

RIVO MULTITRADE OPTICAL SYSTEMS

How to quickly strip a 12-core optical cable



Overview

Sheath Removal and Stripping of 8 and 12-Fiber Ribbon Do not crush the cable or allow it to kink. Doing so may cause damage that can alter the transmission.

Key Takeaways

Using a hand-held thermal stripper like the HS-12 is currently the fastest and most reliable method for stripping 12-core optical cables. Recommended Method: Thermal Stripping

For 12-core optical cables, thermal strippers are highly efficient because they soften the polymer coating with heat, allowing the buffer and jacket to be removed cleanly without nicking the fibers. The HS-12 thermal stripper is specifically designed for ribbon and multi-fiber cables up to 12 fibers, offering a heating time of just 4 seconds and approximately 500 cycles per full battery charge. This method minimizes manual effort and reduces the risk of microfractures compared to mechanical stripping.

Steps for Thermal Stripping:

- Prepare the cable: Cut the cable to the desired length and remove any outer tape wraps.
- Secure the fibers: Use removable fiber holders to keep the fibers aligned and prevent bending.
- Heat the coating: Activate the thermal stripper to soften the jacket and buffer.

- Remove the coating: Gently pull off the softened jacket and buffer, exposing the bare fibers for connectorization or splicing.

- Inspect fibers: Ensure no scratches or nicks are present on the glass cores.

Alternative Method: Mechanical Stripping

If a thermal stripper is unavailable, precision mechanical fiber strippers can be used. These tools have matched blades and fiber guides to strip the buffer without damaging the fiber. For multi-layer cables, stripping must be done progressively: first the outer jacket, then the aramid yarn, and finally the individual fiber buffers. Proper blade selection and maintenance are critical to avoid cutting the aramid yarn, which can compromise tensile strength.

Tips for Mechanical Stripping:

- Use a fiber gripper to hold the fiber securely without wrapping or clamping.
- Strip each layer to the required length individually.
- Keep blades sharp and clean to ensure smooth, clean cuts.

Summary

For speed and reliability, a thermal stripper like the HS-12 is the fastest method for 12-core optical cables, providing near-zero failure and minimal fiber damage. Mechanical strippers are a viable alternative but require careful progressive stripping and proper tool selection. Always inspect fibers after stripping to ensure they are ready for splicing or connectorization.

Article Content

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In this instructional video, Bob Licari, Test Equipment Product Manager, demonstrates a simple way to strip optical fiber.

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1.2 Corning Cable Systems ribbon interconnect cables are lightweight, flame retardant cables designed for high performance

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Fiber-optic cable

A fiber-optic cable, also known as an optical-fiber cable, is an assembly similar to an electrical cable but containing one or more

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First, strip the outer sheath of the optical fiber with optical fiber strippers; remove the stripped outer sheath of the

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