

USB Cable Length Limitations for USB 2 and 3

(Both can be used for D&R mixers)

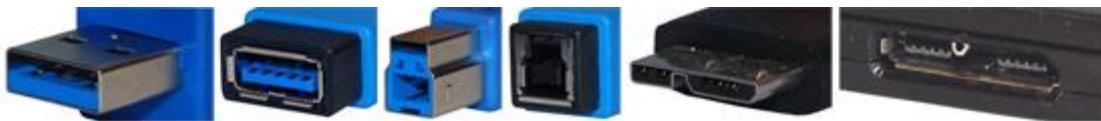
With the popularity of USB (it powers everything from our external hard drives to the charging of our mobile phones), we are constantly amassing USB cables. USB 1.0/1.1 has been almost entirely supplanted by USB 2.0. Since USB 3.0 / USB 3.1 has yet to become as ubiquitous as 2.0 that means that most people have several 2.0 cables lying around. The mistake that most individuals make is when they take a 10 foot cord that came with a device and then purchase a 10 foot extension to make a cable that is 20 feet in total length. This kind of setup will **not** work and requires the use of a special type of USB cable known as an active or repeater cable. But before we get to active cables or hubs, how long can a USB cable be?

Maximum length of USB 2.0 cable:



The 2.0 specification limits the length of a cable between USB 2.0 devices (Full Speed or Hi-Speed) to **5 meters** (or about 16 feet and 5 inches). In other words, you cannot just connect a bunch of extension cables together (like taking a 6 foot cord and extending it with 4 other 6 foot extension cords) and run them 30 feet to another room. However, you can connect a 6 foot cable with a 10 foot extension cable for a total of 16 feet, which is below the maximum cable length for USB 2.0.

Maximum length of USB 3.0 / USB 3.1 cable:



The 3.0/3.1 specification does not specify a maximum cable length between USB 3.0/3.1 devices (SuperSpeed or SuperSpeed+), **but there is a recommended length of 3 meters** (or about 9 feet and 10 inches). However, the biggest limitation to the length of the cable is the quality of the cable. Results may vary, but with a high quality cable you should be able to go beyond 3 meters. However, to ensure you achieve the best results possible, use an active cable when going more than 10 feet (3 meters).