

Making “Speaker” connectors reliable - Paul Evans, VP9KF

I’ve had two MFJ-4125 power supplies for 17 years now (plus they’ve dropped in price by \$20!). One annoying thing I fixed was to add a temperature controlled fan speed circuit to minimise the airflow noise.

The other thing that always bugged me was that no matter what lead(s) you put into the rear panel 5A auxiliary connector (twisted leads, tinned leads, etc.) the power was never reliable. Just jiggle the table or do nothing at all and off goes something trivial (or less trivial like an antenna switch control box!).



I had purchased, for a rainy day, some 3 way terminal strips (known in the UK as chocolate blocks). Lo and behold, they were a perfect match to the spacing of the ‘speaker’ connector when using the end two connections. I unscrewed the middle screws and removed the middle metal connector ‘tube’ and the wire gripper.

Simply, I then added bare (really stiff) 14 gauge copper wire on the one end of each end pole and tightened the screws down hard. The wires going to the ‘aux’ device were then pushed in the other end and the screws tightened as well. Pulling the two spring clips back as far as they could go, I inserted the copper ‘connector’ wires into the ‘speaker’ outlet. The tension is pretty high and pulling, pushing, twisting, etc. the block does not cause any loss of power.

So, before ripping these things out or even (unspeakably) using PowerPole connectors – quite the worst things ever invented by a drunken ‘engineer’, try doing things the easy way!



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