

What are the technical parameters of multimode 10 Gigabit fiber optic cables



Overview

10 Gigabit Ethernet Fiber Design Considerations This paper has introduced some basic fiber related concepts and outlined some of the key points to understand.

Key Takeaways

A 10 Gigabit multimode fiber optic cable typically uses OM3 or OM4 fiber, operates at 850 nm, and supports distances up to 300–400 meters depending on fiber type and network design. Fiber Type and Core Size 10GbE multimode fiber cables are usually OM3 or OM4 types, both with a 50-micrometer core diameter optimized for laser transmission using VCSEL light sources at 850 nm. OM3 supports up to 300 meters, while OM4 extends the reach to 400–550 meters for 10GbE links.

Wavelength

The standard operating wavelength for 10GBASE-SR multimode fiber is 850 nm, which is compatible with short-reach SFP+ transceivers. Modal Bandwidth OM3: 2000 MHz·km OM4: 4700 MHz·km Higher modal bandwidth allows for longer distances and better signal integrity at 10 Gbps.

Connector Type

Multimode 10GbE cables typically use duplex LC connectors, which are compact and widely supported by SFP+ modules.



Link Power Budget and Loss

The link power budget is determined by the difference between transmitter power and receiver sensitivity, accounting for fiber attenuation, splice losses, and connector losses. Typical multimode fiber attenuation is around 2.5 dB/km at 850 nm, and the total channel insertion loss must remain within the 10GbE standard limits.

Transceiver Compatibility 10GbE multimode fiber is commonly paired with 10GBASE-SR SFP+ transceivers, which are hot-pluggable and optimized for short-reach, high-speed connections in data centers and enterprise networks. Mode-conditioning patch cords may be required for older fiber types like OM1 or OM2 to ensure proper signal quality.

Parameter	OM3	OM4
Core Diameter	50 μ m	50 μ m
Wavelength	850 nm	850 nm
Modal Bandwidth	2000 MHz·km	4700 MHz·km
Max 10GbE Distance	300 m	400–550 m
Connector	Duplex LC	Duplex LC
Typical Attenuation	2.5 dB/km	2.5 dB/km

These parameters ensure high-speed, low-latency, and reliable 10GbE connectivity over short to medium distances, making OM3 and OM4 multimode fibers ideal for data centers, enterprise networks, and high-density switch environments.

Article Content

10 Gigabit Ethernet Fiber Design Considerations

This paper has introduced some basic fiber related concepts and outlined some of the key points to understand and consider when designing a 10 Gigabit Ethernet network.

Multimode SFP+: 10GBASE-SR Specs, Fiber Types and Use Cases

Learn how multimode SFP+ (10GBASE-SR) transceivers work, including fiber types, transmission distance, specifications, and common data center use cases.

Multimode Fiber and 10GE

This new fiber is referred to by some as 10 Gigabit Ethernet multimode fiber and is an 850 nm, laser-optimized, 50/125 micron fiber with an effective modal bandwidth of 2000 MHz km and is detailed in

SR Cisco Explained: SFP+ 10G Multimode Optics Guide

Understand SR Cisco SFP+ modules for 10G multimode fiber links, including specifications, transmission distance, compatibility, and data center use cases.

Multimode Fiber Types: OM1 vs OM2 vs OM3 vs OM4 vs OM5

Identified by ISO 11801 standard, multimode fiber optic cables can be classified into OM1 fiber, OM2 fiber, OM3 fiber, OM4 fiber and newly released OM5 fiber. The next part will compare

10-Gigabit Multimode Cables OM3

Amphenol OM3 50-Micron (50/125) Laser Optimized Multimode fiber optic patch cables combine scalable 10-Gig performance and backwards compatibility with legacy equipment.

Cisco 10GBASE SFP+ Modules Data Sheet

This feature gives the end user the ability to monitor real-time parameters of the SFP, such as optical output power, optical input power, temperature, laser bias current, and transceiver supply

Fiber Optic Patch Cables, 10 Gigabit (10Gb) OM3 "Aqua"

At a wavelength of 1300nm, they have a bandwidth of 500 MHz-km, max attenuation of 0.6dB/km, and typical max distance of 2km (at 100mbps), 600 meters (at 1000mbps), and 300 meters (at 10Gbps).

Multimode Optical Fiber Selection & Specification

Industry standard MMF specification includes dimensional (or geometry) requirements, mechanical requirements, optical transmission requirements, and even environmental requirements. Table 2

Small Form-factor Pluggable

Small Form-factor Pluggable Small Form-factor Pluggable connected to a pair of fiber-optic cables Small Form-factor Pluggable (SFP) is a compact, hot-pluggable network interface module format used for

Tight Buffer Fiber Optic Cable, OM4, OFNP Indoor/Outdoor

Description OM4 Multimode 50/125 Indoor/Outdoor Plenum OFNP Distribution Fiber Optic Cable with Corning Glass This OM4 plenum distribution fiber cable is composed of 2-24 colored tight buffers,

Bend-Insensitive Fiber – What Is It? – trueCABLE

Discover the benefits of bend-insensitive fiber for reducing stress and bending loss in optical fiber. Learn about its design, applications, and

Fiber Optic Couplers | Fiber Optical ST Couplers for Sale | RS

Industrial sensing: Optical couplers are key components in fiber-optic gyroscopes and interferometers, where light is split and recombined to detect minute changes in rotation, pressure, temperature, or

OFNP OM4 Tight Buffer Fiber Cable | Corning Glass | Indoor & Outdoor

OM4 Multimode 50/125 Indoor/Outdoor Plenum OFNP Distribution Fiber Optic Cable with Corning Glass This OM4 plenum distribution fiber cable is composed of 2-24 colored tight buffers, aramid yarn, and

8 Best OTDR Fiber Optic Testing Equipment (June 2026) Expert

Each product review includes technical specifications, practical use cases, and honest assessments of strengths and weaknesses. Top 3 Picks for Best OTDR Fiber Optic Testing

Gigabit Ethernet

1000BASE-T-capable network interface card made by Intel, which connects to a computer via PCI-X There are five physical layer standards for Gigabit Ethernet

Fiber-optic Attenuators – fixed or variable attenuation,

Fiber-optic attenuators adjust optical signal power levels, for example in fiber-optic links. The degree of attenuation may be fixed or variable.

What are the different types of network cables?

What are the different types of network cables? The main types of network cables are coax, fiber optics, and shielded and unshielded twisted pair. As enterprises deploy new technologies,

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This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

