How to perform ring stripping on optical cables



Overview

Once you ring both areas, place the blade guide between the conductors and the cable jacket and pull, the jacket will pop open, and come completely off the cable.

Key Takeaways

Optical cable ring stripping involves carefully removing protective coatings or jackets from fiber optic cables using mechanical, thermal, chemical, or laser-based methods to expose the bare fiber without causing damage. Overview of Stripping Methods1. Mechanical Stripping: Mechanical strippers use precision blades to remove coatings or jackets from the fiber.

These tools are designed to cut only the protective layers while leaving the glass fiber intact. They are available in handheld or automated forms and are suitable for standard telecommunication fibers with typical coated diameters around 250 µm. Mechanical strippers are also used for tight buffers (e.g., 900 µm) and larger jackets, ensuring a clean, straight cut without nicking the fiber.

2.

Thermal or Thermo-

Mechanical Stripping: Thermo-mechanical strippers apply heat to soften the polymer coating before removal. This reduces the risk of fiber damage and allows easier stripping of tough coatings. Heat can be applied via a controlled heating element or hot air, and the softened coating is then pulled off using precision blades.

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3. Chemical Stripping: Chemical methods use solvents or acids to dissolve the protective coatings. This approach is less common in modern production due to handling hazards and the need for precise control to avoid fiber damage.

It is sometimes used for specialty fibers or when mechanical access is limited. 4.

Laser-

Based Stripping: Laser stripping uses focused laser beams to ablate the protective layers without touching the fiber physically. Infrared or other laser types can create grooves in the outer jacket, which are then split and removed. This method is highly precise, suitable for single fibers, multi-fiber ribbons, or sensitive fibers like those used in fiber Bragg gratings.

Laser stripping minimizes mechanical stress and reduces the risk of microfractures in the fiber. Best PracticesLayer-by-Layer Stripping: Multi-layer cables should be stripped progressively, starting with the outer jacket, then aramid yarn, and finally the buffer layers. Each layer may require a different tool or technique.

Tool Maintenance: Keep blades sharp and properly aligned to ensure clean cuts and prevent jagged edges that could damage the fiber. Fiber Handling: Use grippers or guides to hold the fiber securely during stripping. Avoid wrapping or clamping the fiber, which can create microfractures.

Inspection: After stripping, inspect the fiber for scratches, nicks, or residual coating to ensure optimal performance during splicing or connectorization.

Applications

Stripped fibers are used for fusion splicing, connectorization, or integration into optoelectronic modules such as transmitters, receivers, or wavelength division multiplexers. Proper stripping ensures mechanical strength, optical performance, and long-term reliability of the fiber optic network. By selecting the appropriate method and following best practices, optical cable ring stripping can be performed efficiently while minimizing the risk of fiber damage.

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“First, Do No Harm”: I want to emphasize the importance of not damaging inner materials when stripping any layer of the cable. This is most important when removing the Buffer materials

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

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 without scratching or nicking it.

Sheath Removal and Stripping of 8 and 12-Fiber Ribbon Interconnect

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Do not crush the cable or allow it to kink. Doing so may cause damage that can alter the transmission characteristics of the cable - the cable may have to be replaced.

Miller® MB06 Series

The compact Miller® MB06 is designed to perform slit and ring cuts on fiber optic cables, buffer tubes, and jackets from 0.05″ to 0.25″ (1.2 to

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Without question, good stripping techniques in your fiber optic cable assembly process are imperative. What happens if you damage the fiber during this production step?

How To Strip Fiber Optic Cable | Instructional

In this instructional video, Bob Licari, Test Equipment Product Manager, demonstrates a simple way to strip optical fiber.#instructional #fiberoptics #fiberF...

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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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