

What color should be used for optical cable markings



Overview

Fiber Optic Color Code: The Ultimate TIA-598-C Guide Since the earliest days of fiber optics, multimode cables have typically been color-coded orange, black.

Key Takeaways

Optical cables should be marked using standardized colors defined by the TIA-598-C/D standard, with specific colors for outer jackets, individual fibers, and connectors.

The outer jacket of a fiber optic cable indicates the fiber type and mode. Common standard colors include:

- Yellow: Single-mode fiber (OS1/OS2)
 - Orange: Multimode fiber (OM1/OM2)
 - Aqua: Multimode fiber (OM3/OM4)
 - Emerald Green: OM5 wideband multimode fiber
- These colors provide a quick visual reference for technicians to identify the cable type during installation and maintenance.

Individual Fiber Colors

Inside multi-fiber cables, each fiber is color-coded to allow easy identification. The 12-color sequence for individual fibers is:

- Blue
 - Orange
 - Green
 - Brown
 - Slate (Gray)
 - White
 - Red
 - Black
 - Yellow
 - Violet
 - Rose (Pink)
 - Aqua (Light Blue) For cables with more than 12 fibers, the sequence repeats in bundles, often with striped markings to distinguish repeated sets .
- Connector and Boot Colors

Connectors also use color coding to indicate polish type and fiber mode:

- Blue: UPC (Ultra Physical Contact) single-mode
- Green: APC (Angled Physical Contact) single-mode
- Beige: Multimode (OM1/OM2)
- Aqua: Multimode (OM3/OM4) This ensures that connectors are easily matched to the correct fiber type and reduces the risk of misconnection .

Benefits of Standardized Color Coding

- Error Reduction: Prevents mis-splicing and cross-connections in high-density cables
- Operational Safety: Helps technicians quickly distinguish fibers and components
- Global Consistency: The same color standards are recognized worldwide, facilitating international projects By following these standardized colors for jackets, fibers, and connectors, optical cables can be clearly marked, ensuring efficient installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting.

Article Content

Color Arrangement Rules For Optical Fiber

The TIA/EIA-598-C standard is the most widely followed guideline for color coding in optical fiber cables, both for loose

ANSI/TIA-598-C Color Code and Cable Markings for Fiber Optic Cabling

Use jacket color as a first-pass visual sanity check, but always verify actual fiber type and specifications against cable

Fiber Optic Color Codes for Fibers, Tubes and Connectors

Fiber color codes are the standardized color sequences used to identify optical fibers, buffer tubes, cable jackets, and

Color Arrangement Rules For Optical Fiber

For large fiber counts, tubes or fibers may also have additional markings, such as stripes or rings, to avoid confusion.

Marking Guide Wire and Cable

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) has developed this guide for use by code and inspection authorities, electric utilities, contractors,

Fiber Optic Color Code: The Ultimate TIA-598-C Guide (2026)

Master the TIA-598-C fiber optic color code standard. Read our complete guide and use our free interactive calculator to easily

Fiber Optic Color Code: Complete Guide 2026

The TIA/EIA-598-C standard defines the color-coding scheme for fiber optic cables used in telecommunications and networking

What Do All The Colors Mean? Fiber Optic Color Code Explained

The colors of fiber optic cables serve as a standardized method for identifying the type of fiber and/or the function of

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