

Tip***How to buy the right modular plug***

Buying the right modular plug could be difficult if you don't know exactly what type of cabling you are terminating to. There are two important characteristics to keep in mind when selecting the proper plug. First, do the wires utilize solid or stranded conductors. Plugs for solid conductor cabling use contacts that straddle the wire. Plugs for stranded conductor cable use plugs that pierce the wire. Next, the outer dimensions of the cable jacket must be known for proper fit. The following definitions are sometimes useful:

SOLID vs STRANDED WIRES: Cable utilizing SOLID wiring is commonly used for permanent premise wiring runs inside walls and ceilings. It is less flexible and cheaper than stranded cable therefore lending itself to areas where it won't be flexed. STRANDED cable is more flexible and is commonly used in patch cords where flexibility is important. SOLID bulk cable is usually sold in pull out boxes whereas STRANDED bulk cable is usually sold in reels or spools.

FLAT vs ROUND CABLING: Modular cable can come with either a FLAT or ROUND jacket over the wires. The plug should have the appropriate entry so that it makes a snug fit with the cable jacket.

SHIELDED vs UNSHIELDED CABLING: If shielded cabling is used, shielded plugs are most likely needed.