What are the different models of fiber optic patch cord connectors



Overview

Learn about SC, LC, FC, and ST fiber optic patch cords, their uses in FTTH, telecom, and data centers, and how to choose the right type.

Key Takeaways

Common fiber optic patch cord connectors include LC, SC, ST, FC, MPO/MTP, MU, MT-RJ, and E2000, each suited for specific applications and network densities. Overview of Connector TypesLC (Lucent Connector): A small form-factor connector with a 1. 25mm ferrule, widely used in modern data centers and enterprise networks.

L

C connectors are duplex, support high-density racks, and are compatible with QSFP transceivers via LC breakouts.

S

C (Subscriber Connector): Features a 2. 5mm ferrule and a push-pull snap-in mechanism.

S

C connectors are simplex or duplex and are common in legacy enterprise networks, passive optical networks (PON/GPON), and industrial applications.

S

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T (Straight Tip): Uses a bayonet-style twist-lock mechanism with a 2. 5mm ferrule.

S

T connectors are durable and often used in campus networks and industrial environments.

F

C (Ferrule Connector): Screw-on type with a 2. 5mm ferrule, designed for high-vibration environments.

F

C connectors are typically used in telecom and measurement equipment. MPO/MTP (Multi-Fiber Push-On / Multi-Fiber Termination Push-On): High-density connectors that terminate multiple fibers (8, 12, 16, 24, or 32) in a single rectangular ferrule. MPO/MTP is standard for parallel optics in 40G, 100G, and 400G Ethernet, reducing physical footprint in high-fiber-count connections.

M

U (Miniature Unit): Small form-factor connector, often used in high-density telecom and FTTH applications.

M

U connectors are similar to LC but smaller, supporting compact installations. MT-RJ (Mechanical Transfer Registered Jack): Duplex connector with two fibers in a single ferrule, used in older high-density networks and some data center applications. E2000: High-performance connector with a spring-loaded shutter for dust protection, commonly used in telecom and long-haul networks.

DI

N: Round connector with a screw-on mechanism, used in industrial and broadcast applications. Key ConsiderationsSingle-mode vs Multimode: Single-mode connectors (yellow jacket) are for long-distance communication, while multimode connectors (OM1/OM2 orange, OM3 aqua, OM4 violet, OM5 lime green) are for short-distance, high-bandwidth applications. Ferrule Polish Types: PC, UPC, and APC ferrule end-face types affect reflection and insertion loss.

AP

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C (angled) is preferred for high-performance single-mode links. Application: LC and MPO/MTP dominate modern enterprise and data center networks, SC and ST are common in legacy or industrial setups, and specialized connectors like E2000 or DIN are used in telecom or harsh environments. Choosing the right connector depends on network type, fiber mode, port density, and equipment compatibility, ensuring minimal signal loss and reliable performance across the optical network.

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