

How to fit a PL259 plug to RG8X 50 ohm coaxial cable.



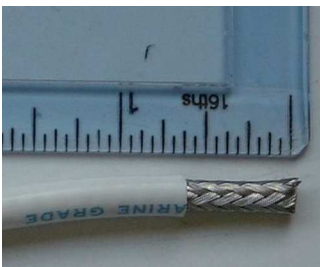
A good quality PL259 plug and a piece of 50 ohm marine quality coaxial cable.



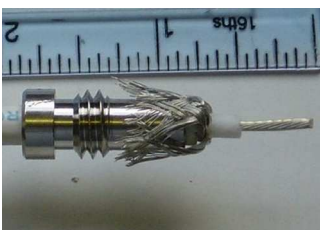
Dismantle the plug to reveal three components – the plug body, the RG8X adaptor and the outer shell. If making a connection to RG8U or RG213 cable the adaptor is omitted.



Slide the shell and the adaptor onto the cable



Strip back the outer cable covering to expose 5/8" (16mm) of braid.



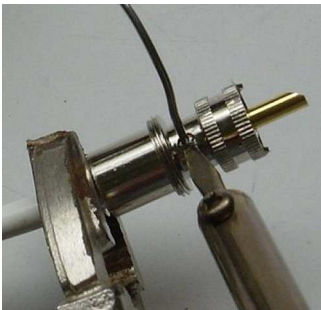
Fold the braid back over the adaptor. This exposes the centre core with its insulated covering. Trim the insulating back 1/2" (13mm) exposing the centre core.



Insert the adaptor into the body and screw up tight. Make sure that none of the strands of the braid can make contact with the centre core, and that none of the core strands have been bent back so they can touch the body or braid. You may want to check at this point that there is no continuity between centre pin and body. (Do this with the antenna disconnected)



The assembly will now look like this. You will see the braid through the holes in the body. Some plugs have two holes, some have three. The centre core of the cable will have appeared in the hollow tip of the plug.



Solder the braid to the body through the holes in the body. Don't use excessive heat because you must avoid melting the dielectric covering of the centre core.



Solder the centre core to the tip. Now check with an ohmmeter that there is no continuity between tip and body. If there is, dismantle and start again. Damage can occur to the radio if it is connected to a shorted antenna cable.

NB: Only check for continuity with the antenna disconnected. With the antenna connected a multimeter reading will be useless; it will usually show a short even though your connection is correct.



Soldered joints such as this, using top quality cable and plugs, will give years of satisfactory service.