Stripping the 4-core optical cable



Overview

Fiber U Lesson Plan: Basic Fiber Optic Skills Lab In this lesson, we will identify and examine cables, then prepare them for splicing or termintion by stri.

Key Takeaways

Use a fiber optic stripper to carefully remove the jacket, aramid yarn, and buffer coatings from each of the four fibers individually, ensuring the glass cores remain undamaged.

Tools and Safety

Before starting, gather the following tools: a fiber optic cable stripper, fiber cleaver, alcohol wipes, lint-free cloth, and optionally a visual fault locator (VFL) or inspection microscope for quality checks. Always wear eye protection, as laser light from fibers can cause serious retinal damage. Work in a clean, well-lit area to avoid contamination.

Step-by-

Step Stripping Process

Remove the Outer JacketUse the appropriate notch on the fiber optic stripper to cut the outer jacket without nicking the inner fibers. Hold the tool perpendicular to the cable and strip only the length required for termination. Carefully slide off the jacket, exposing the aramid yarn (strength members).

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Handle the Aramid Yarn

Gently pull back or trim the aramid yarn to expose the buffered fibers. Avoid cutting or fraying the yarn, as it contributes to tensile strength.

Strip the Buffer Coating

Each of the four color-coded fibers has a 250 µm coating over the glass core. Use the fiber optic stripper to remove the buffer coating down to the 125 µm cladding, taking care not to nick the glass. Strip each fiber individually, especially in ribbon cables, to prevent stress or micro-cracks.

Clean the Fibers

Wipe each stripped fiber with a lint-free cloth soaked in isopropyl alcohol to remove debris and coating residue. Run your fingers lightly along the fiber to ensure all coating material is removed.

Inspect the Fiber Ends

Use a microscope or VFL to check for scratches, nicks, or irregularities on the stripped fiber ends. Only proceed to cleaving or connectorization if the fibers are clean and defect-free.

Repeat for All Fibers

For a four-core cable, repeat the buffer stripping, cleaning, and inspection for each fiber individually. Avoid excessive bending, pulling, or crushing during the process to maintain fiber integrity.

Best Practices

Strip layers progressively: jacket → aramid yarn → buffer coating. Maintain sharp stripper blades to prevent micro-damage. Follow manufacturer specifications for strip lengths and bend radius.

Avoid using generic wire strippers or knives, as they can cause signal loss or fiber failure. By following these steps, you can safely strip the four cores of an optical cable, preparing them for splicing or connector termination while minimizing the risk of damage and signal degradation.

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Article Content

Fiber U Lesson Plan: Basic Fiber Optic Skills Lab

In this lesson, we will identify and examine cables, then prepare them for splicing or termintion by stripping the cable to expose the coated fibers. Finally we will strip

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1.1 This procedure describes the sheath removal and stripping a 4-fiber ribbon fiber optic interconnect cable. ls in process control, computer and video applications (Figure 1). This four-fiber cable series is

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First, strip the outer sheath of the optical fiber with optical fiber strippers; remove the stripped outer sheath of the optical fiber; and finally, cut the exposed aramid fiber with cable-cutting

Fiber Strippers – tools, mechanical, thermal, chemical, plasma,

Hard-clad silica fibers (HCS fibers) need special stripping inserts and diameters. Non-silica fibers, e.g. some fluoride fibers and chalcogenide fibers, can be rather delicate, making standard stripping tools

Tutorial Passive Fiber Optics, Part 5: Fiber Ends

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In most cases when a fiber is used, it is essential to prepare clean endfaces. A first step is usually to strip the polymer coating on the last centimeters, using a fiber stripper. In problematic cases, one

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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

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