How to strip the outer sheath of an optical cable without damaging the fiber optic cable

Overview

Stripping Techniques For Your Fiber Optic Cable Good fiber optic stripping techniques in your cable assembly process are crucial. See best How to Properly.

Key Takeaways

Use a specialized fiber optic jacket or sheath stripper with adjustable blades to remove the outer sheath without damaging the fiber inside.Step-by-Step Procedure

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1. Select the Right Tool Use a fiber optic cable stripper or jacket stripping tool designed for your cable type and diameter. Tools like the CFS-2 fiber cable cutting scissors, RCS-0425 stripper, or Kabifix LK25 allow precise control over cutting depth and can handle outer sheaths from 2 mm up to 25 mm without harming the fiber core . Ensure the tool is compatible with the cable's jacket material (PVC, PE, or other polymers). 2. Adjust the Blade Depth Set the blade depth to just cut through the outer sheath without reaching the inner fiber or buffer. Many tools have adjustable blades or guides to control depth accurately . For microcables, a sheath stripper with a 4.5–40 mm adjustable cutting range is recommended . 3. Make a Circumferential Cut Place the tool around the cable at the desired stripping length. Rotate the tool in a spiral or circular motion to score the outer jacket evenly. Avoid excessive force, which can crush or kink the cable . For midspan stripping, a helical cutting action is ideal to remove the sheath cleanly . 4. Remove the Sheath After scoring, gently pull off the outer sheath using your fingers or needle-nose pliers. If the cable has aramid (Kevlar) strength fibers, cut them carefully with Kevlar scissors to avoid fraying . Ensure the fiber itself is not bent beyond its minimum bend radius. 5. Handle the Fiber Carefully Once the sheath is removed, avoid touching or bending the exposed fiber. Use a fiber gripper or textured rubber holder to secure the fiber during further stripping or connectorization . Keep broken fiber pieces on tape to prevent injury.

Additional Tips
• Always consult the cable specification sheet for minimum bend radius and maximum pulling force .

• Use tools with fiber guides and matched blades to ensure consistent stripping without microfractures .

• Maintain a clean workspace to prevent contamination or accidental damage to the fiber. By following these steps and using the proper tools, you can safely remove the outer sheath of an optical cable while preserving the integrity of the fiber inside.

Article Content

Fiber U Lesson Plan: Basic Skills Lab, Remote

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

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