

“Peelability” of Superior Essex Optical Fiber Ribbon

The deployment of optical fiber ribbon has increased significantly as installers and end users have become more familiar with the technology as well as the cost savings associated with ribbon cable designs and accompanying mass fusion splicing. Ribbon cables designs are typically more efficient, and the ability to splice 12 or more fibers simultaneously is a significant labor savings. However, in most ribbon applications there are instances when individual fibers need to be accessed and must be removed from the ribbon matrix. Most technicians prefer a ribbon that allows easy access to individual fibers when needed.

To address this preference, the ribbons in Superior Essex cables are designed, manufactured and tested to ensure ease of removal of the ribbon matrix which allows the easiest access to individual fibers. This feature is commonly known as “peelability.” The standards for peelability of Superior Essex ribbon exceed the ribbon separability requirements of common industry standards.

Several methods are commonly used to start the peel, which can be done at a ribbon end or at a mid-span location. Two methods are described below. Tools are also commercially available to aid in starting the peel. It is highly recommended that scrap ribbon is used for training and practice prior to employing any method on installed ribbon. Proper safety wear, including eye protection, must also be worn. Once started, the ribbon matrix peels cleanly from each side of the ribbon leaving individual fibers for easy access.

Procedures

Pedal Method: Suitable for Ribbon End or Mid-Span

1. Grasp the ribbon between thumb and index finger of each hand, leaving about a ½ inch of ribbon between fingertips.



The ribbon matrix peels cleanly from both sides of the fiber.



Removing the matrix leaves individually accessible fibers.

2. Rotate both grasped ends of the ribbon in the same direction, but offset by approximately 180° (perhaps an easier way to visualize is to imagine you are using your hands to “pedal” the world’s smallest bicycle).

As soon as you feel the ribbon matrix release, stop rotating.



3. Grasp the exposed end of the matrix from one side of the ribbon and peel it away from the fibers for the desired length.



4. Repeat for the other side, peeling the desired amount to expose the individual fibers.

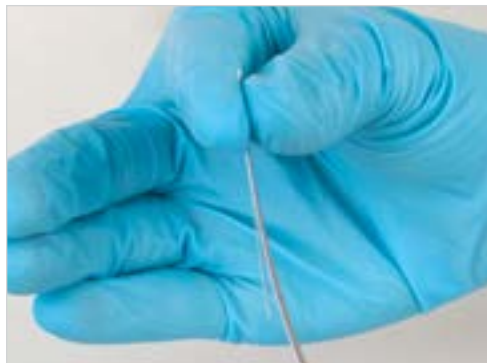


Break Method: Suitable for Ribbon End

1. Near the end of a ribbon, between thumb and index finger, fold the ribbon over on itself.



2. Press until the ribbon snaps. This will break the fiber, and the ribbon matrix on one side.



3. Pull the short end of the ribbon, on the side of the in-tact matrix, to start the peel.



4. Peel about 1 to 2 inches.



5. Between thumb and index finger, fold the ribbon over on itself toward the opposite side used in Step 1.



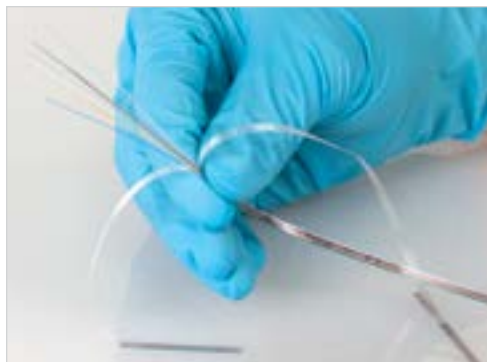
6. Press until the ribbon snaps.



7. Pull the short end to start the peel on the second side.



8. Peel the desired amount on each side to expose the individual fibers.



Superior Essex standard optical fiber ribbon provides the benefits of ribbon along with the easiest access to individual fibers when you need it. Superior Essex offers a complete line of communications products to meet the current and evolving needs of our customers. We strive to help our customers select the right product for the job to ensure successful installation and long term performance.