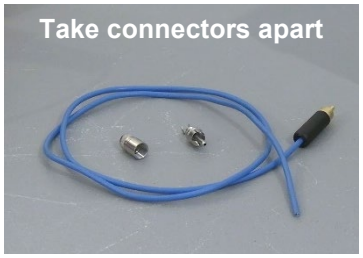
One type of Shielded, 2-Wire Cable

Note: You can also use a 3-Wire Cable and "Twist" the "Black and Shield" wires together.

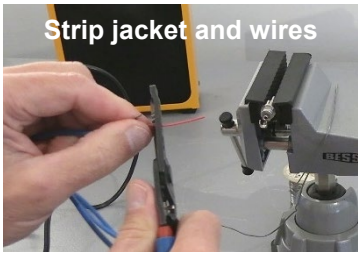


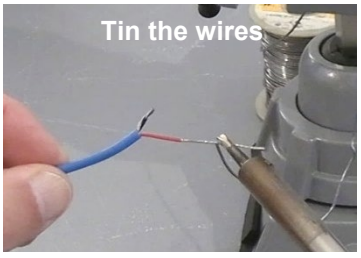
First follow Steps 1 - 5: 1) Clear the work area. 2) Turn on the Soldering Iron, Fan, Wet the Sponge. 3) Set up your Vice. 4) Ready the Solder, and Most Importantly 5) Put on your Safety Glasses Now!

6. **Prepare the Cable and Connectors:** The preparation of the cable and connectors go hand in hand (so they are combined in this step).
   a) Determine the cable length you need – roll the cable up slightly.
   b) Take the connectors apart.
   c) Slide the connector handles on each end of the cable, and in the correct orientation. Do not skip this step or you will have to un-solder your connections to get the handles on later.
   d) Place the connector in the vice (be careful not to over tighten the vice on the connector).
   e) Tin the "Sleeve" lead only, not the "Tip" lead at this time.
   f) Prepare both cable ends by stripping the cable jacket back, and then stripping the wire to pre-determined lengths (size up the wires to the connector). Note: If using a 3-Wire Cable – Tie the Black and Shield wires together (see Video), both wires can be used for the Shield.
   g) Twist the wire strands together as needed – then Tin the wires on both ends of the cable.

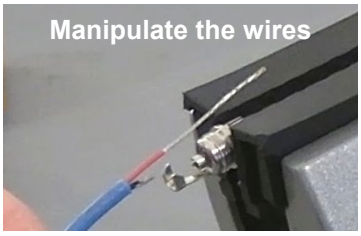


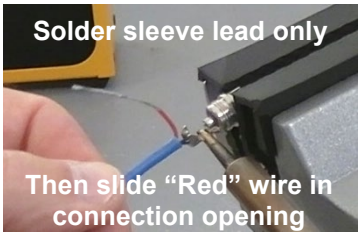
7. **Soldering:** It's now time to solder the wires to the connector. First, "manipulate" the wires to line up with the connector leads. With the connector firmly in the vice, hold the cable and slide the "Red" wire into the Tip connection "opening" Or bend it back so you can solder the "Shield" wire(s) onto the "Sleeve" lead first. Turn the connector so the "Red" wire is pointing straight up, then solder the "Red" wire to the tip of the connector. Cut off the excess wire with a pair of small diagonal cutters.

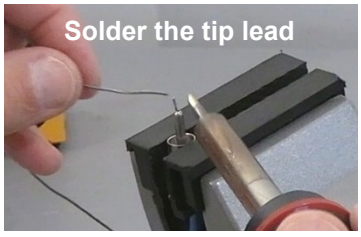




Pin configuration: Tip = Hot, Sleeve = Common.







Once finished soldering the wires to the connector, crimp down on the cable clamp (tighten the clamp over the cable – gently, don't pinch the cable jacket). Then slide the connector handle up the wire and twist the handle on the connector (the handle should "twist" on the connector very easily). Once you have completed one end of the cable, solder a connector to the other end of the cable – following the same steps as performed above.

Test the cable and connectors, then wrap the cable (see Handout). This type of RCA connector can be a little tricky to solder at first, but gets easier with practice. There are newer versions of RCA connectors that are much easier to solder than the type used in this demonstration. Newer / Modern Versions of RCA Connectors – Video Clip!