

Taking the lead

Your latest home entertainment gizmo is only as good as the cable you use to connect it. We've taken the lead and put a selection of cables to the test for you

Scart cables

B-Tech BTXL21015

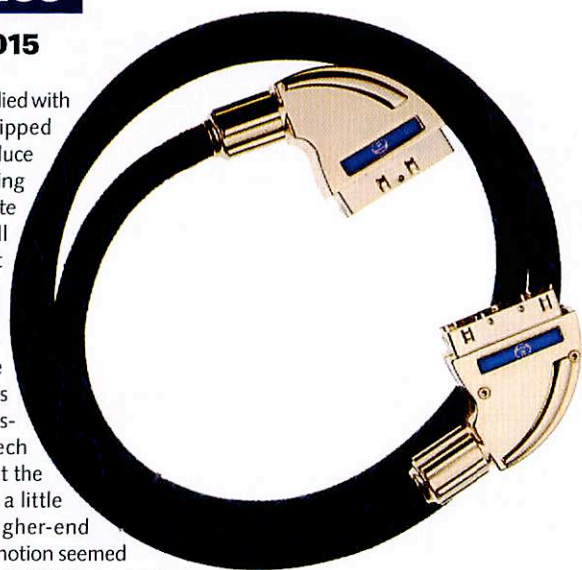
Length: 1.5m £23

B-Tech's Scart lead is supplied with ferrite cores that are clipped onto each end to help reduce interference. The moulding from the plug extends quite far, however, which will make using them difficult in a confined space. The lead is fully-wired, rated at 75ohms and constructed from pure oxygen-free copper. This helps lower electrical resistance. In tests, the B-Tech gave a detailed image but the edges of shapes looked a little fuzzy compared to higher-end offerings, and objects in motion seemed a little blurred. However, at £23 it's a good first upgrade for anyone still using a cheap out-of-the box lead.

Contact 01689 848 535

Web www.b-tech-int.com

Overall ★★★



True Colour Industries AV4111

Length: 1m £90

The True Colour Industries Scart lead features a large bulge where the cable connects to the plug. In turn, the cable takes up a lot of space to the side of the socket. The AV4111 is fully-wired with all the pins connected and is rated at a resistance of 75ohms to minimise signal loss. There are also two levels of insulation between each internal wire to help prevent interference. Sadly, the quality of the picture just wasn't quite up to the standard of some others here. Overall images were sharp and clear but there was noticeable colour bleeding in bright and high-contrast areas.

Contact 028 9267 3024

Web www.true-colours.com

Overall ★★★



active Home
BEST!
ON TEST

Ixos XHT901

Length 1.5m £118

This bright white cable's thickness can make it difficult to route around your TV. The size is due to the fact that not only is each wire individually shielded, but the insulation is made by injecting nitrogen into the polyethylene used for this purpose. With every pin connected, that's quite a lot to fit into one cable. The cast metal plugs are silver-plated to improve conductivity. The XHT901 makes up for its inflexibility with the picture quality. Bold colours, strong detail, excellent contrast and only a slight hint of the usual graininess took this lead straight to the top of the class.

Contact 0870 345 9980

Web www.ixos.co.uk

Overall ★★★★★

Supra 6.4

Length: 1m £110

The Supra 6.4 cable is noticeably lighter than most of the other Scart cables on test and its light blue colour makes it unobtrusive. The lead doesn't stick out of the side of the connectors as much as some others, making it better suited to environments where space is at a premium. Our lead measured one metre, and extra length costs £15 a metre. The name refers to construction with six copper cores for used for video and four for audio. Like the B-Tech, the cable is rated to 75 ohms resistance, and each wire has a PE foam insulation layer with a braided screen to reduce noise. Given the price, we were slightly disappointed with the Supra's performance. Pictures were noisier or 'fuzzier' than others here and there was noticeable colour bleed in some areas.

Contact 01223 441 299

Web www.supracables.co.uk

Overall ★★★

