HD-SDI Distribution : Introduction

HDTV-SDI Cabling Material Selection

Broadcast stations and postproduction studios in many countries around the world are currently being required to change their systems to handle high definition (HDTV) digital signals, in addition to SDTV digital signals. The SDTV-SDI transmission speed is 270Mbps, while the HDTV-SDI transmission speed is a much higher 1.485Gbps. The following explains the selection of cabling materials for such transition periods.

Cabling Material Selection

Both coaxial cables and fiber-optic cables are used for HDTV-SDI cabling.

Coaxial cables are used for relatively short transmission distances, as shown in the table at right. For example, L-2.5CFB is better suited to cabling inside an equipment rack, and L-5CFB is a more appropriate choice for cabling between racks. Likewise, Canare's specially developed L-8CHD (high-foam coaxial cable) is ideal for cabling between rooms.

On the other hand, as can be seen from the fact that fiberoptic cables are now widely used in the communications field, they are better suited to long -distance transmission. Because the cost of fiber-optic transmission equipment can be expected to continue to fall, fiber optics is expected to make further inroads into the short-distance transmission field in the near future.

Technical Note

Characteristic Impedance

Imagine a coaxial cable that extends forever. The frequency impedance as registered on the sending-end of such a cable is referred to as characteristic impedance. Real cables are fixed in length, allowing the characteristic impedance to be measured and the cables terminated by applying resistance

of equal value. The end result is the configuration of a cable that seems limitless in length. (See Fig. 2)



2	Limited	and	Unlimited	Length	Coaxial	Cables
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HDTV-SDI Tran	smission Distance		(Unit: m)
Ca	abling Material	SDTV (270Mbps)	HDTV (1.485Gbps)
Coaxial cable	L-2.5CFB	195	55
	L-5CFB	370	100
	L-6CHD	540	150
	L-7CHD	620	170
	L-8CHD	710	200
Optical fiber (single mode)			2,000m or more

NOTE: The values in this table are mere guidelines. Actual distance is approximately 70% of each value.



Voltage Standing-wave Ratio (VSWR) and Return Loss

Terminating the receiving end of a limited length coaxial cable using a resistance value not equal to its characteristic impedance creates a reflected wave that returns back down the cable to the sending end. The result is interference developing between the travelling wave and the return wave which results in a standing wave that causes voltage levels to fluctuate. The degree to which terminating resistance matches the characteristic impedance is indicated using the VSWR or voltage standing-wave ratio standard shown in Fig. 3. Going hand in hand with the VSWR ratio is the return loss factor which measures the size of the reflected wave current in relation to the travelling wave current. (See Fig. 4)



VSWR	Return Loss (dB)
2	9.5
1.5	14
1.2	20
1.1	26
1.05	32
1.02	40
1.01	46.1

Fia. 3 Voltage Distribution Over Coaxial Cable

Fig. 4 VSWR to Return Loss Conversion Table

Coaxial Cable Wiring

As shown in the table below, HDTV-SDI coaxial cable interface is specified by SMPTE 292M. Because the 75Ω type generally provides better electrical characteristics than the 50Ω type, both connectors and cables must be rated for 75Ω. If the HDTV-SDI transmission system uses a mixture of 50Ω connectors and 75Ω cables or 75Ω connectors and 50Ω cables, the impedance mismatch will significantly increase return loss, which in turn generates jitter, causing bit errors. Note that impedance ratings are not clearly indicated on some commercially available BNC connectors and coaxial cables. When using such commercial products for HDTV-SDI signal transmission path, be sure to always check to ensure that their nominal impedance is 75Ω before use.

