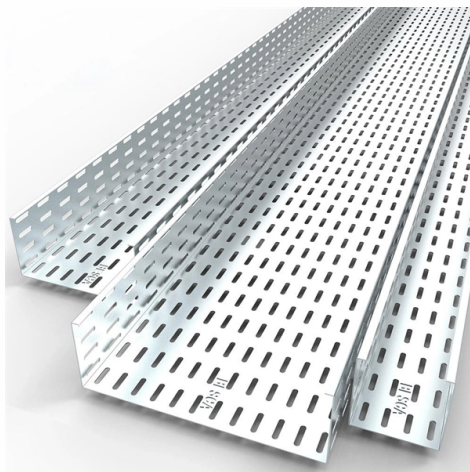


RIVO MULTITRADE OPTICAL SYSTEMS

How to identify the connector in a fiber optic patch cord



Overview

Connector colors Color codes are also used to identify the type of connector used on a fiber optic patch cord.

Key Takeaways

Fiber optic patch cord connectors can be identified by their connector type (LC, SC, ST, MPO), polish type (UPC or APC), and assembly style (simplex or duplex). Connector Types

Fiber optic connectors come in several common types, each with distinct shapes and mechanisms:

- LC (Lucent Connector): Small form factor, push-pull mechanism, widely used in data centers for high-density applications .
 - SC (Subscriber Connector): Square snap-in design, common in PON networks and enterprise systems .
 - ST (Straight Tip): Bayonet mount, older design, often used in legacy or industrial LANs .
 - MPO/MTP: Multi-fiber connectors housing 8, 12, or 24 fibers, used for high-density parallel optics .
- Polish Types

The polish of the connector ferrule affects signal reflection and performance:

- UPC (Ultra Physical Contact): Flat end face, blue connector body, low back reflection, suitable for most digital applications .
 - APC (Angled Physical Contact): Angled end face (usually 8°), green connector body, reduces back reflection, preferred for high-performance or long-distance systems .
 - PC (Physical Contact): Slightly curved end face, less common today, moderate return loss . Tip: Never mix UPC and APC connectors, as this can cause signal loss and poor performance .
- Assembly Styles

Patch cords can be assembled in two main styles:

- Simplex: Single fiber with one connector on each end, used for single-channel connections .
- Duplex: Two fibers side by side, often in a “zip cord” configuration, used for bidirectional communication .

Additional Identification Tips

- Color Coding: Single-mode fibers are usually yellow, multimode fibers are orange (OM1/OM2) or aqua (OM3/OM4), lime green or violet (OM5) for high-speed multimode .
- Connector Shape and Size: Visual inspection of the connector body and ferrule can help distinguish LC, SC, and ST types.
- Cable Jacket and Markings: Specifications printed on the jacket often indicate fiber type, core size, and connector type (e.g., G657A1 9/125 LC/UPC-LC/UPC 2.0mm 3m LSZH), . By combining connector type, polish type, assembly style, and color coding, you can accurately identify a fiber optic patch cord and ensure compatibility with your network equipment.

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