



Standard Specification for Silver-Coated Braid and Ribbon Flat Copper Wire intended for use in Electronic Application¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B971; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers silver-coated copper braid and ribbon flat wire intended for electronic application (Explanatory [Note 1](#)).

1.2 Two classes of silver-coated braid and ribbon flat copper wire are covered as follows:

1.2.1 *Class A*—Annealed temper.

1.2.2 *Class H*—Hard-drawn.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3.1 *Exceptions*—The SI values for density, resistivity, and volume are to be regarded as standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

[B1](#) Specification for Hard-Drawn Copper Wire

[B3](#) Specification for Soft or Annealed Copper Wire

[B49](#) Specification for Copper Rod Drawing Stock for Electrical Purposes

[B193](#) Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials

[B258](#) Specification for Nominal Diameters and Cross-Sectional Areas of AWG Sizes of Solid Round Wires Used as Electrical Conductors

2.2 *Other Standards*:³

[NBS Handbook 100](#) Copper Wire Tables

3. Ordering Information

3.1 Orders for material under this specification shall include the following information:

3.1.1 Quantity of each size,

3.1.2 Wire size-thickness and width in inches (see [5.4](#)),

3.1.3 Class of wire (see [1.2](#)),

3.1.4 Type of copper, if special (see [4.2](#)),

3.1.5 Package size (see [10.1](#)),

3.1.6 Special packaging marking, if required, and

3.1.7 Place of inspection (see [7.1](#)).

4. Material

4.1 The material shall be silver-coated flat wire (Explanatory [Note 1](#)) of such quality and purity that the finished product shall meet the properties and characteristics prescribed in this specification.

4.2 *Copper-Base Metal*—The base metal shall be copper of such quality and purity that the finished product shall have properties and characteristics prescribed in this specification.

NOTE 1—Specifications [B1](#), [B3](#), or [B49](#) define copper suitable for use.

5. General Requirements (See [Section 8](#))

5.1 *Temper*—The silver-coated flat wire conductor shall be provided in either hard-drawn condition (Class H) or annealed condition (Class A) as agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

5.2 *Tensile and Elongation* (Explanatory [Note 2](#)):

5.2.1 *Class A*—The silver-coated copper flat wire in the annealed condition shall conform to the elongation requirements prescribed in [Table 1](#). See Explanatory [Note 3](#) for equivalent round diameter calculations based on given thickness and width dimensions for the flat wire. For flat wire whose nominal equivalent round diameter is more than 0.001 in. (0.025 mm) greater than a size listed in [Table 1](#), but less than that of the next larger size, the requirements of the next larger size shall apply. No requirements for tensile strength are specified.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [B01](#) on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [B01.04](#) on Conductors of Copper and Copper Alloys.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161, <http://www.ntis.gov>.

TABLE 1 Tensile Properties^A

Equivalent Round Diameter, in.	Area at 20°C		Elongation in 10 in., min, %
	cmils	in. ²	
0.0641	4 110	0.00323	25
0.0571	3 260	0.00256	25
0.0508	2 580	0.00203	25
0.0453	2 050	0.00161	25
0.0403	1 620	0.00128	25
0.0359	1 290	0.00101	25
0.0320	1 020	0.000804	25
0.0285	812	0.000638	25
0.0253	640	0.000503	25
0.0226	511	0.000401	25
0.0201	404	0.00317	20
0.0179	320	0.000252	20
0.0159	253	0.000199	20
0.0142	202	0.000158	20
0.0126	159	0.000125	20
0.0113	128	0.000100	20
0.0100	100	0.0000785	20
0.0089	79.2	0.0000622	15
0.0080	64.0	0.0000503	15
0.0071	50.4	0.0000396	15
0.0063	39.7	0.0000312	15
0.0056	31.4	0.0000246	15
0.0050	25.0	0.0000196	15
0.0045	20.2	0.0000159	15
0.0040	16.0	0.0000126	15

^A See Explanatory Note 3 for equivalent round calculation.

