

## Re: Hard drive cable question –

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2006-02/msg03257.html>

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- *From:* Tim <[ignored\\_mailbox@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:ignored_mailbox@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 23 Feb 2006 18:06:49 +1030
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Wolfgang Gill wrote:

Nope it doesn't matter. Drive selects are done with jumpers on the drive. All IDE 40/80 pin cables are straight through, so the drive itself governs whether it's master or slave. When I only have one drive, I use the middle connector, and hide the other one out of the way, to give me better casing air flow.

Tim:

That is just so much misleading, not to mention outright wrong, information. Kindly stop leading people down the garden path.

Wolfgang Gill:

Misleading?? That wasn't misleading at all!! And I'M NOT leading people up the garden path.

It's completely wrong to say that all IDE 40 or 80 wire cables are wired straight through. THEY ARE NOT! Repeat after me, they are NOT \*all\* wired straight through. And if anything, the \*majority\* are not.

On any (40 or 80) that're cable-select, one wire is disconnected from one plug, and the same pin is grounded on another. That's not "straight through" wiring.

On any that're 80-wire, only 40 of the wires can be "straight through", 40 don't connect to anything other than one plug, and there's two that might be connected as above (most 80-wire cables are cable-select, I won't go as far as to say that all of them are.

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So, now, tell me how that equates to being wired "straight through"?

Hint: Don't argue with an electronics engineer about basic wiring.

I've build literally 10,000 of machines (Probably more, lost count after the first 1000 or so). And only 1% have failed due to hardware faults, and cabling wasn't one of them. It's NO use to explain things into GREAT detail to people that have little understanding of the concepts as it is, and confuse them even more.

It's a very bad, VERY BAD, idea to outright lie to people. Do not tell false people information as if it were fact. Over-simplifying things to the point that they are wrong is misleading. The people who take you at face value later have to unlearn all the bad information that they found out, which is a difficult thing to do.

If one is hiding parts of cables out of the way, one should be careful how it's done. Kinking or mangling cables can produce problems. If you're \*never\* going to use the extra length, I'd suggest just cutting it off.

Now that's the part that's misleading.. "Cut it off if you don't need it", that's a REALLY, SMART thing to say to people that bearly understand this concept at all. (\*\*Shakes Head\*\*)

If you know how transmission lines work, and bear in mind the frequencies involved, taking excess cable and rolling it up, folding it up, bundling it under drives, etc., can lead to all sorts of problems.

I repeat, if you're NEVER going to use the excess, it's fine to cut it off. Doing so will do NO harm to the signalling, and can remove a plethora of wierd problems that people may encounter due to stuffing cables into any spare space.

I take comments that "I've built thousands with no problems" with a grain of salt. How many PCs get problems that the builder will never hear about? Lots. How many problems go undiagnosed? Lots. How many people magically fix their systems by fiddling with the cables? Lots.

Usually (Depending on brand of drive), the master drive is jumpered, and the slave drive isn't.

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I wouldn't agree with that at all, I see no consistency.

You obviously haven't dealt with different number of different brands of drives in the same system. IF you did, you'd know all about it..

I have. You've obviously dealt with too few.

I've seen drives which need no jumper for master, one jumper for it, two jumpers for it (depending on whether it was single or with a slave). I've seen slaves with one jumper, no jumper, and so on. I couldn't go around giving some assertion that it's more common for masters to be jumpered and slaves to be not, because I don't see that sort of consistency anywhere, and it's a useless thing to rely on. It's just encouraging people to make ill-considered assumptions about drives by quickly glancing at the back instead of checking out the jumpering that's actually needed by the drive.

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