

## Separation and Sheath Removal of 2- Fiber Zipcord Cable

### 1. General

**1.1** This procedure describes how to separate the subunits and remove the sheaths of 2-fiber Zipcord cables. For proper termination, the ends of the cable must be separated into individual subunits for splicing or connectorization.

**1.2** Corning Cable Systems 2-fiber Zipcord is comprised of two subunits fused together to make a cable that is both easy to handle and install. This procedure applies to both riser-rated and plenum-rated Zipcord cables (Figure 1).

**1.3** This issue includes updated text.

### 2. Precautions

#### 2.1 Safety Precautions

**! WARNING:** The wearing of **safety glasses** to protect your eyes from accidental injury is strongly recommended when handling chemicals and cutting fiber. Pieces of glass fiber are very sharp and can damage the cornea of the eye easily.

The wearing of **safety gloves** to protect your hands from accidental injury when using sharp-bladed tools is strongly recommended. Use extreme care when the tool is open and its blades are exposed. Dispose of used blades properly.

#### 2.2 Cable Handling Precautions

**! CAUTION:** Fiber optic cables are sensitive to excessive pulling, bending and crushing forces. Care should be used when separating and handling Zipcord units. Excessive bending will cause kinking which may damage the fibers inside.

Plenum rated sheath: fluoride co-polymer  
Riser rated sheath : PVC

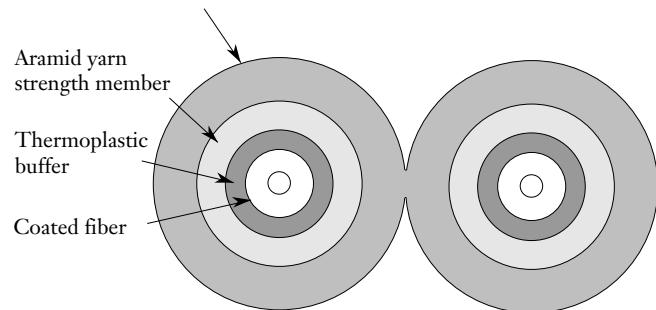


Figure 1

#### 2.3 Chemical Precautions



#### ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL

**DANGER:** Flammable. Flashpoint 50° F. Can cause irritation to eyes on contact. In case of eye contact, flush eyes with water for at least 15 minutes. Inhalation fumes may induce mild narcosis. In case of ingestion, consult a physician.

### 3. Tools and Materials

**3.1** This procedure requires the following tools and materials:

- Tape measure
- Permanent marking pen
- Utility knife with a straight blade or a sharp cable knife
- Safety gloves
- Safety glasses
- Work surface (this surface *will* receive knife damage)
- Ideal® coaxial cable cutter (Ideal p/n 45-163; Corning Cable Systems p/n 100107-01)
- Emery cloth (optional)
- Scissors
- 200 µm No-Nik® tool (p/n 3205007-01)
- Alcohol wipes or lint free tissues and isopropyl alcohol

## 4. Separating the Zipcord Subunits

**4.1** Determine the separation lengths required for both ends of the Zipcord cable in your installation. Mark these distances on the cable with a permanent marker.

**4.2** Begin the separation by making a starter cut in the Zipcord cable:

- Place the cable on a board or work surface which is suitable for use as a cutting board.
- Begin a starter cut 15 cm (6 in) from the end of the Zipcord cable by carefully inserting the knife blade in the web between the two cable subunits.
- Cut the web to the end of the cable (Figure 2).

*This starter cut will provide a controlled tear through the web and provide two intact units*

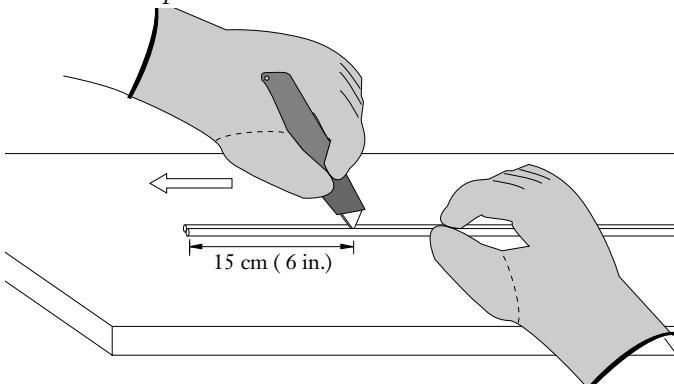


Figure 2

**4.3** To separate the subunits:

- Grasp both cable subunits, one in each hand. Working along the long axis of the cable, slowly pull one subunit towards you, the other away from you, for a maximum of 15 cm (6 in.) (Figure 3).

