



Top 5 Car Audio Cable Myths

Car Audio Cable Myth #1:
“Cables Won’t Affect Sound Quality”

This is perhaps the most prevalent myth with regard to car audio cables. In fact, both interconnects and speaker cables have a direct impact on the sound quality of an audio system. Frequency response measurements show a very clear difference between identical systems wired with different cables. The reality is that car audio cables can easily have a greater impact on frequency response than an amplifier!

Car Audio Cable Myth #2:
“Alternator Noise Pickup is the Only Thing that Matters with RCA Cables”

Alternator noise pickup was the original sound quality issue with RCA cables that was the most obvious. As car audio enthusiasts drove down the road, their stereos would whine at the frequency of their engine rpm’s. People latched onto this obvious problem, and the industry began to shape its marketing efforts around alternator whine. In fact, this is just one of the issues that can exist with car audio RCA cables, and it is no longer the most critical. Improved filtering on amplifier designs in recent years has significantly reduced the chances of encountering alternator whine, regardless of the cable used. In addition, just because a cable deals with alternator noise, does not mean that it is designed to sound good. Today, while alternator noise pickup must still be dealt with, it is not the number one issue with RCA cables. Fundamental cable sound quality will have a more pronounced impact on a system.

Car Audio Cable Myth #3:
“The Only Thing to Worry About with Speaker Cables is the Amount of Copper”

Speaker cables will affect the sound quality of a system just as much as interconnects (RCA cables). It is important to have a large enough gauge speaker cable in order to put power into your speakers instead of your wires, but the amount of copper does not control the sound quality. Speaker cable materials, and geometry will have the biggest impact on a cable’s accuracy.

Car Audio Cable Myth #4:
“Cables Might Matter in a Home System, But You Can’t Hear the Difference in a Car”

Wrong! Car stereos have come a long way in the last 20 years. The sound quality of aftermarket car audio installations frequently rivals the quality of high-end home audio systems. Today’s car audio enthusiast demands good sound quality, and often their vehicle is their primary listening system. The differences that cables make can be easily heard inside a vehicle.

Car Audio Cable Myth #5:
“You Need to Be an Audiophile to Hear the Differences that Car Audio Cables Make”

Again, not true. Anyone can appreciate the differences that cables make. A casual music listener may not be able to describe why a poor quality sound system doesn’t sound good, but they know that it doesn’t sound anything like live music. Improve the quality of the cables and the same listener may not know why the sound is better, but they know it is better. If you listen to music, you can benefit from the improvements in accuracy that accurate cables will enable.