

## Noise Fix for the Linksys WML11B Media Link

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After some experimentation, I found a fix for the noise problem (both the low-freq hum and the high-freq chirping) that involves only modifying the power cable that runs from the center unit to the right speaker.

I have modified three units with this fix and it has eliminated or greatly reduced the noise for all the units.

The fix involves modifying the speaker power cable (See Figures 1 and 2) as follows:

1) Cut the ground line (the black wire) on the cable. With this cut, the audio cable's ground will now carry the DC current. This breaks the ground loop between the speakers and the center unit. I first tried breaking the ground on the audio cables (like others have tried), but this did nothing to the noise.

For my three units this ground-line cut reduces the low-freq hum.

2) Add some series resistance in-line on the positive power-cable line (the wire with the white stripe). This reduces the chirping to almost nothing. I have had success with either a 5 ohm resistor or a common 1N914 diode (available at radio shack).

To make sure the series components (either the resistor or diode) can handle the DC power, I measured the current draw thru this wire. It varies from 80mA at low volume to 200mA at max volume. For the resistor, this works out to be 0.2 watts dissipation. For the diode (with .6V drop at 200mA) this works out to be 0.12W. I ended up using the diode for my three units because of the lower voltage drop.

I hope others can use this info to fix their noise problem without having to resort to using a second power supply for the speakers.

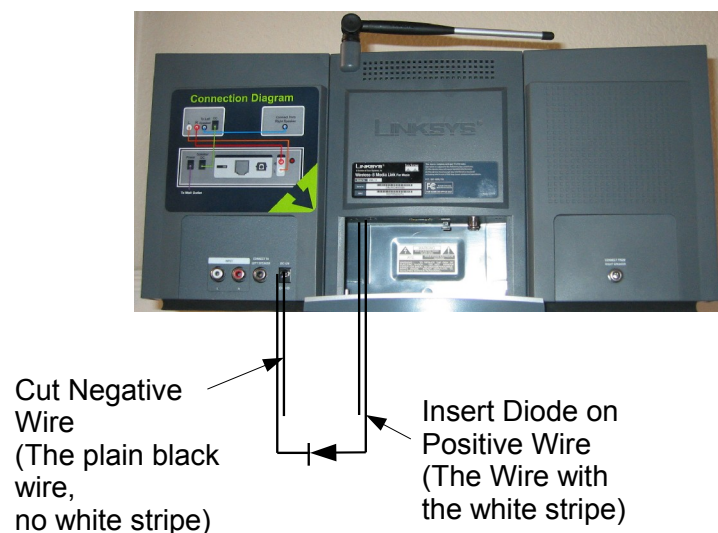


Figure 1: Modification of Speaker Power Cable

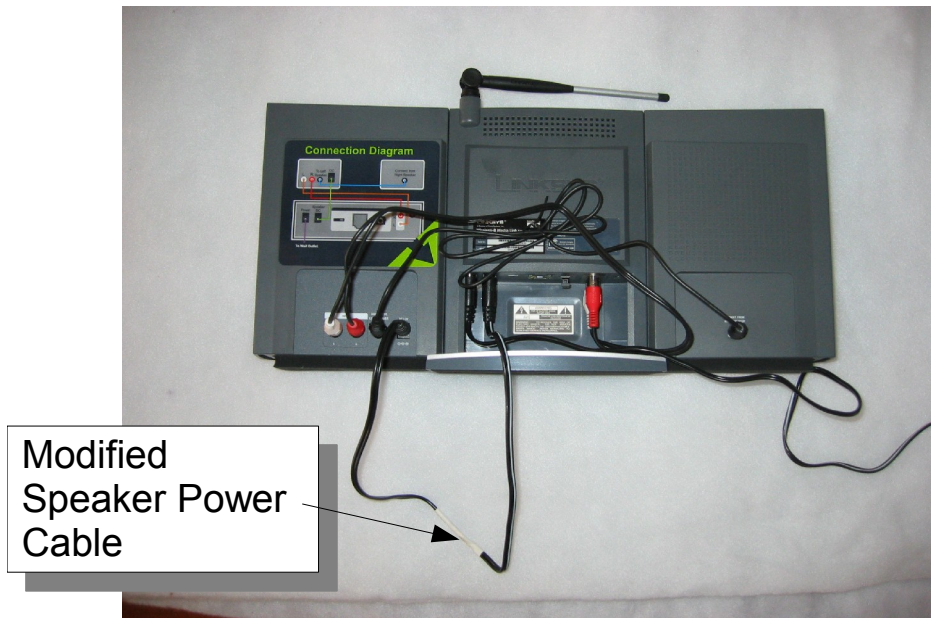


Figure 2: Modified Speaker Power Cable