Subject: Exposing The Wires Without Cutting It
Posted by Junior on Tue, 13 Nov 2018 14:16:35 GMT
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This inquiry is in connection to my little project which is found here:
https://audioroundtable.com/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=22208&start=0&

I have a problem when exposing the wires in the cables. I often cut a few strands of the wires when I like to expose the wire at the tip of the cable. What is the technique in removing the outer covering of the cable without cutting the wire strands?

Subject: Re: Exposing The Wires Without Cutting It
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 13 Nov 2018 15:20:38 GMT
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You can use wire strippers, or you can carefully use a razor blade to cut through the insulation. With a lot of practice, you may find that you can use wire cutters, with the jaws held just close enough to cut through the insulation without nicking the conductor.

Subject: Re: Exposing The Wires Without Cutting It
Posted by Junior on Mon, 19 Nov 2018 07:06:36 GMT
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I'm using the jaws of my long-nose pliers to open up the wires. I agree with you that practice will help. My hands tremble easily when I'm trying to concentrate on exposing the conductors.

Subject: Re: Exposing The Wires Without Cutting It
Posted by The Noise on Tue, 01 Sep 2020 18:52:41 GMT
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Wire strippers were made precisely for this job. Places like Harbor Freight is where you can get them on the cheap. And I don't know what they're called, but there are razor knifes that are thinner than most which would work well too.

Subject: Re: Exposing The Wires Without Cutting It
Posted by Becky on Sat, 18 Oct 2025 09:31:26 GMT
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Not everybody knew how to work with wiring and if not careful, one can make a drastic mistake

while cutting the wire. In order to have a clean cut, use razor blade of strippers to cut wires as a non professional because professionals use wire cutters to do the work.

Subject: Re: Exposing The Wires Without Cutting It
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 20 Oct 2025 03:10:31 GMT
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Hi, I guess this depends on what type of wire you are using. There is a major difference in 12 gauge wire and tonearm wire. For any type of wire above 26 gauge I use strippers. The ones that look like pliers and have markings for the wire sizes are the ones I prefer. Normally a clean strip. The issue is with sub standard wire then you may have to pick a size different from what the wire was listed as. This is becoming ever more common. I also use the ones that look like small scissors but leave the setting screw at max. I then strip by feel. It takes a bit of practice to not harm the conductors. For tonearm wire that is usually in the size range of 28 to 34 gauge the above strippers will not work. I use a "burning" method. I heat up the wire with a hot soldering arm (I usually use 775 F) and melt the insulation. It will carbonize and then all you need do is scrape it off. For fabric insulated tone arm wire you can often use a slightly different method. I use a gas fire starter to burn it again and the peal it off. The heating method also solves a second problem with tonearm wire that is the strands are usually covered with enamel. The heating also burn this off as well. Now the magic question...if you strip any wire from say 20 gauge and up (bigger) losing a few strands is of little consequence.

Subject: Re: Exposing The Wires Without Cutting It
Posted by Kurt on Mon, 09 Mar 2026 06:07:28 GMT
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The Noise wrote on Tue, 01 September 2020 13:52Wire strippers were made precisely for this job. Places like Harbor Freight is where you can get them on the cheap. And I don't know what they're called, but there are razor knifes that are thinner than most which would work well too. Wire strippers always got the job done for me as well. It is pretty straightforward to use. One just needs to be very careful to avoid cutting off more wires in the process. I got mine from a shop in my neighbourhood as they sold cheaper than what it is sold in Harbor Freight.

Subject: Re: Exposing The Wires Without Cutting It
Posted by Hank on Sat, 11 Jul 2026 17:49:20 GMT
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Kurt wrote on Mon, 09 March 2026 01:07The Noise wrote on Tue, 01 September 2020 13:52Wire strippers were made precisely for this job. Places like Harbor Freight is where you can get them on the cheap. And I don't know what they're called, but there are razor knifes that are thinner than most which would work well too.
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I agree that the wire strippers are the best for the job. I can't even think of a better option when it comes to removing wires from the coatings.