

Fastest way to strip copper wires from optical cables



Overview

Stripping copper TPS cable quickly is easy, all you need is a good set of pliers, some scrap cable and a bit of practice.

Key Takeaways

Using a mechanical wire stripping machine is the fastest and most efficient method for removing copper from optical cables, especially for large volumes or thick cables. Mechanical Stripping Machines

For high efficiency, cable stripping machines are the preferred option. These machines can automatically remove the insulation from copper wires without damaging the metal inside. They work by feeding the cable into a motorized blade system that precisely cuts and separates the insulation from the copper core. Machines vary in size and capacity:

- Handheld or tabletop strippers: Suitable for small volumes (under 100 lbs/month) and thinner wires. They are portable and easy to operate.
- Electric motorized or industrial machines: Ideal for large quantities (hundreds to thousands of pounds per month) and thick cables. They can handle cables with diameters over 30mm and multiple insulation layers, including armored or high-density wires. Advantages of using machines include improved work efficiency, reduced labor costs, and consistent stripping quality.

Manual Stripping Techniques

For smaller-scale operations or occasional use, manual methods can be effective:

- **Handheld wire strippers:** Adjustable strippers allow you to remove insulation cleanly without nicking the copper.
- **Scoring and peeling:** For thin optical cables, carefully scoring the insulation with a utility knife and peeling it off can work, but it is slower and requires precision.
- **Warming the wire:** Slightly heating the insulation (e.g., in sunlight or a low-temperature oven) can soften it, making manual stripping easier . Important safety tips:
 - Never burn insulation off; it releases toxic fumes and reduces copper quality .
 - Wear gloves and eye protection to prevent cuts or injuries.
- Sort copper from other metals like aluminum or tin-coated wires to maximize scrap value .

Summary

For maximum speed and efficiency, especially with large volumes or thick optical cables, a mechanical wire stripping machine is the best choice. For smaller amounts, handheld strippers combined with careful handling and warming techniques can be effective. Always prioritize safety and avoid burning insulation to protect both health and copper quality .

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