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r/hometheater • 8 mo. ago

garguk



Are optical HDMI a better choice over standard ones?

Tech Support

I didn't know there were optical HDMI cables till recently. So my question is, are they better or offer any advantages?

I am moving soon and as I am setting everything up, hiding cables, tying up and so on I'd rather upgrade them now if they are worth it and just be done with it.

But didn't know if there were problems with like say e arc connections on my TV for sound bars or game consoles.

I'll be using them for like my PS5, PC to monitor, 4k player to a q OLED tv and so on. A lot of my devices and tvs support HDMI 2.1.

Basically I want to make sure I have the best I can reasonably have and not worry about it for a while.

Thanks for your time



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5



56



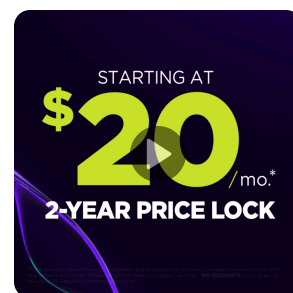
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Cozmo85 • 8mo ago

They allow greater distances

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And boy do they. I run 85' from the office PC to the living room TV. Parallel to that I run USB signals via an ethernet cable with USB extender devices on either end (two boxes which, respectively, convert USB to Ethernet on one end and vice versa on the other). Use a Bluetooth dongle on the living room end and voila, the PC is in the living room.

I know there are home network solutions for this, but I wanted 4k games with surround sound and 0 additional latency, and I don't think that's possible without hardwiring. In any case this was cheap and totally reliable.

If you're new to optical HDMI like I was, just know that it's directional...and observe that before you run it 85'...

Edit: The only painful thing is switching between Bluetooth in the office and the living room. I have to go into Device Manager to disable my tower's native Bluetooth so that the dongle in the living room will be recognized. Then I have to go back and re-enable when I want to use Bluetooth in my office. Thankfully that latter case is infrequent for me. Would love to be able to toggle between Bluetooth receiver options on PC.

OK, the other annoyance is changing which desktop you're looking at, especially if you try to do it "blind" when the other display is being used exclusively. Win+P is your friend, but as of Win 11 you have to login blind before Win+P works, which was a *very frustrating change* (shakes fist). Obviously you can just walk to the other room, but who has time for that.

↑ 12 ↓ ...

⊕ 3 more replies



hamhead • 8mo ago

Only if you need to go long distances

↑ 25 ↓ ...



dEEKAy2k9 • 8mo ago

Optical cables support longer distances and are thinner.

I have got a PS5, a Nintendo Switch, a PC, a Steam Deck and a 32:9 Ultrawide Display that are all connected via hdmi/displayport and different hdmi-switches across two rooms and two sound systems. One is a soundbar with wireless sub and rears in the living room, the other is a 5.1 system for my desktop pc.

I had issues with cables above 5m where audio/video was cutting out. I replaced those cables with even longer optical hdmi cables and everything is working like a charm since then.

You should be aware that optical hdmi cables are unidirectional and one side is for the input while the other side is for the output. As for ARC/eARC, you gotta do some research for this as i am currently not using ARC/eARC here (due to switches and direct connection to the sound system).

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Regarding ARC/eARC to a receiver you can still use it, you just need to pay attention to the ports on your TV.

Most TVs only have one HDMI port that supports ARC/eARC. It is usually marked but might be hard to read. Some menus will label it when you look at inputs. Do NOT use this port for the long optical HDMI connection. Use any other HDMI input port for that. Connect a shorter regular HDMI cable between the TV and the receiver over the port that supports eARC/ARC.

You might need to do some setup on your TV audio settings and maybe your receiver as well.

↑ 3 ↓ ...

⊕ 2 more replies



Xaelias • 8mo ago

The only benefit is distance. If you only need like 5ft, a regular cable will do just as well (as long as it's a quality cable).

⊖ ↑ 11 ↓ ...



restarting_today • 8mo ago

I'd say anything above 16ft go with optical. Under is fine with a good regular cable.

↑ 2 ↓ ...



misterright1999 • 8mo ago

I have a 20m optical hdmi cable from aliexpress, and it works great, only gripe I have is that my gpu is hdmi 2.0a so it can only do 4k60 or 1440p120.

↑ 3 ↓ ...



kester76a • 8mo ago

They normally offer greater distance at high resolutions and frame rates. If you have issues with signal then they are worth it. Always make sure they're certified though, I've got some cables that won't do 4k 60hz hdr.

↑ 3 ↓ ...

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649 upvotes · 573 comments

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14 comments

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4 upvotes · 36 comments

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HDMI Arc vs Optical cable question

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[r/audiophile](#) • 6 yr. ago

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3 upvotes · 26 comments

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Troubleshooting HDMI 2.1 fibre optic cables.

2 upvotes · 31 comments

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1 upvote · 10 comments



r/hometheater • 4 yr. ago

30 ft. Monoprice Fiber Optic HDMI Cable?

1 upvote · 5 comments



r/hometheater • 1 yr. ago

Best HDMI Cables compatible with eArc?

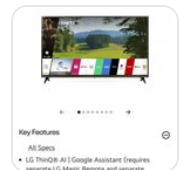
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How outdated is my TV really? I use it mostly for video games and the occasional TV show/Movies.

1 upvote · 67 comments



r/hometheater • 7 mo. ago

Long Run HDMI 2.1 Cables That Actually Work?

1 upvote · 28 comments



r/hometheater • 23 days ago

10 meter (~30 feet) HDMI cable that can do 4k HDR 120hz?

1 upvote · 10 comments



r/hometheater • 2 mo. ago

Getting tv mounted tomorrow, thoughts on height?

15 upvotes · 22 comments



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Am I forgetting a setting with my 4K tv? It has too much visual "noise"

6 upvotes · 9 comments

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38 comments



r/Gamecube • 9 mo. ago

Gaming on 4K tv and wondering if using hdmi adapter is better or is going straight component the superior option.

8 comments



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1 upvote · 4 comments



r/XboxSeriesX • 4 yr. ago

PSA - If you are relying on long run fiber optic HDMI 2.1 capabilities, you will be out of luck!

11 upvotes · 30 comments



r/hometheater • 5 mo. ago

No more 40" 4K TV's!

13 comments



r/hometheater • 2 mo. ago

Doesn't the ideal TV height conflict with center channel placement for large TVs (>=98")? Anyone else run into this issue?

41 upvotes · 79 comments



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1 upvote · 5 comments



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