**! CAUTION:** Do not try to separate the Zipcord units by pulling the subunits away from each other in a "wishbone" fashion (see below). Failure to pull along the web may result in tearing of the subunit sheaths and kinking of the fiber.

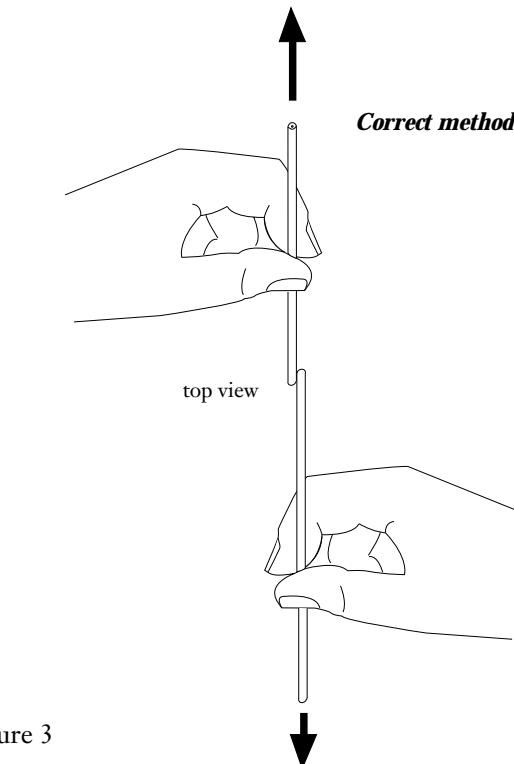
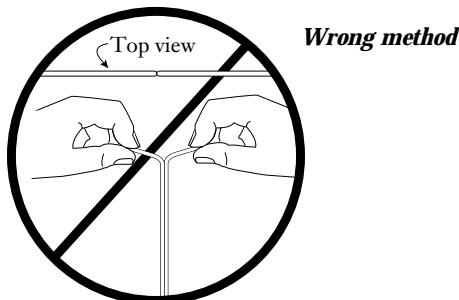


Figure 3

**! CAUTION:** Separating the subunits too quickly or in long increments may result in tearing of the subunit jackets.

- Move your hands close to the tear point and slowly separate an additional 15 cm (6 in) of cable. Continue pulling in 15 cm (6 in) increments until you reach the desired separation length.
- If required, repeat steps a) and b) on the other end of the cable.

## 5. Zipcord Subunit Sheath Removal

**Note:** The next step describes how to use a coaxial cable cutter to ring cut the outer sheath of the Zipcord subunits. Before using the cutter, make sure that it is properly adjusted. Use a small slotted screwdriver to adjust one of the blades on the side of the cutter so that it seats against the lower jaw but does not force the jaw open (Figure 4). Leave the blades on the front and other side of the tool fully retracted.

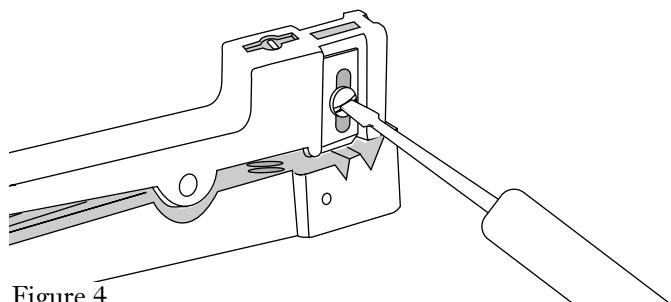


Figure 4

### 5.1 To ring cut a Zipcord subunit sheath:

- Measure and mark the unit to the required strip length.
- Open the tool by squeezing its handles together and place the stripper's blade on the subunit at the desired strip length point.
- Hold the subunit with one hand to prevent it from twisting.
- Make enough turns with the cutter to cut the sheath (Figure 5). *Two turns may be adequate with a sharp blade.*

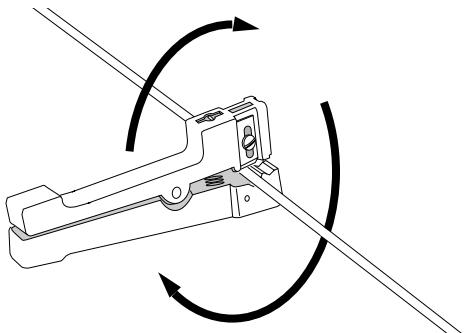


Figure 5

- Remove the cutter from the subunit.
- Slide the severed section of sheath off the cable subunit.

