**What is a Fusible Link?**
A fusible link is a short piece of insulated low-voltage cable within an automotive wiring harness that is designed to protect the harness in applications where a fuse is unsuitable. In an extreme current overload situation, the conductor within the link is melted while the ensuing flame and spark is contained within the link's insulation.

**What are the ratings for fusible links?**
Fusible links are not rated in amps like fuses because each installation is unique and designed to meet specific circuit protection requirements.

**What size replacement fusible link should be used?**
The automotive service industry recommends using the same gauge and length as the blown fusible link after the cause of failure is corrected.

**How do you use a parallel connector?**
Insert the stripped end of a fusible link and the stripped end of the cable being protected into a parallel connector as shown, and crimp. A parallel connector should always be protected with electrical tape or heat-shrink tubing.

**What size fusible link should be used in a new installation?**
The suitability of a fusible link in a new application can be determined only by a qualified harness engineer with full knowledge of the circuit protection requirements, the installation and operating conditions, and the safety and liability aspects. We cannot make specific recommendations.

**Are there any general guidelines for choosing a suitable fusible link?**
Typically, a given harness segment is protected by fusible link that is four gauge numbers smaller. A 14-gauge wire would be protected by an 18-gauge fusible link. A 6-gauge wire would be protected by a 10-gauge link, and so on. Odd number wire gauge sizes like 19, 15, 13 and 11 are counted when sizing a link. The length of a fusible link should not exceed 9".

**Can a fusible link be used to replace a fuse that blows frequently?**
In general, a fusible link should never be used to replace an automotive fuse unless authorized by a vehicle factory service bulletin. Safety and liability issues are involved.

**Can a blown fusible link be replaced with a MAXI™ fuse?**
While "MAXI" fuses have replaced most factory-installed fusible links in late model vehicles, they do not have the same performance characteristics as fusible links and should not be used to replace them.
unless specifically authorized by a vehicle factory service bulletin. Fusible links continue to be used in most starting circuit applications.

**Where can I find more technical information on automotive fusible links?**
Specifications relating to conductors, insulation, wire size, length, location termination, identification and testing are spelled out in SAE Specification J156. The Society of Automotive Engineers' web address is [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org).