

American Theatre Standards

American Theatre Standards were developed to help electricians determine the ratings for cables, fuses, power, and other equipment.

Because of these standards, when you pick a piece of equipment, you know how much of a load (power) it can safely handle.

American Theatre Standards include: Gauge of Wire and Capacity in Amps.

Gauge of Wire	10	12	14	16	18
Capacity in Amps.	25	20	15	6	3

Heavy duty
Theatre standard
Lightweight theatre usage
Standard house-hold
Inexpensive house-hold type

Gauge of wire	10	12	14	16	18
Capacity in amps	25	20	15	6	3
Capacity in watts	3k (3,000)	2.4k (2,400)	1800	720	360

(K = Kilowatt / 1,000 watts)

Although you could figure these out on your own using the Power Formula above, these are the standard-size dimmers and their Amp usage.

Dimmer:	1.2K	2.4K	3K	4K	6K
Amp Usage:	10	20	25	35	50

Dimmer Safety:

The amp rating for a dimmer is what the rating for the dimmer's fuse or circuit breaker should be.