

Welcome to our new HDMI Cable Benchmark.

Unlike our other Benchmarks, this one will not be very complex. It is basically designed to test whether the new HDMI cables that are being sold everywhere will pass a 1080i digital video signal along with a Dolby Digital 5.1 digital audio signal for at least 39 feet (12 meters) of cable.

The reason we are doing this is that we have found that not all HDMI cables will pass these signals properly for long distances. Sure, they might work in a 6 foot cable, but many of us need longer cables to take the video signal across the room to the projector.

Our feeling on this, is that if the cable will pass digital video and audio for at least 39 feet (12 meters is a common maximum length that manufacturers can supply, which equals 39.37 feet), then it is built well, and will do a good job at all lengths less than that which you might need to purchase.

Our test is simple. The cable must pass the digital video and audio (source can either be a satellite box, using the HDMI output, or a high definition DVD player) to a surround sound processor and to a digital projector. The video must not have any sparkles in the image (sparkles indicate dropped bits), and the audio must be clear in all channels.

We request the cable from the manufacturer in either 12 meters or 15 meters length, depending on what the maximum length they supply. If the 15 meter cable does not pass, then we request the 12 meter cable. Otherwise, if the 15 meter cable passes, all the better.

Following are the cables that have passed the Benchmark. Because this is a new Benchmark, and the tests may change while we get it all standardized, we are not going to list the cables that failed our tests. At some later date, cables that fail the tests will be listed.

Wireworld Starlight 5² 15 Meter HDMI Cable



Specifications:

- Length: 49.21 Feet (15 Meters); 0.72" Wide x 0.16" Thick
- Conductors: 24 Gauge Silver-clad OFC (Copper)
- Dielectric: Foamed Polyethylene
- Contacts: Gold/Silver/Copper Alloy
- Up to 1080p Resolution
- Catalog No. SHH15.0M
- MSRP: \$899.95 USA

Wireworld
www.wireworldcable.com

Wireworld is a very well know company that makes fine cables. This particular HDMI cable is flat (0.15" thick) so it will go under rugs, and perhaps, even along a wall under the molding.

The build quality on this cable is superb, reflecting its higher price than other cables of this same length.

It is the only one that guarantees 1080p transmission without an HDMI repeater along the way.

Image and sound quality were superb, and the cable passed all the tests with no problems.

In spite of its heavy build, it is quite flexible, although this is only in the vertical direction.

Since it is flat, it will not bend sideways very easily, so you need to give it a quarter twist when going around corners. They specify a minimum bending radius of 25mm (1").

The connector is the sturdiest we have tested so far.