



Weatherproofing Coaxial Cable Connections

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Weatherproofing Your Coaxial Cable Connections

This DX Engineering Tech-Tip will show you the preferred way to reliably weatherproof your coaxial connections.

Over the years many different methods have been used to weatherproof coaxial cable connections.

Some worked, some did not. Once water or condensation enters your coaxial cable, it will ruin it, or worse yet, cause shorting or high SWR conditions which could lead to permanent damage to your transmitter.

One type of coaxial sealing material is a gummy tar like substance that you wrap around the coaxial connection. This gummy substance works pretty good, except when you try to remove it for maintenance or coaxial cable replacement, it can cause further problems. The gummy substance just doesn't come off cleanly and small bits of it may remain in the threads of PL-259's or SO-239's. These small bits of material are mini-insulators, and could cause intermittent operation.

The method described in this DX Engineering Tech-Tip uses a combination of two types of tape which not only protect your coaxial connection, but also allow easy removal for future maintenance.

The two products, available from DX Engineering, used in this Tech-Tip are:

DXE-3M2155 - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape.

Conformable self-fusing rubber electrical insulating tape. It is designed for low voltage electrical insulating and moisture sealing applications. For outdoor use, it should be protected from UV deterioration with an overwrap of **DXE-33PLUS**



DXE-33PLUS - Scotch® Super 33+.

Highly conformable super stretchy tape for all weather applications. This tape provides flexibility and easy handling for all around performance. It also combines PVC backing with excellent electrical insulating properties to provide primary electrical insulation for splices up to 600V and protective jacketing.



These tapes can be used indoors or outdoors. When used outdoors the temperature should be above freezing, and if it's raining, keep the assembly you are wrapping covered and dry while applying the tapes. Any airborne moisture such as fog, rain and snow may cause the tape to not stick properly, so take adequate precautions to protect the assembly you are weatherproofing.

Additionally, the coaxial cable and connectors should be clean and free of any moisture, dirt or other residues.

1. The only tool you will need for this procedure is a pair of scissors. This example is using two pieces of coaxial cable with PL-259 connectors that are joined together with a short VHF barrel connector. This same method may be used on any connection you are weatherproofing.



2. Cut a piece of **DXE-3M2155** - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape long enough to complete the job you are doing. If the length you cut is too short, that's okay. You can add more where needed and it will not compromise the weatherproofing.

In this example a 15" length of the **DXE-3M2155** - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape was used to weatherproof two PL-259's tightly connected together with a short VHF barrel connector.



3. The **DXE-3M2155** - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape has a protective backing material so the tape will not stick to itself when on the roll. As shown below, peel this protective backing off of the length that you cut from the roll.



- Starting at one end, hold the end of the cut length of **DXE-3M2155** - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape in place about one inch before the end of the PL-259 and stretch it out until the width of the tape is about 50% as shown below.



Starting



Stretched while overlapping wraps

- While keeping the **DXE-3M2155** - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape stretched, wrap the tape around the assembly and overlap the previous wrap by about 50%. Keep going until the complete assembly is covered, and go an extra inch beyond.

If the length you cut is too short for the entire assembly, that's okay. You can add more starting where the one piece ended and then continue on in the same manner described above.



This completes the first layer wrap. **DXE-3M2155** - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape requires an added wrap of **DXE-33PLUS** - Scotch® Super 33+ tape for UV protection.

- Starting about one inch before the previously installed 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape start a wrap of the **DXE-33PLUS** - Scotch® Super 33+ tape. While wrapping, over lap the previous wrap by about 50%. Use firm pressure while wrapping to ensure the tape is on flat and there are no wrinkles or open spots.

Keep wrapping the Scotch® Super 33+ tape until you are about an inch past the end of the previously installed 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape .



Using these quality products and this method, the completed weatherproofing will be complete and reliable.



Removal of Weatherproofing

There comes a time when you have to separate the previously weatherproofed coaxial cable connections for maintenance or some other reason. This is when you will be glad you used the above method to put on the weatherproofing!

1. Carefully cut the weatherproofing as shown. Be careful not to cut the coaxial cable, or your fingers. Peel the weatherproofing off and the assembly will look like new.



Looking at the removed weatherproofing, you can see the **DXE-3M2155** - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape conformed to your assembly and fully protected the assembly when it had been properly applied as described in this Tech-Tip.

Technical Support

If you have questions about this product, or if you experience difficulties during the installation, contact DX Engineering at (330) 572-3200. You can also e-mail us at:

DXEngineering@DXEngineering.com

Warranty

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