

creases, the maximum operating voltage of a completed cable assembly is reduced due to the reduction in dielectric strength of the lower pressure air in the termination area.

F. SHIELDING AND CROSS-TALK (OR ISOLATION)

1. The shielding efficiency of a coaxial cable depends on the construction of its outer conductor. The most common constructions available are:

Single Braid: Consisting of bare, tinned, or silver plated round copper wires (70 to 95% coverage).

Double Braid: Consisting of two single braids as described above with no insulation between them.

Triaxial: Consisting of two single braids as described above with a layer of insulation between them.

Strip Braids: Consists of flat strips of copper rather than round wires (90% coverage).

Strip Outer Conductors/Spiral Flat Strips: Exhibiting @ 100% coverage.

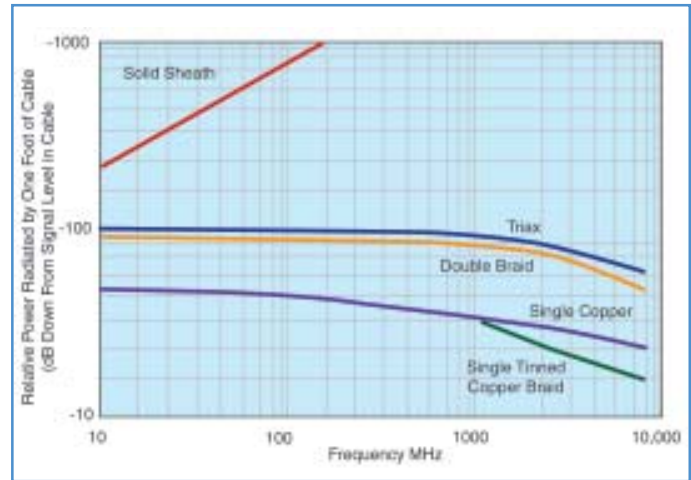
Solid Sheath: Consisting of aluminum or copper tubing (100% coverage).

2. The relative shielding effectiveness of these constructions are illustrated in Figure 9 over the frequency range from 10 MHz to 8 GHz. This graph shows the level of signal which leaks through the outer shield of a one foot sample of each construction. The curves describing the performance of the flexible cables, i.e., the triax braid, double braid, and single braid construction are based on measured data.

To estimate the total leakage in cables under 1100 ft. long, add $20 \log L$ to the figure read from the graph (where L is the cable length in feet). The curve showing the typical performance of the semi-flexible (or solid sheath) cables is based on theory. In practice the shielding efficiency of interconnections made using semi-flexible (solid sheath) cables is limited by the leakage at the connectors.

3. The isolation (or cross talk) between two coax cable runs is the sum of the isolation factors of

Fig. 9
Shielding Effectiveness



the two cables and the isolation due to the “coupling factor” between the runs. This coupling factor will depend on the relative spacing, positioning and environment of the cable runs and on the grounding practices employed. The coupling factor will substantially affect the isolation between the cable runs.

4. Measurements show that the RF (1 -30 MHz) cross talk between two single braided coaxes over a 20 foot run length is approximately 80 db down from the signal level inside the cables. The coaxes were laid side-by-side over the 20 foot test length. (This test data illustrates the affect of the “coupling factor” noted above.)

5. Special Constructions that provide enhanced shielding characteristics are available. These cables include the LMR, RD, and RDT families of cables, and the StripFlex, SFT, and TFlex cables.

G. CAPACITANCE

Capacitance in a cable is related to the dielectric material and the characteristic impedance. Typical capacitance values are shown in the General Electrical Properties on page 66 for some common coaxial lines.

As seen in the table, the higher impedance cables provide lower “capacitance per foot” values, resulting in reduced loading for data communications applications.