Stripping Flat Optical Cables



Overview

Fiber and Cable Stripper – Types, Uses & GuideLearn how to use fiber strippers, cable cutting scissors, and armored cable slitters. Discover their applicat.

Key Takeaways

Proper stripping of flat and optical cables requires precision tools and careful layer-by-layer removal to avoid damage to conductors or fibers.

Stripping Optical Cables

Optical fibers are typically coated with polymers such as acrylate, silicone, or polyimide, and may include additional buffer layers or jackets. Stripping involves removing these protective layers to expose the bare glass fiber for splicing or connectorization. Key steps include: Preparation: Ensure a clean, well-lit workspace and inspect the cable for damage before stripping.

Mechanical Stripping: Use precision fiber strippers to remove coatings without nicking the glass. Standard telecommunication fibers have a 125 µm cladding with a coated diameter around 250 µm. Thermal or Laser Stripping: Heated air or laser beams can remove coatings cleanly, especially for delicate fibers or mid-span stripping, minimizing residual debris and preserving fiber integrity.

Cleaning and Cleaving: After stripping, clean the fiber with alcohol wipes and use a cleaver to create a smooth, perpendicular end face. Inspect with a microscope or visual fault locator to ensure quality.

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Multi-

Fiber Cables: For ribbon or multi-fiber cables, strip each fiber individually, maintaining consistent length and precision.

Stripping Flat and Armored Cables

Flat cables, twisted pairs, and armored fiber cables require careful handling to avoid damaging internal conductors: Layer-by-Layer Removal: Strip the outer jacket first, then any aramid yarn or buffer layers, progressively exposing the conductors. Tools: Use adjustable cable strippers or slitting tools designed for the cable diameter. For armored cables, professional-grade slitting tools can perform longitudinal or circumferential cuts safely.

Blade Adjustment: Ensure the blade depth is set correctly to avoid nicking fibers or conductors. Some tools allow both transverse and longitudinal cutting for flexibility. Precision for Loose Tubes: Loose tube fiber optic cables require strippers capable of handling different buffer tube diameters without damaging the enclosed fibers.

Best Practices

Always maintain sharp cutting edges and clean tools to prevent accidental damage. Work slowly and progressively, especially with multi-layered or sensitive optical cables. Inspect stripped fibers or conductors before termination to ensure clean, defect-free surfaces.

Consider specialized methods like laser stripping for high-precision applications or delicate fibers. By following these techniques and using the appropriate tools, you can achieve safe, clean, and reliable stripping of both flat and optical cables, ensuring optimal performance and longevity of the cable assemblies.

Article Content

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.

Fiber Strippers – tools, mechanical, thermal, chemical,

Fiber strippers are precision tools that reliably and cleanly remove a defined length of coating (often 30–40 mm) from a fiber end so that the bare glass is exposed

Fiber Stripping Tools

Jonard Tools manufactures a large range of fiber optic stripping tools specifically designed for technicians in the fiber optics industry. Jonard Tools is committed to manufacturing our products with

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The Ultimate Optical Fiber Stripper Guide

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Lesson 3: Fiber Optic Cable And Fiber Preparation Objectives: From this lesson you should learn: How to identify typical fiber optic cables How to prepare cables for

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Tutorial Passive Fiber Optics, Part 5: Fiber Ends

Part 5: Fiber Endfaces Preparing Clean Fiber Ends: Stripping, Cleaving, Polishing In most cases when a fiber is used, it is essential to prepare clean endfaces. A first step is usually to strip the polymer

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Fiber-Optic Strippers | McMaster-Carr

Fiber-Optic Cable Strippers Strip fiber-optic cables without scratching or damaging them. These cable strippers have three nonmarring openings to handle different thicknesses of fiber-optic cable jackets

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