

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Marine Color Code

“Can I use ‘regular wire’ for my boat?” The answer to this common question is a qualified “yes,” if the wire is SAE (Society of Automotive Engineering) J378, J1127 or J1128. These wires are designed for “surface vehicles,” not for the special requirements of the marine industry, but meet the minimum standards for boats in limited circumstances. Even if tinned copper, they should not be run in bilge spaces or other areas subject to moisture from spray or dripping. They should not be run in engines spaces, unless marked “oil resistant” and “75°C”. They should not be used in applications where subjected to vibration or frequent flexing and must never be used for 110 volt applications. For safety, use only wire which is marked with size and type.

Most importantly, SAE wire is up to 12% smaller than AWG Boat Cable which means that, in many

applications, larger gauge wire must be used to stay within the voltage drop limits recommended by experts (see Tables C & D). The wire charts found in “Chapman’s Piloting” and other publications are all for “AWG” wire like ANCOR, not “SAE” type wire.

Using the wrong type of wire can cost you more in the long run. Insist on Marine Grade™ Boat Cable by ANCOR. It is UL approved for the corrosive marine environment and charter boat service. Marine Grade™ Boat Cable is specially designed to exceed all test standards for cold bend, moisture and oil resistance, heat shock and flammability. This ensures the safest, easiest to install, longest lasting and ultimately the least expensive electrical system you can buy. Only ANCOR offers a complete line of Marine Grade™ Boat Cable for every need.

Table A: Marine Color Code

Color	Item	Use
Red	DC Positive Conductor	Positive Mains
Black or Yellow	DC Negative Conductor	Return, Negative Mains
Green or Green w/ Yellow Stripe	DC Grounding Conductor	Bonding System  Bonding Wires (if insulated)
Brown	Generator Armature	Generator Armature to Regulator
	Alternator Charge Light	Generator Terminal/Alternator Auxiliary Terminal to Light to Regulator
	Pumps	Fuse or Switch to Lights
Grey	Navigation Lights	Bonding Wires (if insulated)
	Tachometer	Tachometer Sender to Gauge
Orange	Accessory Feed	Ammeter to Alternator or Generator Output and Accessory Fuses or Switches
	Common Feed	Distribution Panel to Accessory Switch
Pink	Fuel Gauge	Fuel Gauge Sender to Gauge
Purple	Ignition	Ignition Switch to Coil & Electrical Instruments
	Instrument Feed	Distribution Panel Electrical Instruments
Brown w/ Yellow Stripe	Bilge Blowers	Positive Mains (particularly unfused)
Yellow w/ Red Stripe	Starting Circuit	Starting Switch to Solenoid

<b>Tan</b>	<b>Water Temperature</b>	<b>Water Temperature Sender to Gauge</b>
<b>Green/Stripe (G/x) (except G/Y)</b>	<b>Tilt Down and/or Trim In</b>	<b>Tilt and/or Trim Circuits</b>
<b>Blue/Stripe (Bl/x)</b>	<b>Tilt Up and/or Trim Out</b>	<b>Tilt and/or Trim Circuits</b>