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Aerial cable car

The role of cable is to carry an audio or video signal from one device to another. Cables carry signals between DVD players and TVs, stereo receivers and speakers, and computers and video projectors. Cables don't change the nature of the audio or video signal they carry. They don't convert or process signals in any way. That's the job of the devices on either end. The cable itself is just the messenger.Cables are made up of three basic parts: conductor, shielding and connector [source: Graves]. The conductor is the wire that actually carries the signal. One or more layers of shielding prevent the wire from acting as an antenna that picks up radio frequency interference (RFI) and electromagnetic interference (EMI) [source: Graves]. The connector is the plug at the end of the cable that connects to your device.Cables are important components of any home stereo or home theater setup. If you don't use the right cables for the right job then you could end up with subpar sound or picture quality. And if you use cables that are damaged or otherwise junky, you could really end up with a lousy experience. For audiophiles, using low-end cables with a \$5,000 plasma HDTV is like putting crappy tires on a Ferrari.Some audio/video experts argue that consumers should spend 20 percent of their total system cost on cables alone [source: Rushing]. The truth is that many cheaper cables offer a listening/viewing experience that most consumers could never tell from the really high-end cables [source: Rothman].To keep things simple, we're going to break down the overwhelming amount of cable types into three categories: audio-only, video-only and audio/video cables that carry both sound and picture. Almost everyone has had the experience of jumping in the car and turning the key, only to find that the lights were left on and the battery is dead. If you have access to jumper cables, you can use them to draw power from the battery of another car. If you don't have cables or there are no other cars around, you may still be able to start your car, especially if you are near the top of an incline and there are one or two strong people to help you. You can even do this if the vehicle has an automatic transmission. Shift into neutral and release the hand brake. Push the car to the top of an incline, if there is one nearby. If your car is small enough, you may be able to do this yourself, but it's easier if you have help. Point the car downhill and engage the parking brake. Sit in the car, turn the key on, push in the clutch and set the transmission to second gear. Release the hand brake and let the car start to roll. You may need a small push to get it started. When the car reaches 5 miles an hour, release the clutch and quickly push the gas pedal. As soon as the engine turns over, push in the clutch and press down on the brakes. Keep pushing the gas pedal to rev the engine until you are sure the engine will keep running. Drive the car for a few miles to charge the battery. Put the car in neutral and roll it to the top of an incline. Set the hand brake. Put the transmission into second gear and release the hand brake. When the car reaches 5 miles an hour, try starting the car by turning the key. As soon as it starts, press the brake and give it gas. Leave the key in the "On" position and keep pressing the gas while the car is rolling if it doesn't start the first time. Drive the car for a few miles to charge the battery once you get the engine running. While your car might not have the mess of cables you'll find underneath your desk, it has recently become a home for more technology than it is prepared to handle. Here's how you can keep those stray chargers, audio cables, and whatever else under control so you're not fighting wires while trying to concentrate on the road. My car is only subject to two cables: a 3.5mm stereo audio cable that plugs into my car's auxiliary input and a charger for my iPhone. Nonetheless, these cables would get tangled and confused and sometimes tangled so tightly that I couldn't lift the parking break without sending my phone flying into the back seat. Someday I might drive a nicer car with fancy Bluetooth audio and built-in iPod connectivity, but for now the mess has to be dealt with. Here's how you can keep your car organized and have your cables, too.Dock Your DeviceThe most important thing is to have a place to dock your phone, and we've found no better dock than the one you can make out of free office supplies. All of the LA-based Lifehacker team uses this dock because it's really fantastic and only takes about 20-30 minutes to make. I've made three of them, and it's a relaxing activity you can do while you catch up on TV or listen to a podcast. While the dock was designed to clip on to your air conditioner vent, we found that 1) this isn't possible in every vehicle, and 2) it's not the ideal location if you've got cables running out of your phone or music player. Instead, I've started clipping mine on to the side of the cup holder that sits in between the driver's and passenger's seats. Where you're going to be able to clip this thing is going to depend on the type of car you drive, but I highly recommend this area if it is possible for you. It makes it very easy to grab your phone (or whatever) with your right hand and it keeps the cables from flying everywhere.Reader Ryan Mottau built this awesome DIY smartphone car mount using our favorite DIY wonder-tool,...Read moreUse Gaffer's Tape to Keep Cables in Place and Bound TogetherGaffer's tape is the kind of tape used in the movies for a variety of purposes, one of which is adhering cables to the ground so they don't move around and trip people. It comes in all kinds of