Speaker Cable Transmission Distance as a Function of Conductor Size vs. Loss

| AWG | Power Loss in Cable (\% Loss \& dB Loss) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 4 Ohm Speaker |  |  |  |  | 8 Ohm Speaker |  |  |  |  | 70V Speaker |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1\% | 5\% | 11\% | 21\% | 50\% | 1\% | 5\% | 11\% | 21\% | 50\% | 1\% | 5\% | 11\% | 21\% | 50\% |
|  | 0.04 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1 | 3 | 0.04 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1 | 3 | 0.04 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | 22 ft | 109 ft | 277 ft | 571 ft | 1930 ft | 43 ft | 218 ft | 554 ft | 1141 ft | 3859 ft | 1058 ft | 5338 ft | 13580 ft | 27965 ft | 94548 ft |
| 8 | 14 ft | 69 ft | 174 ft | 359 ft | 1214 ft | 27 ft | 137 ft | 349 ft | 718 ft | 2428 ft | 666 ft | 3359 ft | 8546 ft | 17598 ft | 59498 ft |
| 10 | 9 ft | 43 ft | 110 ft | 226 ft | 764 ft | 17 ft | 86 ft | 219 ft | 452 ft | 1528 ft | 419 ft | 2114 ft | 5377 ft | 11072 ft | 37434 ft |
| 12 | 5 ft | 27 ft | 69 ft | 142 ft | 480 ft | 11 ft | 54 ft | 138 ft | 284 ft | 959 ft | 263 ft | 1327 ft | 3376 ft | 6952 ft | 23505 ft |
| 14 | 3 ft | 17 ft | 43 ft | 89 ft | 302 ft | 7 ft | 34 ft | 87 ft | 179 ft | 604 ft | 166 ft | 836 ft | 2127 ft | 4380 ft | 14809 ft |
| 16 | 2 ft | 10 ft | 27 ft | 55 ft | 185 ft | 4 ft | 21 ft | 53 ft | 110 ft | 371 ft | 102 ft | 513 ft | 1305 ft | 2687 ft | 9085 ft |
| 18 | 1 ft | 7 ft | 17 ft | 35 ft | 117 ft | 3 ft | 13 ft | 34 ft | 69 ft | 234 ft | 64 ft | 323 ft | 823 ft | 1694 ft | 5726 ft |
| 20 | 1 ft | 4 ft | 11 ft | 22 ft | 74 ft | 2 ft | 8 ft | 21 ft | 44 ft | 147 ft | 40 ft | 204 ft | 518 ft | 1068 ft | 3610 ft |
| 22 | 1 ft | 3 ft | 7 ft | 13 ft | 46 ft | 1 ft | 5 ft | 13 ft | 27 ft | 91 ft | 25 ft | 126 ft | 321 ft | 661 ft | 2234 ft |
| 24 | 0 ft | 2 ft | 4 ft | 9 ft | 29 ft | 1 ft | 3 ft | 8 ft | 17 ft | 57 ft | 16 ft | 80 ft | 202 ft | 417 ft | 1409 ft |

For simplicity, assumptions include use of tin coated copper conductors at 20C, Minimally compliant DC resistance (ASTM), and a flat response with ideal source, cable, \& load. Larger, solid, and/or uncoated conductors will transmit farther than the values presented. Use of an electrical model other than the purely resistive model shown will yield differing results. Performance in any system may vary with frequency. Damping factor, among other considerations, are outside the scope of this table and should be considered if required by the intended application. 70 volt line drive systems, while considered a potential for $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ performance, follow the same cable loss physics as the higher current (lower impedance) system. For the sake of this calculation, a $25 \mathrm{~W}, 70 \mathrm{~V}$ system ( 196 Ohms) was used.

## Derivation:

Rc=(Rcable+) + (Rcable-)
Vin $=1$ * (Rs + Rc)
Vo $=1$ *Rs
Vin $=$ Vo/Rs * (Rs + Rc)
$\mathrm{Vo} / \mathrm{Vin}=\mathrm{Rs} /(\mathrm{Rs}+\mathrm{Rc})$ alpha $=20^{*} \log (\mathrm{Vo} / \mathrm{Vin})$
10^(alpha/20) = Rs/(Rs+Rc) Rs $=10^{\wedge}$ (alpha/20) * $(\mathrm{Rs}+\mathrm{Rc})$ Rc = Rs * (10^(-alpha/20) - 1)

Rcable+


## How to Use the Guide

*70 volt line distributed systems, while potentially as high performance as 4 or 8 Ohm applications, follow the same cable loss physics as the higher current (lower impedance) system. For the sake of this calculation a 25 watt 70 volts system ( $196 \Omega$ impendance) was used.

## Step One

Select the appropriate speaker impedance column.
Step Two

## Step Three

Select the appropriate power loss column deemed to be acceptable.
Select the applicable wire gauge size and follow the row over to the columns determined in steps one and two. The number listed is the maximum cable run length.

Example
The maximum run for 12 AWG in a 8 Ohm speaker system with $11 \%$ or 0.5 dB loss if 138 ft .

