

Shielding and Armoring

Characteristics of Belden Shield Types and Armor Styles

Foil Shields

Foil shields consist of aluminum foil laminated to a polyester or polypropylene film. The film gives the shield mechanical strength and bonus insulation. Foil shields provide 100% cable coverage, necessary for electrostatic shield protection. Because of their small size, foil shields are commonly used to shield individual pairs of multi-pair data cables to reduce crosstalk. They have less weight, bulk and cost less than spiral or braid shields and are generally more effective than braid shields in RF ranges. Foil shields are more flexible than braid but have a shorter flex life than spiral or braid.

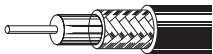
Drain wires are used with foil shields to make termination easier and to ground electrostatic discharges. The shortcomings in using the foil shield include higher dc resistance and lower mechanical strength than braid or spiral shields.



Braid Shields

A braid shield consists of groups of tinned or bare copper or aluminum strands, one set woven in a clockwise direction and interwoven with another set in a counter-clockwise direction.

Braid shields provide superior structural integrity, while maintaining good flexibility and flex life. These shields are ideal for minimizing low frequency interference and have lower DC resistance than foil. Braid shields are effective at audio, as well as RF ranges. Generally, the higher the braid coverage, the more effective the shield. However, the trade-off between cost and braid coverage must be considered. Typical braid coverages are between 80% and 95%. Coverage of 100% is unattainable with a braid shield. Other features to consider when choosing a braid shield are the weave angle, strand diameter, number of carriers (strand groups) and the number of ends (strands).



Braid shields are generally bulkier and heavier than other shields and, in some cases, harder to terminate because the braid may be combed out and pigtailed.

Spiral/Serve Shields

A spiral/serve shield consists of wire (usually copper) wrapped in a spiral around the inner cable core.

Superior flexibility and flex life, ease of termination and up to 97% coverage are the advantages of spiral shields. They are best suited for audio applications. As a rule, spiral shields are not effective above the audio frequency range due to the coil effect produced by the inductance of served wire strands.



“French Braid” Shields

Belden's patented “French Braid” shield is a double spiral (double serve shield) with the two spirals tied together by one weave. This construction provides improved flex life over standard spiral shields, improved flexibility over conventional braid shields, and lower levels of microphonic or triboelectric noise than either spiral or conventional braid shields.



Combination Shields

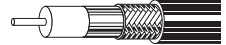
Combination shields consist of more than one layer of shielding. They provide maximum shield efficiency across the frequency spectrum. The combination foil/braid shield combines the advantages of 100% foil coverage, plus the strength and low DC resistance of the braid.

Belden has also developed a number of shielding configurations for use with broadband coaxial cables.

- **Duobond®**
 Duobond is essentially the same construction as Duofoil® (a laminated tape of foil/film/foil), but with an extra layer of adhesive bonding the foil shield to the dielectric core. This foil shield provides 100% coverage and insures maximum shield protection.

- **Duobond II (Foil/Braid)**

Combines Duobond with an outer braid, applied for greater protection against interference and to increase the overall tensile strength.



- **Duobond III (Tri-Shield)**

Utilizes the Duobond II design (foil/braid) plus a surrounding layer of Duofoil. The extra foil layer improves shield reliability and provides an additional interference barrier.



- **Duobond Plus®**

Features foil/braid/foil construction with a shorting fold in the outermost foil. This fold prevents a slot opening from being created in the shield, thereby preventing signal egress or ingress.



Shorting Fold

- **Duobond IV (Quad Shield)**

Offers an extra layer of braid shield (foil/braid/foil/braid) for improved strength and durability.



Other combination shields are available such as the foil/braid/foil/braid used on the Ethernet cables, braid/braid or foil/spiral.

Armoring

Belden's innovative technology delivers maximum effectiveness to meet the performance requirements of a wide range of applications.

Belden also has the capability to protect electronic, instrumentation, and control cables with interlocking steel or aluminum armor.