How to change the fiber optic patch cord to a round connector



Overview

This comprehensive guide discusses the differences between the different fiber optic fiber cores, connector types, and jacket types. Read more here.

Key Takeaways

To change a fiber optic patch cord to a round connector, you typically need to remove the existing connector and terminate the fiber with a compatible round connector using either fusion splicing, mechanical splicing, or a field-installable connector kit. Step 1: Identify the Target ConnectorRound connectors are usually ST (bayonet twist-lock) or FC (threaded screw) types, commonly used in multimode or single-mode networks. Determine which round connector your equipment requires.

Step 2: Prepare the FiberStrip the outer jacket of the patch cord to expose the Kevlar and buffer layers. Trim the Kevlar to the required length. Expose the bare fiber carefully using a fiber stripper.

Clean the fiber with isopropyl alcohol to remove any debris. Step 3: Choose a Termination MethodThere are three main methods to attach a new connector: Fusion Splice to a Pre-Made ConnectorUse a fusion splicer to join the prepared fiber to a short pre-terminated patch cord with the round connector. Ensure a precise 90-degree cut on both fibers.

Align fibers in the splicer and complete the fusion, which provides low insertion loss and high durability.

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Mechanical Splice Connector

Insert the prepared fiber into a mechanical splice connector. These connectors use a gel or alignment sleeve to hold the fiber in place. Quick to install and does not require epoxy or polishing, suitable for temporary or rapid repairs.

Field-

Installable Epoxy and Polish ConnectorInsert the fiber into a field-installable round connector. Apply UV-curable or thermal epoxy to secure the fiber. Cure the epoxy and polish the ferrule to ensure proper optical contact.

Step 4: Assemble and TestSlide the connector housing over the ferrule and secure it according to the connector type (twist-lock for ST, screw for FC). Inspect the end-face under a microscope to ensure no scratches or debris. Test the connection for insertion loss and return loss to verify performance.

Tips and Precautions

Always handle fibers carefully to avoid bending or breaking. Use proper tools: fiber cleaver, strippers, crimping pliers, epoxy, UV lamp, and microscope. Ensure cleanliness; even small dust particles can degrade signal quality.

If unsure, consider using factory pre-terminated patch cords with the desired round connector for plug-and-play simplicity. By following these steps, you can successfully convert a fiber optic patch cord to a round connector while maintaining optimal network performance.

Article Content

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