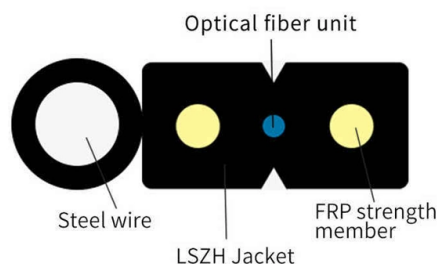


RIVO MULTITRADE OPTICAL SYSTEMS

Which type of fiber optic patch cord is easiest to make



Overview

The fiber optic patch cable consists of cabling and connectors that connect to optical equipment supporting high-speed networks.

Key Takeaways

Multimode fiber optic patch cords, especially OM1 or OM2 with simple connectors like SC or LC, are generally the easiest to make. Why Multimode is Easier

Multimode fibers have a larger core diameter (typically 50–62.5 μm) compared to single-mode fibers (around 9 μm), which makes them less sensitive to alignment errors during connector termination and polishing. This larger core allows light to propagate more easily, reducing the precision required when assembling connectors, making them ideal for beginners or small-scale production.

Connector Considerations

Patch cords with SC or LC connectors are easier to assemble than ST or FC connectors because they often use pre-polished or mechanical splice connectors, which minimize the need for complex polishing and epoxy handling. Pre-terminated connectors further simplify the process, allowing the fiber to be inserted and secured without advanced tools.

Practical Assembly Tips

- Cable preparation: Cut the fiber to the required length and strip the jacket carefully. Multimode fibers are more forgiving during stripping and cleaving.

- Connector termination: Use mechanical splice connectors or pre-polished connectors to avoid epoxy mixing and polishing errors .
- Testing: Even simple multimode patch cords should be tested for continuity and insertion loss, but the larger core reduces the likelihood of significant signal loss due to minor assembly mistakes .

Summary

For ease of assembly, choose multimode fiber (OM1 or OM2) with SC or LC connectors, ideally using pre-polished or mechanical splice connectors. This combination reduces the need for high-precision polishing, minimizes alignment challenges, and is more forgiving for beginners, making it the most practical choice for simple fiber optic patch cord production .

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