

Cleaning Ceramic Ferrules

The Overlooked Need For Cleaning

There are multiple soil points on a ceramic ferrule. While cleaning of the end face is well documented (see: "How to Clean Fiber Optics"), the need for cleaning the barrel of ceramic ferrule has been largely overlooked. There was simply no effective means to reach contaminants in this area of the connection. As in using IPA wipers to clean v-grooves in fusion splicers, technicians who tried to clean ceramic ferrules risked over-saturation and were often unable to reach contaminants because of tight tolerances. Compressed gas dusters could be used, but some brands offered no assurance that the duster would not create more contamination by expelling liquid propellants.

The Better Way

Dry cleaning the barrel of a ceramic ferrule with the Chemtronics Ultrajet All-Way compressed gas duster is a very effective means of addressing this problem. However, there are instances where tactile cleaning with a swab is The Better Way. Using products from both the Chemtronics and Coventry product lines, ITW Chemtronics has developed a new cleaning process that addresses this need:

Lightly moisten one side of the Coventry 38540 in Chemtronics Electro-Wash PX Fiber Optic Cleaner. Rotate the "wet" side of the swab on the internal ceramic ferrule 2-3 times. Reverse the swab and rotate the "dry" side of the swab on the internal ceramic ferrule 2-3 times.

Tests conducted on a digital OTDR resulted in 3db gain on certain soiled ferrules using this system.



Availability

Coventry™ V-Groove and Ferrule Cleaning Swab

38540 500 swabs per bag

Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner

ES810 5 oz. aerosol

Ultrajet® All-Way Duster

ES1620 8 oz. aerosol

TECHNICAL & APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

ITW Chemtronics® provides a technical hotline to answer your technical and application related questions. The toll-free number is: **1-800-TECH-401 (1-800-832-4401)**.

NOTE: This information is believed to be accurate. It is intended for professional end users having the skills to evaluate and use the data properly. ITW CHEMTRONICS® does not guarantee the accuracy of the data and assumes no liability in connection with damages incurred while using it.

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