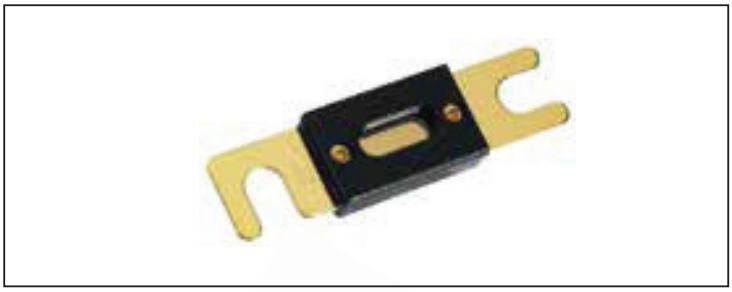
FUSES
CAR AUDIO INSTALLATION TIPS

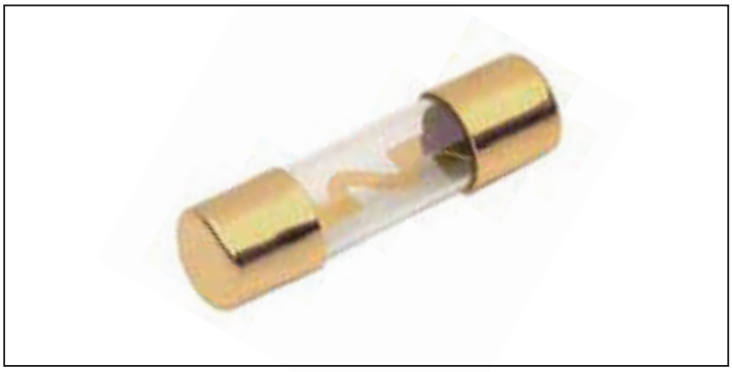
A fuse is connected directly into an electrical circuit. Fuses are designed to interrupt the power to a circuit when the current flow exceeds safe levels. If the electric current surges to a dangerous level, the metal in the fuse melts, and the circuit is broken. Never substitute a fuse of greater capacity than that specified for a particular circuit. If the fuse has the ability to carry more current than originally designed, then the wires will heat up before the fuse melts, which could start a fire.

Installing a fuse of the proper amperage on your power cable protects everything between the fuse and your gear from a short circuit. A short circuit occurs when a current-bearing wire makes contact with bare metal (like your car chassis). Because your entire car chassis can be considered "negative" or ground, you can think of a short circuit as positive touching negative. You definitely don't want this to happen, but if it does, then a properly installed fuse will prevent a fire or other damage.

If you're installing just one amplifier, the fuse at the battery should simply match or slightly exceed the fuse rating of the amplifier itself. If you're installing two or more amplifiers, just add their fuse ratings together, and install a fuse rated roughly equal to this sum. Generally, it's better to go slightly higher than lower, but a margin of five amperes is acceptable.

You do not need a separate fuse block unless your amplifiers are among the few that don't come with fuses installed. The reason you see these distribution fuse blocks is that in the early days of car audio competition, amplifiers frequently didn't include their own fuses, or they were hidden behind panels that were hard to get to, especially in the heat of competition. Today, the use of such fuse blocks is largely a matter of style. But that's OK – looking cool definitely counts.





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