Fiber Optic Cable Types and Stripping



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

Fiber optic cables come in various types—zipcord, distribution, loose tube, and armored—each requiring specific stripping techniques to safely expose the fibers for splicing or termination. Common Fiber Optic Cable Types1. Zipcord or Simplex Cable: These are small, flexible cables with one or two fibers, often used for short-distance connections.

They are easy to strip and typically require removing the outer jacket and attaching a pulling eye for installation. 2. Distribution Cable: Designed for indoor use, these cables contain multiple tight-buffered fibers (usually 900 µm).

They allow direct termination with adhesive/polish connectors but require protection in patch panels or boxes. 3. Loose Tube Cable: Common in outdoor and OSP (outside plant) applications, these cables have fibers enclosed in gel-filled or dry buffer tubes.

Stripping involves removing the outer jacket, separating buffer tubes, and cleaning any gel before exposing the fibers. 4. Armored Loose Tube Cable: These cables include a protective metal armor layer for harsh environments.

Stripping requires removing the armor, inner jacket, and separating buffer tubes and strength members carefully.

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Stripping Techniques and Tools

Fiber stripping is a critical step to avoid damaging the delicate fibers. Key principles include: Layer-by-layer stripping: Multi-layer cables must be stripped progressively, removing the jacket, strength members, and buffer coatings individually. Precision tools: Hand-held strippers, rotary strippers, and specialized scissors (e.g., CFS-2 or RCS-0425) are used to remove coatings without nicking the fiber.

Tight buffer vs. loose buffer: Tight buffer fibers (900 µm) and standard buffered fibers (250 µm) require different stripper settings. Inspection and testing: After stripping, fibers should be visually inspected or tested with a bend test to ensure no micro-cracks or scratches are present, which could compromise signal integrity.

Safety Considerations

Always wear safety glasses to protect against fiber shards. Work in a clean, organized area to prevent contamination or injury. Dispose of fiber scraps properly to avoid hazards.

Maintain sharp tools; dull blades can stress or damage fibers, leading to costly failures.

Best Practices

Mark stripping points for accuracy. Use slow, controlled movements to prevent accidental cuts. Replace worn tools promptly to maintain precision.

Follow manufacturer guidelines for each cable type to ensure proper handling and termination. By understanding the cable type, structure, and appropriate stripping method, technicians can ensure reliable fiber optic connections and minimize the risk of signal loss or network downtime.

Article Content

Stripping Techniques For Your Fiber Optic Cable

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

Fiber Optic Cable Types: Single-Mode, Multimode, and

A fiber optic cable (frequently shortened to “fiber cable”) is a specialized transmission medium crafted to carry data as light pulses through

Fiber and Cable Stripper – Types, Uses & Guide

Learn how to use fiber strippers, cable cutting scissors, and armored cable slitters. Discover their applications in fiber splicing, cable prep, and FTTH.

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How to Strip and Prepare Fibre Optic Cable for Termination: A ...

In this informative guide, we''ll walk you through the step-by-step process of stripping and preparing fibre optic cable for termination, covering techniques, tools, and best practices to help you

Fiber Optic Cable Stripping: A Comprehensive Guide

Fiber optic cables come in various designs, each with its own unique construction and stripping requirements. Understanding the cable''s structure is crucial for selecting the appropriate tools and

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The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics

Choosing a connector type for any installation should consider if the connector is compatible with the systems planned to utilize the fiber optic cable plant, if the

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This Fibre Optic Cable Stripper is an essential tool for professionals and technicians working with optical fibre cables. Designed for precision and ease of use, this stripper features three different sized holes,

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The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics

In addition to the splicer and cleaver, the tech doing the splicing will need a set of cable preparation and fiber stripping tools. Since much fusion splicing is done in the outside plant, the splicing tech should

Optical cable stripping knife Armored cable stripper 4-10mm Vertical ...

Optical cable stripping knife Armored cable stripper 4-10mm Vertical and horizontal Fiber optic cable cutter with 1 spare blade Mid Span Cable Slit and Ring Tool Cable Jacket Slitting Tool

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OM1 vs OM2 vs OM3 vs OM4 vs OM5 Multimode Fiber Guide | EDGE Optical ...

Compare OM1, OM2, OM3, OM4, and OM5 multimode fiber specs, distances, bandwidth, and applications. Essential guide for data center fiber selection.

Signal Fire MC-16 Multi-Function Optic Fiber Stripper&One-Step

The Signal Fire MC-16 is a multi-functional fiber optic preparation tool designed for FTTH, fiber optic installation, maintenance and repair work. It combines fiber stripping, cleaning, Kevlar cutting and

Single Mode vs. Multimode Fiber Optic Cables

There are two main types of fiber optic cables: single mode and multimode. Although they can do the same job in some instances, the different construction methods make each of them better

OS1 vs OS2, OM3 vs OM4 vs OM5 – Fiber Optic Cable Differences

Discover the key differences between OS1 and OS2 singlemode fibers, and OM3, OM4, OM5 multimode cables. Learn how to select the right fiber type for your project. As a leading fiber

Fiber Connector Types

According to the estimating, there are hundreds of different fiber optic connection types on the market. However, the widely used types are about a dozen of fiber optic connectors, which

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