

RATS Coaxial Cable and Connectors etc.

by Steve G8LYB

The cable that connects your transmitter or receiver to the antenna is one of the most important parts of your system, when using coaxial cable you are looking for a cable with good screening, and low loss. There is of course a trade off to be made between the size, cost and physical problems of using a larger cable and benefit of the lower loss that a larger cable should give.

But if you decide that a coaxial cable is appropriate, it is important to ensure that you do get value for money and a good quality of cable. Unfortunately there are a lot of cables that are of dubious construction and specifications.

Recently, I saw an example of what claimed to be an RG58 that had a single solid centre conductor, a foil screen and a braid consisting of a loose weave of copper strands (real RG58 should have a flexible stranded centre conductor, and a single tight copper braided screen).

The Society keeps a stock of good quality coaxial cables available for sale to members at competitive prices, we don't make much profit on selling them, but pass on the discounts we achieve when purchasing cable in reasonable bulk.

The Society currently have stocks of:

RG58 (£0.50 per metre)
RG213 (1.50 per metre)
Ecoflex-10 (3.00 per metre)

Good quality connectors are also important, and in particular I strongly recommend the use of clamp/compression fitting type UHF/PL259. I keep a good selection of various connectors (N, PL259, BNC, SMA for both RG58 ad RG213 cables) and normally have a stock of commonly used items with me at most meetings. If you are looking for something a bit unusual do ask me as I do have a small collection of less common connectors or can help to identify what connector may actually be required.

Power Cables

I normally also have a selection of Anderson Powerpole connectors and related items that I strongly recommend for use on Power cables, If you need red&black twin power cable I keep a stock at home in various current ratings)

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