

# Microphone and Musical Instrument Cable

## Overview



### Flexible Microphone Cables

Belden® microphone cable is used for connecting low level microphones or musical instruments. Key properties of microphone (MIC) cable are ruggedness, flexibility, flex life and interference immunity.

MIC cable constructions utilize either 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-conductor configurations. Cable selection depends on whether the MIC or instrument is of a high- or low-impedance design. High-impedance MICs require unbalanced single conductor (coaxial) cables while low-impedance MICs utilize balanced 2-, 3-, or 4-conductor (quad) designs. Quad MIC cables are connected by attaching the two white conductors to one pin and two blue conductors to the other pin in a balanced-line XLR type connector. Besides the common-mode rejection of a standard balanced line, this gives common-mode rejection at each pin, greatly reducing noise and interference.

### High-conductivity Copper

All Belden microphone cables with bare copper conductors utilize only high-conductivity copper produced by a process called Electrolytic Tough Pitch (ETP). This refining process produces a copper conductor that is 99.95% pure copper resulting in high-conductivity per ASTM B115. The high purity obtained from ETP copper results in microphone cable performance that is comparable to that of oxygen-free copper cables.

- **Plastic cables recommended for:**  
 Lower capacitance, lower loss, greater ozone and oil resistance, lighter weight, smaller diameter.
- **Rubber cables recommended for:**  
 Greater abrasion and impact resistance and extra limpness so the cable will lie flat on stage or on studio floors.

### Four-Conductor Star Quad Low-Impedance Cables

**Quad connection scheme:** The two blue wires (or wires directly opposite one another) are connected together to form one conductor, and similarly the two white wires (or remaining wires) are connected together to form the second conductor.

Conductors joined in this manner lower the possibility of induced noise.