

How to Choose Fiber Optic Patch Cords



Article Overview

Choosing the right fiber optic patch cord depends on fiber type, connector type, distance, bandwidth, and deployment environment.

Fiber Type

Single-mode (SMF, OS2): Features a narrow 9/125 μm core, allowing light to travel in a single path. Ideal for long-distance transmission (up to 120 km or more) with low attenuation and high bandwidth potential. Commonly used in campus networks, telecom backbones, and long-haul links . Multimode (MMF, OM1/OM2/OM3/OM4/OM5): Has a larger core supporting multiple light paths, suitable for short-distance applications like data centers and LANs. OM3, OM4, and OM5 support higher bandwidth and longer distances, with OM5 optimized for wideband applications . Color Coding: OS2 – yellow, OM1/OM2 – orange, OM3/OM4 – aqua, OM5 – lime green .

Connector Types

- LC: Small form factor, high-density, preferred in modern data centers.
- SC: Larger, easy to handle, common in FTTH and early 1G systems.
- FC/ST: Bayonet or twist-lock connectors, used in legacy or industrial systems.
- MPO/MTP: High-density parallel transmission for 100G/400G modules . Simplex vs Duplex: Simplex carries one fiber (one-way), duplex carries two fibers (two-way), with duplex being standard for Ethernet and PON links .

Key Selection Considerations

- Distance and Bandwidth: Match fiber type to required link distance and data rate....

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