How to attach a PL-259 connector (the kind that Kjell sells)

Here are some instructions on how to attach a PL-259 connector to a length of RG-58 coax cable as we use in the lab. The connectors we have are very easy to attach coaxial cable to. You only need to make one solder connection, and you don't need any special tools except for strong hands. So, here we go.

Step 1:

Figure 1

Here is a picture of the PL-259 connector and the end of the coaxial cable that we want to attach to it.
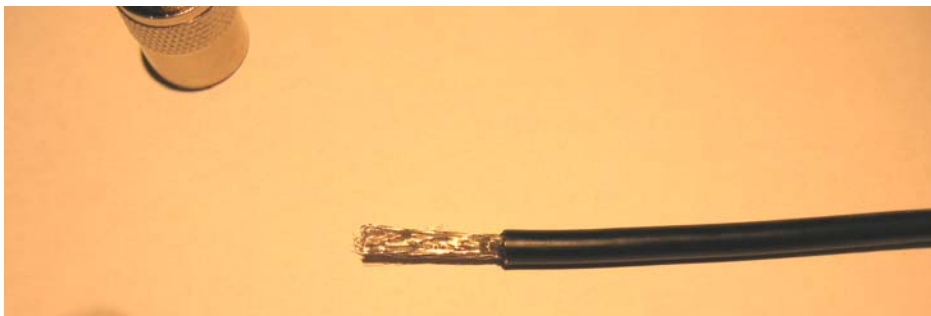
Step 2:

Figure 2

Strip off about 20mm of the black coax cable insulation. You will notice that under the black insulation there is a wire braid. Inside of that there is another wire covered with a white insulation.
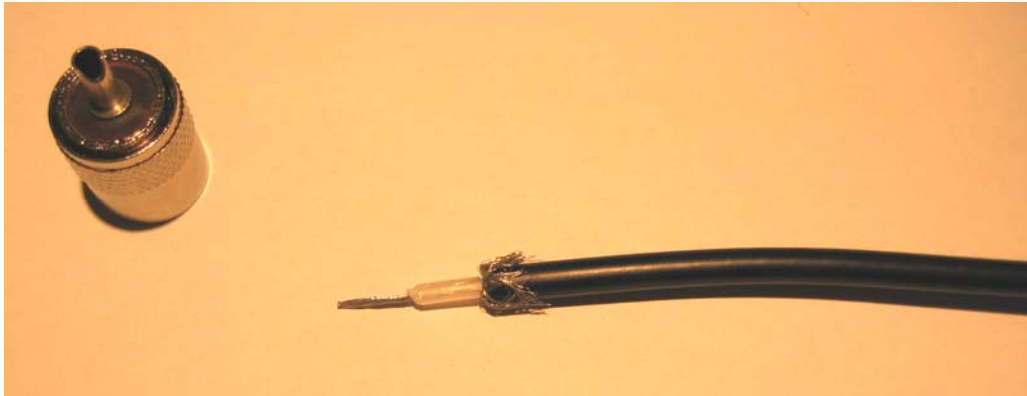
Step 3:

Figure 3

Next, use scissors or wire cutters to trim the braid so it is about 8mm long. After trimming it fold it back over the black insulation as shown in Figure 3. Next, remove about 10mm of the white insulation from around the center conductor. When you have done all this your coaxial cable should look something like the one in figure 3.

Step 4:

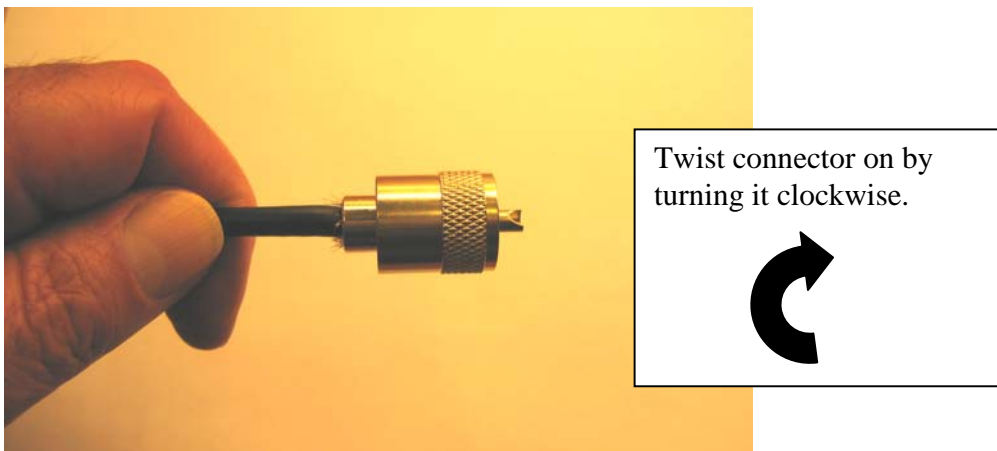Twist connector on by turning it clockwise.

Figure 4

Next, put the PL-259 connector over the end of the coaxial cable so that the center wire goes into the hollow center pin of the connector. When you are sure the center wire is inside the center pin, screw the connector right onto the coaxial cable by twisting it clockwise. The body of the PL-259 will screw on right over the wire braid and the black insulation. Keep screwing it on until the end of the center wire is at or near the end of the center pin. It is OK if there are bits of wire braid sticking out the back of the connector body.

Step 5:

Figure 7

Solder the coax center conductor to the PL-259 center pin as shown in Figure 5. Cut off any excess center conductor wire so that it is even with the end of the center pin. That's it! Your PL-259 is attached to the coax. Be sure to check that the connector pin is not shorted to the connector body by using the test meter in the lab.