SMPTE 292M: Coaxial interface for HDTV

	Туре	75 Ω BNC	
Connector	Frequency	up to 2.4GHz	
	Return Loss	Greater than 15dB at 1.5GHz	
	Туре	Coax. (75 Ω)	
Cable	Frequency Response	Proportional to 1/√f from 1MHz to the clock frequency	
	Return Loss	Greater than 15dB at 5MHz to the clock frequency	



Canare 75Ω coaxial cables



Technical Note

Matched and Mismatched **Connectors**

The return loss is 26dB or less (VSWR=1.1) for frequencies up to 2GHz in 75 Ω coaxial cables using 75 Ω BNC connectors. If 500 BNC connectors are attached to both end of the same cable, the return loss takes on the characteristics shown in Fig. 5 below when frequencies exceed 100MHz. This makes it incapable of transmitting signals with any accuracy.

Reasons For Wide Use of 75Ω **Coaxial Cable**

Calculation results for impedances and corresponding attenuation rates in coaxial cables are shown in Fig. 6 below. The levels of characteristic impedance reauirina only minimal attenuation were 60Ω for lines with polyethylene insulation, 75 Ω for foam PE (50%) insulation and 95 Ω for air insulation. This is why the 75 Ω cable is used for longer distance transmissions.





ns outer conductor: copper braid; insula O.D. 5mm inner conductor: solid copper: frequency

a) Waveform jitter = 93ps Jitter

b) Waveform jitter = 210ps

Jitter measurement (eye pattern)



SDTV	HDTV
≤740ps	≤135ps
Specified jitter values (by the	

Jitter

Digital signals are made up of stepped waveforms spaced at a fixed interval called the timing sequence. Receivers must detect and monitor this timing in order to accurately read the signal. Shifts in the waveform which must intrinsically maintain a fixed interval can be introduced by such factors as irregular equipment conditions or overly long transmission lines, causing signal distortion. Such shifts in the timing axes of transmitted and received signal waveforms are referred to as jitter. Increasing amounts of jitter distortion can lead to bit error, which may result in picture deterioration or horizontal noise interference.

One tool regularly used to measure jitter is the oscilloscope. Owing to its distinctive shape, the measured waveform is called an eye pattern, with the jitter expressed by the width of the area where the rising and falling edges of the waveforms cross each other. This jitter value is specified by the ARIB (SMPTE)Standard shown in the accompanying table.

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HD-SDI Distribution : Fiber-Optic Wiring

Fiber-Optic Wiring

As shown in the table below, High-definition serial digital interface is specified by SMPTE 292M. Although the fiber-optic cable may have excellent characteristics in terms of signal transmission, it may be liable to the influence of tension or bends that exceed its permissible range, as well as to humidity or dust. In particular, care must be exercised during installation, since tension is more apt to be applied to the interface. To ensure stable light signal transmission, be sure to handle the interface properly, and correctly clean the fiber-optic connectors.



Canare fiber-optic cable with SC connector

Canare fiber-optic cord

SMPTE 304M & 311M: Hybrid Electrical and Fiber-Optic Camera Connector & Cable









Technical Note

Maintaining Fiber-Optic Hybrid Connectors

The connector sections to be cleaned are the key parts, including the tips and sides of ferrules, the interior walls of alignment sleeves and the interior and exterior of connector shells. Note that scratches and particles of foreign matter on the tip of the ferrule can have a disabling effect on fiber-optic transmission. The following procedures should be used when cleaning fiber-optic connectors.

- For Plugs, the interior surfaces of alignment sleeves and the tips of ferrules are to be cleaned with the non-alcohol treated cleaning stick using a gentle stroking action. Canare FCF and FCFR enhance easy cleaning procedure for its innovative alignment sleeve and indulator detachable design.
- For Jacks, it is important to clean both the tips and sides of the completely protruding ferrules with the cleaning stick.
- Both the male and female connector shells tend to attract dust and metal particles, so it is important to clean both the insides and outsides using cotton gauze or similar material.
- Contact Canare for information on the recommended cleaning stick.
- The alignment sleeve (split sleeve) keeps the ferrules in highly precise alignment with each other.