### 5.2 Determine the length of the aramid yarn strength member required for the connectors or other termination method you are using, if applicable. Use scissors to carefully trim the yarn to the required length.

## 6. Stripping the Buffered Fiber

**Note:** This procedure describes how to strip buffered fibers with a 200  $\mu\text{m}$  No-Nik tool. The 200  $\mu\text{m}$  tool (Corning Cable Systems part number 3205007-01) is identified by its red handles and the size marking on the blade housing.

For additional information about the No-Nik tool, refer to SRP-004-036, Stripping Fiber Coating with a 200  $\mu\text{m}$  No-Nik® Tool.

### 6.1 Measure and mark the location of the required stripped buffer length.

### 6.2 Grasp the buffered fiber between the thumb and forefinger of your left hand.

If the fiber slides too easily through your fingers, hold the buffered fiber with a piece of emery cloth.

### 6.3 To strip a fiber:

- Hold the No-Nik tool in your right hand so that the directional arrow is visible and pointing to the right. *(If you are left-handed, make sure that the arrow on the tool points in the direction of the strip.)*
- Open the tool with its handles. Note the actual location of the blades in the blade housing (Figure 6).

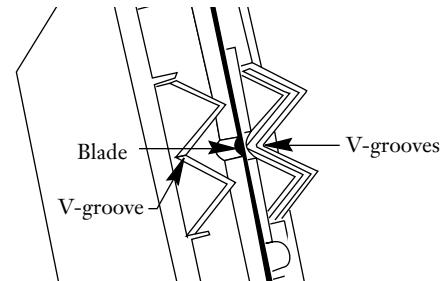


Figure 6

- Place the fiber in the V-grooves in the blade housing so that no more than 2 mm (0.08 in.) of buffered fiber extends beyond the housing (Figure 7). This positioning will provide a total strip length of 6 mm (0.25 in.).

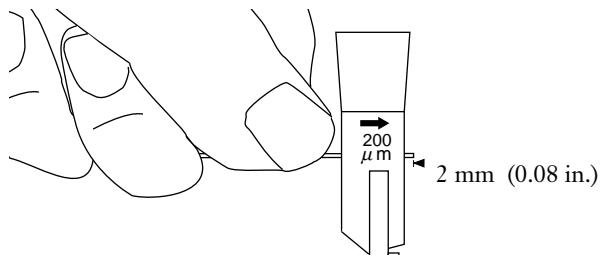


Figure 7

- Clamp completely down on the fiber and make the cut in the buffer by squeezing the No-Nik tool handles together. Pause briefly to allow the buffer to pull away from the fiber.
- Place your right thumb along the left side of the tool. Push the No-Nik tool along the fiber axis in a smooth, straight stroke to slide the severed piece of buffer off of the fiber (Figure 8).

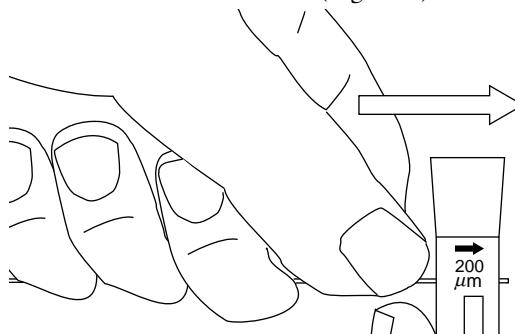


Figure 8

**6.4** To strip lengths of fiber greater than 6 mm, repeat the steps in 6.3, removing additional 6 mm lengths until the desired length of glass fiber has been exposed.

**6.5** Use an alcohol wipe or lint-free tissue soaked in alcohol to clean the fiber. Avoid handling the cleaned area. The fiber is now ready for connectorization or splicing.

*Special Note:*  
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