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Subject: 14ga romex for speaker cable and X/O wiring  
Posted by [mhammill](#) on Fri, 12 Apr 2002 02:10:13 GMT

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I know you recommend 16 or 18ga stranded wire and don't like the magnet wire due to the high resistance, but is there any problem with using 14ga solid core house wiring? It's cheap and low in resistance for longer distances like I need between my living and dining room areas. And would it be good to twist it together or separate the pos and neg runs? Thank's Mike H.

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Subject: Speaker cable and wire properties  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 12 Apr 2002 17:23:35 GMT

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14 guage wire will work just fine. Speaker circuits are low impedance balanced pairs, which is about as tolerant and invulnerable to noise as you can get. But I think I would still twist the wires together to form a braid. If you put signal wires in a metal conduit, make sure the conduit is grounded. Never run wires in an ungrounded conduit, particularly low-power, unbalanced signal wires, because the ungrounded conduit will actually couple AC noise into the signal wires, acting as a sort of concentrator. Here's a link to a page about Belden's speaker cable, and it includes a chart of size/power/distance/ for sound systems. This type of product is best, even better than exotic "boutique" cables. For those of you that like to wind your own coils, here's a good program that gives specifications of various magnet wire products.