

How to Shield Ribbon Cable

1. Take your ribbon cable and lay it flat on a clean surface.
2. Cut a small copper braid 12" longer than the cable to use as a drain wire.
3. Clean the copper braid and alligator clips in Acetone.
4. Connect alligator clips to the ends of the braid by expanding braiding near the end and placing the clip's screw through a hole near the end. Then screw through the hole in the alligator clip.
5. Place the braid along the cable and tape it to the cable with Kapton Tape every 6-12 inches. Then wrap the cable and braid with copper foil. Cut the foil so that it is about ½ to 1 inch short of your connector on each side of the cable.
6. Exercise care as not to wrinkle the foil, as it will cause an unwanted impedance in the shielding.
7. Tape the foil with Kapton Tape every 8-12 inches.
8. Begin placing an isolation sleeve over your cable. Run your entire cable through the sleeve. Once it has reached the opposite side of your cable, use Kapton Tape and tape it in place between the foil and the connector.
9. Starting at this end of the cable (the one where you taped the sleeve in place) run your hand the rest of the way to the other end so that your sleeve is as tightly gripped to your cable as possible. Once you reach the other end cut the sleeve and trim it so that you may tape it into place between the foil and the connector.
10. You now have a shielded ribbon cable.