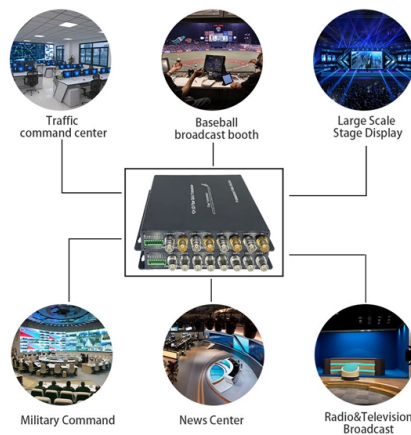


## Fiber optic direct connection to router port



### Overview

4. Locate the fiber optic port: Look on your router for the port designated for the fiber optic connection.

### Key Takeaways

A standard router cannot directly accept a fiber optic cable; an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) is typically required to convert the optical signal into an electrical signal for the router. Why Direct Connection Usually Isn't Possible

Fiber optic cables transmit data as light signals, which standard routers cannot interpret directly. The incoming optical signal must first be converted into an electrical signal that the router can process. This conversion is performed by an Optical Network Terminal (ONT), which is usually provided and installed by your Internet Service Provider (ISP) near the point where the fiber enters your home or office . The ONT receives the fiber input and outputs data through a standard Ethernet port, which can then be connected to the router's WAN port using a Cat6 or higher Ethernet cable .

Scenarios for Direct Fiber-to-Router Connection

Some modern routers are fiber-ready and include an SFP (Small Form-factor Pluggable) port or a dedicated fiber WAN port. In these cases, the router itself can accept a fiber optic module, allowing direct connection without a separate ONT . However, these routers are less common in residential setups, and most home networks still rely on an ONT for signal conversion.

#### Considerations and Limitations

- **Device compatibility:** Only routers with SFP or fiber-specific WAN ports can connect directly to fiber.
- **Network management:** Connecting directly to an ONT without a router limits the number of devices and eliminates features like Wi-Fi, firewall protection, and Quality of Service (QoS) settings .
- **ISP requirements:** Some ISPs may restrict direct connections to ensure proper service configuration and network security.

#### Recommended Setup

For most home users, the recommended setup is:

- **Fiber cable → ONT:** The fiber line terminates at the ONT, which converts the optical signal.
- **ONT → Router:** Use a high-quality Ethernet cable (Cat6 or Cat6a) to connect the ONT to the router's WAN port.
- **Router → Devices:** The router distributes the internet connection via Wi-Fi or Ethernet to multiple devices . This setup ensures full compatibility, optimal speeds, and access to network management features.

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Technically you don't need to use an ONT if your router supports fiber, but as everyone else has said the typical setup is the ISP

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