TABLE 3 Permissible Variations in Thickness

Nominal Thickness Range, Inch (mm)	Tolerance, Inch (mm)
0.0010 to 0.0014 (0.025 to 0.036)	+/- 0.0002 (0.005)
0.0015 to 0.0019 (0.038 to 0.048)	+/- 0.0003 (0.008)
0.0020 to 0.0049 (0.051 to 0.124)	+/- 0.0004 (0.010)
0.0050 to 0.0100 (0.127 to 0.254)	+/- 0.0005 (0.013)

TABLE 4 Permissible Variations in Width

Nominal Width Range, Inch (mm)	Tolerance, Inch (mm)
0.0100 to 0.0499 (0.254 to 1.27)	+/- 0.0013 (0.033)
0.0500 to 0.0699 (1.27 to 1.78)	+/- 0.0015 (0.038)
0.0700 to 0.0999 (1.78 to 2.54)	+/- 0.0020 (0.051)
0.1000 to 0.1249 (2.54 to 3.17)	+/- 0.0030 (0.076)
0.1250 to 0.1500 (3.18 to 3.81)	+/- 0.0040 (0.102)

5.2.2 *Class H*—The silver-coated copper flat wire in the hard-drawn condition shall conform to elongation requirements of 1% minimum to 5% maximum. The tensile strength shall be 55,000 psi (379 MPa) minimum.

5.3 *Resistivity* (Explanatory Note 4)—The electrical resistivity of the coated wire at a temperature of 20°C shall not exceed the values prescribed in Table 2.

5.4 *Dimensions and Permissible Variations*—The flat wire sizes shall be expressed as the thickness and width of the wire in decimal fractions of an inch to the nearest 0.0001 in. (0.0025 mm). The silver-coated flat wire shall not vary from the specified thickness and width by more than the amounts specified in Table 3 and Table 4, respectively.

5.5 *Continuity of Coating*—The silver coating shall be continuous. The continuity of coating on the flat wire shall be determined on representative samples taken before braiding applications or insulating. The continuity of coating shall be determined by the hydrochloric acid-sodium polysulfide test in accordance with 6.4. Wire whose coating weight corresponds to a thickness less than 40 μ in. (0.00004 in.) shall not be subject to this test (Explanatory Note 5). The thickness of coating shall be determined in accordance with Test Method A as prescribed in Appendix X1.

5.6 *Joints*—Necessary joints in the wire and rods prior to final coating and drawing shall be made in accordance with the best commercial practice. There shall be no uncoated joints in the final product.

TABLE 2 Electrical Resistivity Requirements

Class of Wire	Ω-lb/mile ²
A	875.20
H	902.27

5.7 *Finish*—The coating shall consist of a smooth continuous layer, firmly adherent to the surface of the copper. The wire shall be free of all imperfections not consistent with the best commercial practice.

6. Test Methods

6.1 Tensile Strength and Elongation (Explanatory Note 6):

6.1.1 The tensile strength, expressed in pounds per square inch, shall be obtained by dividing the maximum load carried by the specimen during the tension test by the original cross-sectional area of the specimen. Tensile strength and elongation may be determined simultaneously on the same specimen.

6.1.2 The elongation shall be determined as the permanent increase in length, expressed in percent of the original length, due to the wire breaking in tension. The elongation of the flat wire may be determined by measurements made between the jaws of the tensile testing machine. The zero length shall be the distance between the jaws at the start of the tension test and be as near 10 in. (254 mm) as practicable. The final length shall be the distance between the jaws at the time of rupture. The fracture shall be between the jaws of the testing machine and not closer than 1 in. (25.4 mm) to the jaw.

6.2 *Resistivity* (Explanatory Note 4)—The electrical resistivity of the material shall be determined in accordance with Test Method B193. The purchaser may accept certification that the wire was drawn from rod stock meeting the international standard for annealed copper instead of resistivity tests on the finished wire.

6.3 *Dimensional Measurements*—Dimensional measurements for width and thickness shall be made with a micrometer caliper equipped with a vernier graduated in 0.0001 in. (0.0025 mm). Measurements shall be made on at least three places on each unit selected for this test. Any measurement taken