



# Identify counterfeit or uncertified Lightning connector accessories

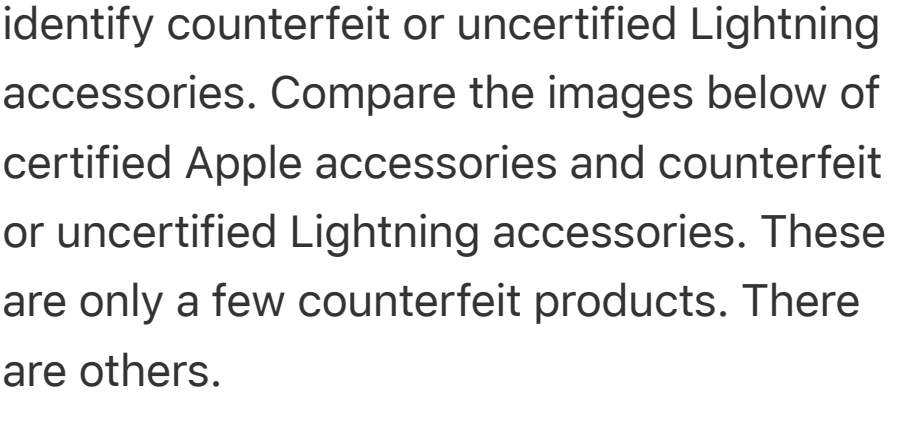
Apple recommends using only accessories that Apple has certified and that come with the "Made for Apple" badge. Learn about the issues that counterfeit or uncertified Lightning accessories can cause and how to identify these accessories.

If you use a counterfeit or uncertified Lightning accessory, you could see these issues:

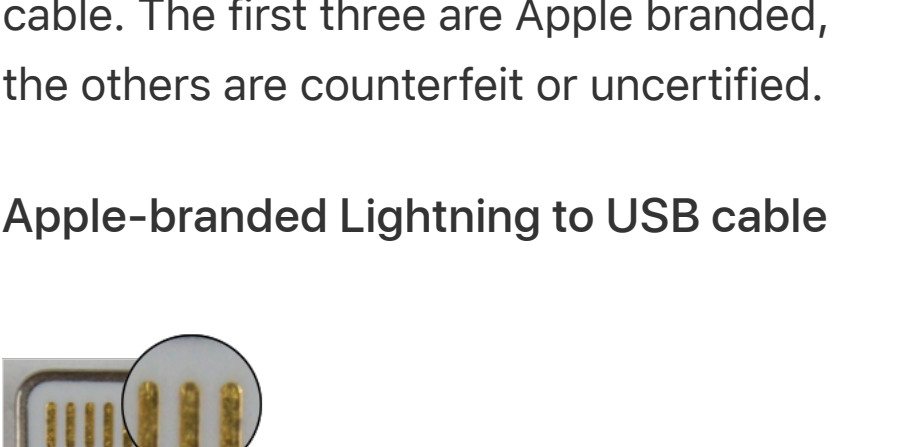
- Your iOS device could become damaged
  - The cable might be easily damaged
  - The connector end might fall off, get very hot, or might not fit properly into your device
  - You might not be able to sync or charge your device
- Only Apple makes the USB-C to Lightning Cable. There are no "Made for Apple" USB-C to Lightning cables.

