

SUMITOMO RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE

SRP SP-F02-045

FreeForm Ribbon Matrix Removal Procedure

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1.0 General

Optical fiber pliable ribbons contain multiple, individually colored, 250µm optical fibers arranged in a flat linear matrix encapsulated by a UV cured polymer material. The ribbon structure is ideal for high fiber count cables, quick fiber identification, and mass splicing.

Sometimes, it is necessary to access individual fibers within a ribbon for termination purposes. This document contains procedures for accessing individual fibers by removing the matrix encapsulate at the end of a 12 fiber ribbon.

2.0 Safety Precautions

The use of safety eyeglasses is strongly recommended when handling optical fibers and ribbons. Ensure adequate ventilation when using isopropyl alcohol.

3.0 Tools Required

The following tools and materials are required to complete this procedure.

1. Clean Surface Board (MA-2 Board)
2. Double Sided Adhesive Tape (MA-2 Tape)
3. Isopropyl Alcohol

4.0 Ribbon Matrix Removal Procedure

4.1 Remove double sided tape from protective layer and place on top of the surface board. Overlap the tape on one end approximately 1/2". Remove second protective layer on double sided tape exposing the adhesive. (Fig. 1)



Figure 1

4.2 Place each section of ribbon to the overlap side of the adhesive tape. This will ensure that the tape will not lift off of the board when removing the matrix coating. Run finger down the ribbon several times to ensure adhesion to the tape (Fig. 2).

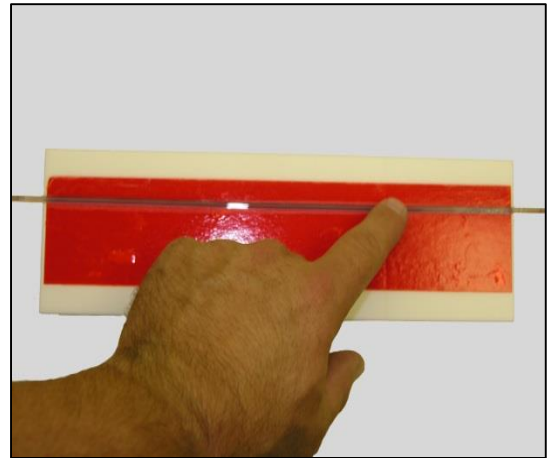


Figure 2

4.3 Carefully lift the ribbon at a 30° angle from the end applying a little back tension until the matrix has pulled from the fibers. Continue to slowly lift the fibers away from the tape section to remove the length of matrix from that side of the ribbon.(Fig.3)



Figure 3

4.4 Flip the ribbon and repeat steps to remove matrix from the other side for the same region. To access longer lengths of ribbon, simply replace the ribbon back on a section of clean tape to initiate another peel. The amount of times will depend on the length of fiber needed. Once all fibers are clean from pieces of matrix they are ready for use. (Fig. 4).

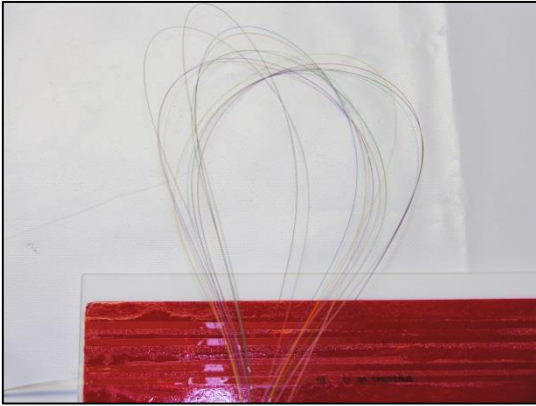


Figure 4