

STICKLERS™

Application Note

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When You Need Perfectly Clean Fiber Splices and Connectors

Cleaning Fiber Optic Ports



1

Tools You Need

Every fiber optic connector should be cleaned every time it is mated, tested or reconfigured. Select the Stickler™ CleanStixx™ lint-free swabs which are engineered specifically for fiber optic connectors. The “S25” model is for SC, FC, ST and similar sizes (#MCC-S25); the smaller “S12” is for LC and MU configurations (#MCC-S12). Since wet-dry cleaning produces the best results, also select the Sticklers™ Fiber Splice and Connector Cleaner fluid (#MCC-POC03M). This is a nonflammable fluid that replaces old-style alcohol cleaners.



2

Select the Cleaning Stick

[Photo 1] Begin by removing one CleanStixx™ from the package. Be careful not to contaminate the tip by touching it. Re-seal the bag to avoid contaminating remaining sticks.

Dampen the Nib or Cleaning Tip

[Photo 2] Pick up the solvent, tilt it back slightly and slowly depress the dispenser to fill the “well” with solvent. Dip the CleanStixx™ briefly — damp is good, wet is bad. (A saturated tip cannot absorb contaminants).



3

Cleaning UPC Connectors (SC, ST, FC, LC, MU)

[Photo 3] Insert the CleanStixx™ into the alignment sleeve. Vary the pressure on the end-face, pushing back on the spring slightly. Rotate the CleanStixx™ five times in the same direction. Remove, discard and inspect.

Cleaning APC Connectors (ASC, AFC)

[Photo 4] Insert the CleanStixx™ into the alignment sleeve, gently varying the pressure while rotating it 1/4 turn back and forth five times, allowing the CleanStixx™ to conform to the end-face and clean the entire surface. Remove, discard and inspect.



4



Above: Fingerprint oils on a connector end-face.



Below: A properly cleaned connector end-face

Products

Fiber Optic Splice and Connector Cleaner

3 oz. / 85 g

MCC-POC03M

CleanWStixx™ Swabs

50 Stixx/bag

Varies by connector size

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