## Compare packaging and writing on the cable

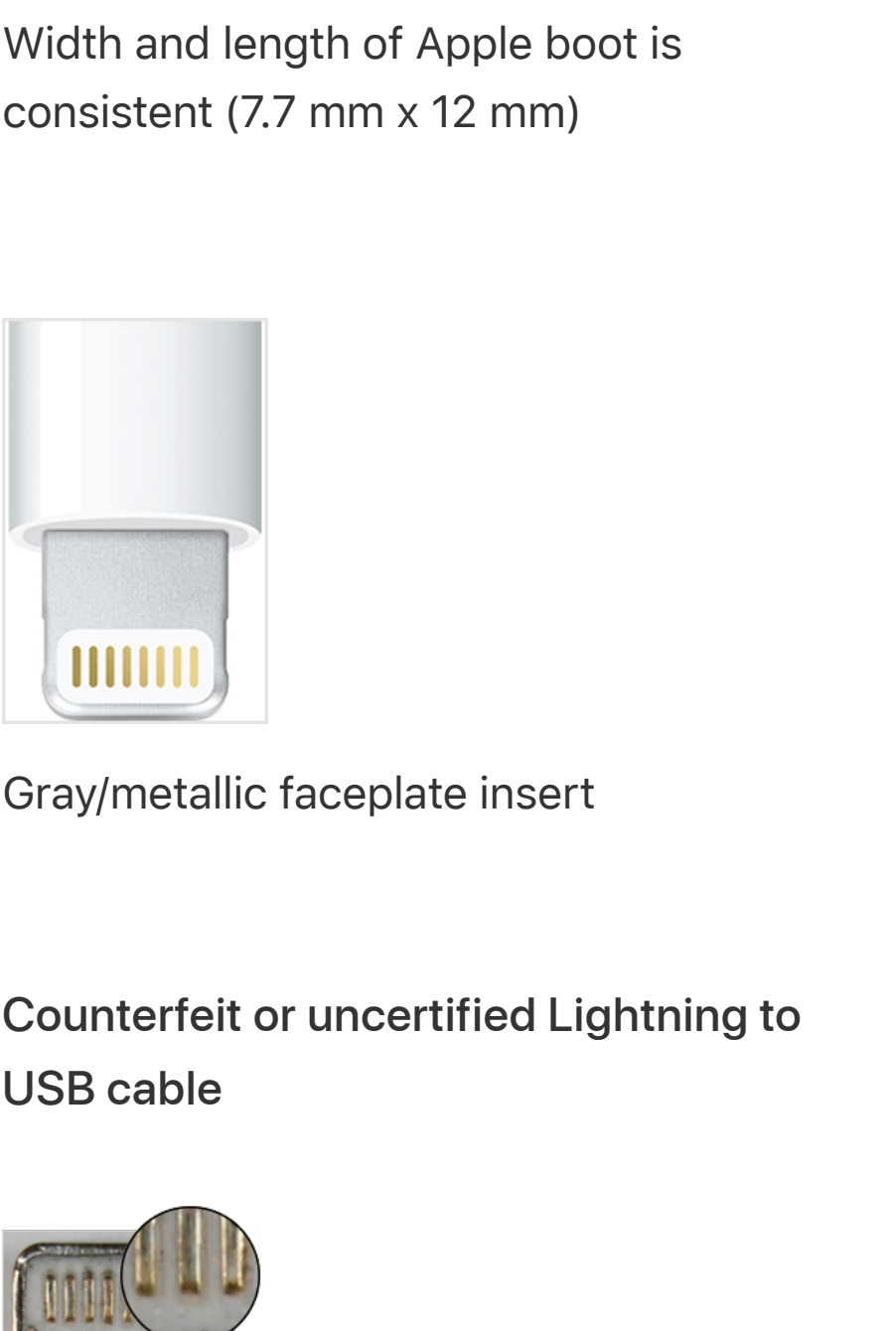
To identify counterfeit or uncertified cables and accessories, look carefully at the accessory's packaging and at the accessory itself. Certified third-party accessories have the MFi badge on their packaging:



Some accessories might have a previous version of the MFi badge:



An Apple Lightning to USB cable has "Designed by Apple in California" and either "Assembled in China," "Assembled in Vietnam," or "Indústria Brasileira" on the cable about seven inches from the USB connector. You'll see a 12-digit serial number at the end of this text.



A certified, third-party Lightning to USB cable usually has company branding on the Lightning-connector end.

## Compare connectors and laser etchings

You can use the Lightning connector, USB connector, and laser etchings to identify counterfeit or uncertified Lightning accessories. Compare the images below of certified Apple accessories and counterfeit or uncertified Lightning accessories. These are only a few counterfeit products. There are others.

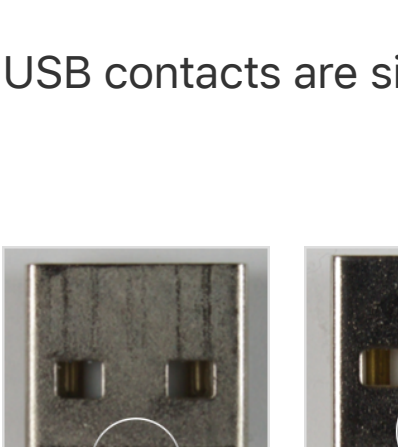
### Lightning to USB cable, Lightning-connector end

Here are examples of the Lightning-connector end of the Lightning to USB cable. The first three are Apple branded, the others are counterfeit or uncertified.

