

Corrugated fiber optic cables and patch cords



Overview

When you build or upgrade a fiber network, the same four words pop up everywhere— fiber optic (bare fiber), pigtail, patch cord, optical cable.

Key Takeaways

Corrugated fiber optic cables provide robust protection for outdoor and industrial environments, while fiber optic patch cords connect devices within a network with high flexibility and low signal loss.

Corrugated Fiber Optic Cables

Corrugated fiber optic cables are designed with a metallic or plastic corrugated layer around the fiber core, providing mechanical protection, rodent resistance, and environmental durability. They are commonly used in aerial, underground, and industrial applications where the cable may be exposed to harsh conditions. These cables often include loose-tube or tight-buffered fibers, allowing for thermal expansion and contraction without stressing the fibers.

Corrugated designs enhance crush resistance and tensile strength, making them suitable for long-distance outdoor deployments and outside plant networks.

Fiber Optic Patch Cords

Fiber optic patch cords, also known as fiber jumpers, are short, flexible cables used to connect two fiber optic devices, such as switches, routers, or patch panels, enabling data transmission within a network. They are available in single-mode (OS1/OS2) and multimode (OM1-OM5) types, with options for bend-insensitive fibers for tight spaces or FTTH applications. Patch cords typically include Kevlar or aramid yarn as a strength member under the jacket, providing durability and resistance to handling stress.

Key Features of Patch Cords

Connector Types: SC, LC, ST, MTP/MPO, and E2000® connectors are commonly used to match different equipment requirements. **Flexibility:** Extremely flexible for connections between active network components or within racks. **Performance:** Designed for low insertion loss and low return loss, ensuring high-quality signal transmission.

Customization: Available in standard lengths or custom assemblies to suit specific network layouts.

Applications

Corrugated cables: Outdoor networks, aerial installations, industrial environments, and long-distance backbone connections. **Patch cords:** Data centers, LANs, storage-area networks, and FTTH connections, providing reliable inter-device connectivity.

Summary

In essence, corrugated fiber optic cables are built for durability and environmental protection, making them ideal for outdoor and industrial use, while fiber optic patch cords are flexible, high-performance connectors that bridge devices within a network. Selecting the right type depends on installation environment, fiber type, connector compatibility, and network performance requirements.

Article Content

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