

How to connect a pigtail cable without a fiber optic fusion splicer



Overview

How to Splice Fiber Without a Fusion Splicer | Step-by In this guide, we'll walk you through exactly how to splice fiber without a fusion splicer, Splicing.

Key Takeaways

You can connect a fiber optic pigtail without a fusion splicer using a mechanical splice or mechanical connector, which aligns the fibers and uses an index-matching gel to minimize signal loss. Understanding the Pigtail

A fiber optic pigtail is a short fiber cable with a factory-terminated connector on one end and a bare fiber on the other. The bare end is designed to be spliced to the incoming fiber in the field, while the connector end plugs into equipment or a patch panel. Unlike patch cords, pigtails allow for precise, low-loss connections in custom-length installations.

Mechanical Splicing Method

Mechanical splicing joins two fibers without heat by physically aligning them inside a precision connector or sleeve. An index-matching gel fills the gap between fiber ends to reduce signal loss and back reflection. This method is ideal for:

- Field terminations where fusion splicers are unavailable
- Emergency repairs

- Indoor short-to-medium distance installations
- Temporary connections for testing or troubleshooting

Tools and Materials Needed

- Mechanical splice connector or mechanical connectorized pigtail
- Fiber stripper
- Fiber cleaver (set to the correct cleave length: 9 mm for 900 μ m tight-buffered fiber, 13 mm for 250 μ m loose tube fiber)
- Alcohol wipes and lint-free cloths for cleaning
- Optional: index-matching gel if not pre-filled in the connector

Step-by-Step Procedure

- Prepare the Fiber: Strip the protective coating from the fiber to expose the bare glass. Clean the fiber thoroughly with alcohol wipes.
- Cleave the Fiber: Use a fiber cleaver to create a clean, flat endface at the correct length for your connector type.
- Insert into Connector: Place the prepared fiber into the mechanical splice connector, ensuring proper alignment with the pigtail fiber.
- Secure the Connection: Lock the connector or splice sleeve according to the manufacturer's instructions. The fibers should be held firmly in place.
- Test the Connection: Measure insertion loss and verify signal continuity. Typical mechanical splice loss ranges from 0.1 dB to 0.75 dB .

Advantages and Limitations

Advantages:

- Quick and easy to perform in the field
 - No expensive fusion splicing equipment required
 - Reusable in some cases for temporary setups
- ##### Limitations:
- Slightly higher insertion loss than fusion splicing
 - Less durable in outdoor or high-vibration environments
 - Not ideal for permanent backbone installations
- Mechanical splicing provides a reliable, low-loss connection for indoor or short-distance applications and is a practical solution when a fusion splicer is not available .

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It can be attached to optical fibers by fusion or mechanical splicing. Given the access to a fusion splicer, you can splice

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Once the pigtail fiber is prepared, the next step is splicing it to the main fiber optic cable. This step is typically carried

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It can be attached to optical fibers by fusion or mechanical splicing. Given the access to a fusion splicer, you can splice the pigtail

Joining Fiber Cable – What Are the Options?

This offers the best quality connection of all in-field options in that the fiber ends are lined up and welded together. No excess cable

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