#### Apple-branded Lightning to USB cable



- Single piece
- Smooth
- Rounded, smooth, gold- or silver-colored contacts



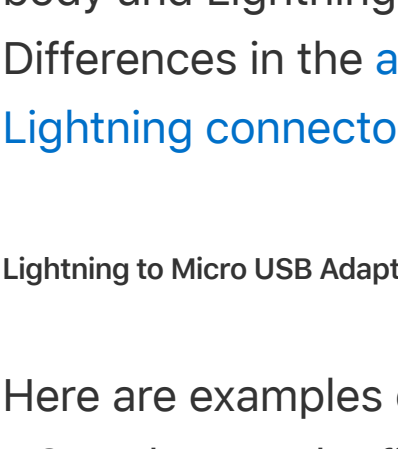
Width and length of Apple boot is consistent (7.7 mm x 12 mm)



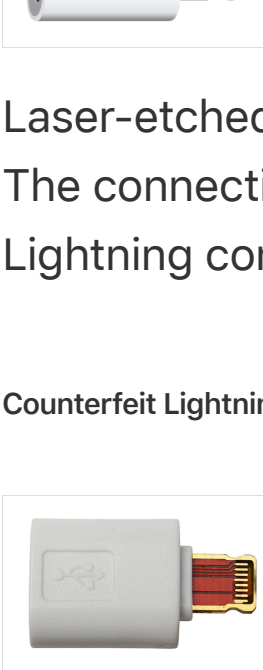
#### Counterfeit or uncertified Lightning to USB cable



- More than one piece
- Rough or inconsistent finish
- Squared contacts with an uneven surface



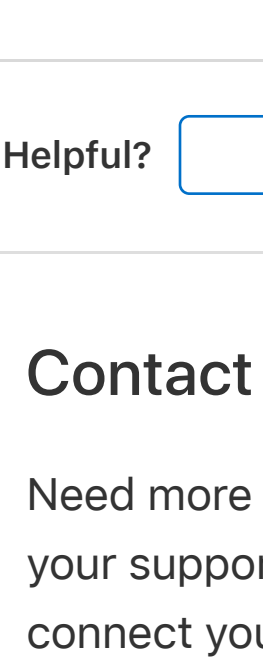
Varying width, length, or thickness



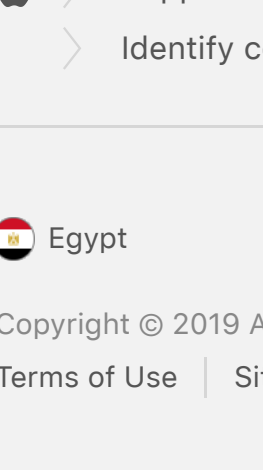
#### Lightning to USB cable, USB-connector end

Here are examples of the USB-connector end of the Lightning to USB cable. The first four are Apple branded, the next set are counterfeit or uncertified.

#### Apple-branded Lightning to USB cable



- Interlocks on USB shell are trapezoidal
- Interlocks are equally spaced from edge



USB contacts are gold-plated



USB surface is smooth and consistent



Surface of the insulator for the USB connection is uniform and flat

#### Counterfeit Lightning to USB cable



- USB shell interlocks have right angles
- Interlocks are inconsistently spaced



USB contacts are silver-plated



- USB surface is rough or grainy
- Surface of USB shell has a detent or retaining divot



Insulator for USB connection has notches or indents

### Lightning to 30-pin Adapter

Here are examples of the Lightning to 30-pin Adapter. The first is Apple branded, the others are counterfeit.

#### Apple-branded Lightning to 30-pin Adapter



- Icon for 30-pin dock connection is laser-etched and clear
- The connection between adapter body and Lightning connector is flush

#### Counterfeit Lightning to 30-pin Adapter



- Blurry or missing laser etching
- Step-down or large notch between adapter body and Lightning connector
- Differences in the [appearance of the Lightning connector](#)

### Lightning to Micro USB Adapter

Here are examples of the Lightning to Micro USB Adapter. The first is Apple branded, the others are counterfeit or uncertified.

#### Apple-branded Lightning to Micro USB Adapter



- Laser-etched USB symbol
- The connection between adapter body and Lightning connector is flush

#### Counterfeit Lightning to Micro USB Adapter



- Embossed or missing USB symbol
- Step-down or large notch between adapter body and Lightning connector
- Differences in the [appearance of the Lightning connector](#)

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