What s the best way to strip fiber optic cables



Overview

Use the fiber stripper to cut off 2" (50mm) of the cable jacket and pull off the cut piece. Use the first groove in the fiber stripper - the biggest one - and just gently cut the fiber jacket and pull it off.

Key Takeaways

The safest and most effective way to strip fiber optic cables is to use specialized fiber optic strippers progressively on each layer, taking small, controlled cuts while protecting the glass core.

Step-by-

Step Stripping Process

Prepare Your Workspace: Ensure a clean, well-lit area free from dust and debris. Lay out all tools within easy reach and wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from fiber shards. Cut the Cable: Use Kevlar scissors to cut the cable to the desired length, typically at the midpoint if splicing.

Strip the Outer Jacket: Use a fiber optic cable stripper with the largest groove to gently cut and remove the outer jacket. Pull off the cut piece carefully to avoid stressing the fiber. Remove Aramid Yarn: Cut the aramid fibers near the jacket end and wind them into a bundle for easier handling.

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This exposes the tight-buffered fiber inside. Strip the Buffer Coatings: Most cables have a primary buffer (250µm) and a secondary buffer. Use the appropriate groove on your fiber stripper to remove these coatings in small increments (about 6–8mm at a time).

Hold the stripper at a 45-degree angle to reduce stress and prevent breakage. Clean the Fiber: After stripping, clean the exposed fiber with a lint-free wipe and alcohol to remove any residue or debris. Inspect and Cleave: Use a fiber optic cleaver to create a clean, perpendicular end face.

Inspect with a microscope or visual fault locator to ensure the fiber is free of nicks or scratches.

Tools Recommended

Fiber Optic Strippers: Hand tools, heated tools, or automated strippers designed for specific buffer sizes. Kevlar Scissors: For cutting aramid yarn and cable jackets. Fiber Cleaver: For precise end-face preparation.

Cleaning Supplies: Lint-free wipes and alcohol or specialized fiber cleaners.

Best Practices

Strip each layer progressively, never all at once. Take small cuts to avoid damaging the glass core. Ensure the cut edges are straight and clean, not jagged or angled.

Dispose of fiber scraps safely to prevent injury. Automated tools provide more consistent results and reduce operator error. By following these steps and using the correct tools, you can strip fiber optic cables safely and efficiently, ensuring optimal performance and minimizing the risk of fiber damage.

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