Before Cleaning



After Cleaning

Cleaning stickCLETOP 2.5/2.0

Canare EO/OE Series on Distributing Hi-Def signals

High definition (HD) digital signals are becoming mainstream in broadcast stations and postproduction studios, and such facilities are rapidly being required to employ systems capable of handling HD digital signals. While conventional fiber-optic transmission equipment have been expensive, the cost of peripheral equipment has greatly decreased in recent years thanks to the widespread use of optical fiber transmission, resulting in broadcasting equipment shifting quickly to fiber-optic systems. People generally consider fiber-optic transmission to be too difficult to employ, however it can minimize transmission loss and enable systems to be designed with no special measures required to eliminate noise, which must always be kept in mind when installing coaxial cables. Canare Electric-to-Optic/Optic-to-Electric (Canare EO/OE) series will bring you to next level of potential, flexibility, and expandability at an affordable cost.

Advantage 1: Flexible Layout

The maximum transmission distance for L-5CFB coaxial cable is approximately 100 meters. Within this distance, however, ideal wiring routes may not be selected nor equipment installed in convenient locations during cable installation in rooms or between rooms. Since fiber-optic cable can transmit signal over distances of tens of kilometers, layouts can be more freely planned and centered on equipment without worrying about the wiring distance. This advantage cannot be overlooked.

Advantage 2: Space Saving

Fiber-optic cables are generally 3mm of outer diameter, which is approximately 2/5 that of L-5CFB coaxial cable and approximately 1/6 the size in terms of cross-sectional ratio. Even when spaces under floors, in cable ladders, or component racks are full of coaxial cable and no more lines can be added, fiber-optic cables can cope with the situation.



Technical Note

EO/OE System Design

In EO/OE system design, 1) cable attenuation loss, 2) connector insertion loss, 3) fusion splice connection loss, and 4) Mux/DeMux insertion loss have to be calculated so that they are less than the loss budget (LB) of the optic link. For HD/SD-SDI system, since the Mux/DeMux loss is greater than that of the fiber attenuation loss, it would be essential you to consider such loss elements when you configure the system. Loss Budget (LB)

Loss Factor	Value	
 Connector Insertion Loss 	0.5dB/Point	
2 Mux/De Mux	2~3dB/Point	
3 WDM coupler	0.5dB/Point	
4 Fiber Cable	0.3dB/km(*)	
Splitter	0.5dB/Main 10dB/Branch	
Divider	3dB/Point	
Fusion Splice Loss	0.2dB/Point	
System Margin	3~6dB	
* 0 5~1 0 dB/km for Douk fibor		

* 0.5~1.0dB/km for Dark fiber



Advantage 3: Eliminating Electromagnetic Noise

As you know, unlike copper cable, fiber-optic cable is not susceptible to electromagnetic noise. Fiber-optic wiring will give you many options - No more worrying about isolating to power lines and so on.



Advantage 4: Easy to Add Lines without Re-Wiring

Coarse Wave Division Multiplexing (CWDM) technology enables multiple signals to be transmitted over "one" fiber-optic cable. Once the fiber-optic cable has been installed, additional cables are not necessary in your system upgrade. Canare CWDM can be transmitted up to 8 channels in "one" fiber. You will see Canare CWDM saving the total installation cost incredibly.



Loss Budget (LB)

Loss budget is the difference between the optical power output (P1) from the EO converter and the light reception sensitivity (P2) of the OE converter. LB = P1-P2



Example If the optical power output P1 = -3dBm and the reception sensitivity P2 = -20dBm: LB = -3dBm -(-20dBm) = 17dB

Fiber-Optic Systems

Canare EO/OE Series

HD-SDI signal converted one by one, using Canare EO-100 and OE-101 as one channel. This configuration will fit for internal transmission within a broadcasting facility.



Canare EO/OE with **FCWDM Series**

This configuration will optimize the existing fiber lines within the building as well as metro area network (MAN) such as stadium to broadcasting headquarters through dark-fiber infrastructures.

