Understanding Audio Video Cables, and Getting the Most from Them by Ariza Roshan

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Whenever you watch anything on your television, connect your camcorder or video recorder to play back what you have just filmed, or even try and hook up your computer to a television screen, you will have a set of cables that do the job for you. While it may seem like a simple attachment, what you are actually assembling is a complex set of connectors that carry all the signals needed for you to see and hear.

The audio is provided using electrical connectors that are suitable to carry audio frequencies. These can come in either of the two forms â€“ digital or analog. There are several kinds of conductors within this set, which can be the single conductor kind, multi conductor or even digital audio interfaces. Within this type you have a number of alternatives to pick. There are some rules that are applied to their use, and the correct method is normally indicated by different colour codes that are intended for the purpose. Even within the set of video connectors, you are bound to find several kinds that cater to differing needs.

When multiple signals are involved, audio video cables, or cables that carry both signals simultaneously, come into play. While the audio video cables have evolved and continue to as we speak, there are some that have become almost synonymous with their use. The Digital Media Port, for instance, is what Sony usually proposes for all its audio video inputs. FireWire is ideal for any high end audio equipment or even on your camcorder. HDMI is what most people are looking towards and talking of today, having set a new standard for anything digital. However, SCART continues to remain the most popular form in Europe even today.

While we may think that a combined audio video signal may be a milestone that has been achieved, modern technology has devised composite cables that also include power and a USB function in addition to the regular audio and video capacities.

While specifications may only take you a certain distance, it is important to use the right kind of audio video cables, and optimize the performance of your gadgets with the best. Often, quality is compromised not because the system is flawed, but because the audio video cables are not suitable. What you can start off by doing is looking out for better grade cables and not being blinded by those that come accompanying your system. You should also try and find audio video cables that match the system that they are being plugged into. Older models can do with slightly lower quality, while HDMI is optimal for the latest or high definition systems.

Most importantly, ensure that your audio video cables fit in well, and have no loose ends. A tightly woven system will ensure that there are no snags, and also that you receive the best output. Listen carefully for that feedback that you get, and keep a close check on the smaller, more subtle sounds. They are the ones that matter, the ones that will set the new sounds apart.

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