Do fiber optic patch cords still need to be stripped



Overview

Good fiber optic stripping techniques in your cable assembly process are crucial. See best practices for how to strip fiber optic cable buffers & jackets.

Key Takeaways

Cleanly stripping fiber optic patch cords requires careful, layer-by-layer removal of the jacket, aramid yarn, and buffer without touching the glass fiber, followed by proper cleaning of the fiber end. Step 1: Prepare the CableMeasure and mark the length of jacket to remove based on your termination or connectorization needs ( ). Use a hook blade knife or outer jacket cutter to score the outer jacket 7–10 inches from the cable end, being careful not to cut the ripcord or underlying layers ( ).

For armored or outdoor cables, nick the armor lightly and use the ripcord to pull off the outer jacket and armor in two pieces ( ). Step 2: Remove the Aramid YarnAfter the outer jacket is removed, expose the aramid yarn (Kevlar fibers) that provide tensile strength. Cut and pull the yarn carefully; avoid pulling at sharp angles to prevent stress on the fiber ( ).

Trim excess yarn close to the buffer to prevent interference during connectorization. Step 3: Strip the Buffer and Primary CoatingUse a fiber-specific stripper to remove the buffer layer and primary coating (typically 250 µm acrylic) without nicking the glass fiber ( ). For single-fiber cables, hand tools, heated strippers, or automated stripping tools can be used.

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Ensure the blade is sharp and the cut edge is straight and clean ( ). Avoid attempting to separate the cladding from the core; these are inseparable components ( ). Step 4: Clean the Fiber EndUse single-fiber or multi-fiber cleaning tools to remove dust and debris from the fiber end face ( ).

Dry cleaning tools with a push-and-click mechanism are preferred to avoid solvents and prevent contamination ( ). Ensure the fiber end is free of gel, adhesive, or dust before connectorization ( ).

Best Practices

Always strip each layer individually; do not attempt to remove multiple layers at once ( ). Maintain sharp, well-calibrated tools to prevent jagged cuts or scratches. Handle fibers gently and avoid bending them sharply to prevent micro-cracks ( ).

For outdoor cables with gel or adhesive, use a safe, environmentally friendly cleaning solution to remove residues ( ). Following these steps ensures a clean, damage-free fiber end, which is critical for maintaining optimal signal performance and reliable connections.

Article Content

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First, the sleeve, or secondary coating, must be stripped from the fiber. The primary coating must also be stripped away, revealing the bare fiber. Best practice guidelines from the FOA mandate that the

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