colors (so you can match the interior of your car) and you get a lot in every roll. Because it's designed to be strong but eventually removed, it shouldn't cause any damage or leave marks on your car's interior. (At least nothing beyond a light residue that can be cleaned off with a little water.) This makes it a good candidate for binding your cables in place while still allowing them a little flexibility.First, if you have multiple cables, you'll want to bind them into a single cable if they're all going to and from the same location. (My auxiliary input and power port are in the same place, so taping the cables together makes sense.) Just be sure to leave room at the end so the cables have some level of flexibility. Most phones don't have their audio output and charging port in the same area, so you'll need to make sure you allow enough length for each cable to be plugged in comfortably.Once you've got your cables bound you gain a couple of advantages. First, you only have a single cable so it's much easier to manage. Second, because the cable is thicker and bound by thick tape, it loses some of its flexibility and won't tangle as easily. In many cases, you can just stop here because your cable won't get in the way. If you want to take it a step further, however, just tape the bound cable to your car so it doesn't move around too much. Just be sure to leave some flexibility or you won't be able to move your phone once it is plugged in. While taping up your car is not the most attractive solution, if the bound cable isn't enough to solve the problem then binding it further will.Alternatively, Get Some Retractable CablesRetractable cables can be enormously useful in a car under the right situations. For example, my auxiliary audio and charging ports both live in a storage compartment between the driver's and passenger's seats. This little box has a small opening for cables to peak through so my phone doesn't have to sit inside when it's plugged in. This is a great opportunity for retractable cables because they can be plugged in and pulled through the opening, but when they retract they don't go all the way back into the box. The opening is too small for the heads of the cables to pass through and so they just get stuck there and wait until they can be used again. As a result, your cables are never messing up your car or really even seen unless they are in use. When you're done using them, just let them retract and there's no need to worry.While this is one of the easiest solutions to the problem, it's not perfect for everyone. Your car may not provide an ideal setup to use retractable cables, and sometimes they can retract unexpectedly when you pick up your device. Give them a try and see how it works for you. Got any other tips on keeping your cables organized in the car? Let's hear 'em in the comments! Photos by FSDGraphics and Alice (Shutterstock). Image: Youtube via INFINITY USA And so when it comes to cars and car design, consumers often base their tastes on a number of aspects of how a car looks. Think about it... we want our cars to look nice from the side, from the front and, of course, from the back when we leave those vehicles following us in the dust. Or even when we sit in morning traffic!One aspect we don't often think of, however, is the roof. Well, I suppose its outta sight, outta mind, right? It's probably down to the fact that we don't see our cars from above that often, do we.So we came up with a new kind of car identification test for you. Instead of giving you a normal picture, or one from the side, front or back, in this quiz, you need to be able to identify a car from an aerial shot where its roof will be the most prominently displayed. Of course, you will still be able to see the hood and trunk, so that will help.We have a range of vehicles for you to identify. Every type and decade is represented in this quiz.So good luck and let's see how you fare. TRIVIA Can You Name These Car Modifications from a Photo? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Identify These '50s Cars from a Black and White Photo? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA How Many of the World's Ugliest Cars Can You Identify? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA EASY Volvo or Chrysler: Only 1 in 20 People Can Correctly Identify the Make of These Vehicles! Can You? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Identify These Scooters and Mopeds from an Image? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Identify These Ford Cars From the '60s? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Toyota or Honda: Only 1 in 17 People Can Correctly Identify The Make of These Vehicles! Can You? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA Can You Guess the Car Manufacturer From Just a Portion of the Car? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA American or German: How Many Cars Can You Identify? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA American or British: How Many Cars Can You Identify? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min How much do you know about dinosaurs? What is an octane rating? And how do you use a proper noun? Lucky for you, HowStuffWorks Play is here to help. Our award-winning website offers reliable, easy-to-understand explanations about how the world works. From fun quizzes that bring joy to your day, to compelling photography and fascinating lists, HowStuffWorks Play offers something for everyone. Sometimes we explain how stuff works, other times, we ask you, but we're always exploring in the name of fun! Because learning is fun, so stick with us! Playing quizzes is free! We send trivia questions and personality tests every week to your inbox. 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