APPLICATION NOTE

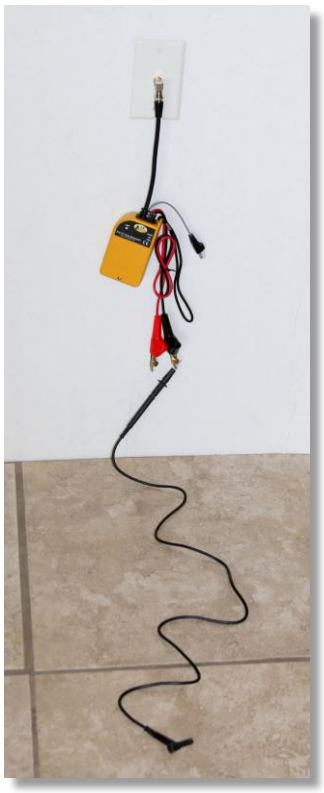
JUNE 2016

HOW TO USE THE Pro220A CATV TRACER KIT's BUILT-IN 'F' PLUG TO IDENTIFY A COAX CABLE AT MID-SPAN AND AT THE FAR END, BOTH

When coax cable 'F' connectors are mated there is little signal leaking from the cable, so tracing tones from the built-in coax plug on the Pro110A appear at the far end, but not usually along the cable path.

When you need to identify a coax cable mid-span as well as identifying for certain at the far end with a tracing probe like the Pro210, here is a useful trick to cause the tracing signal to appear inside and outside the cable shield.

With the F plug of the Pro110A mated to the cable you want to trace, clip the Black alligator test lead to a length of wire. The length isn't critical, but it should be at least several feet. In the figure on the right we used a test lead borrowed from an electrical meter.



This wire acts as an antenna, redistributing some of the tracing signal to the outside of the shield where it can be detected with the Pro210F probe.

The tracing signal at mid-span can be improved by repositioning the wire at right angles to the cable path, lengthening the wire or attaching the wire to a nearby ground point.

With the coax cable disconnected at the far end the probe can be used to verify the identity by touching or nearly touching the center conductor. The 210F probe's headlight is often handy for this.

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