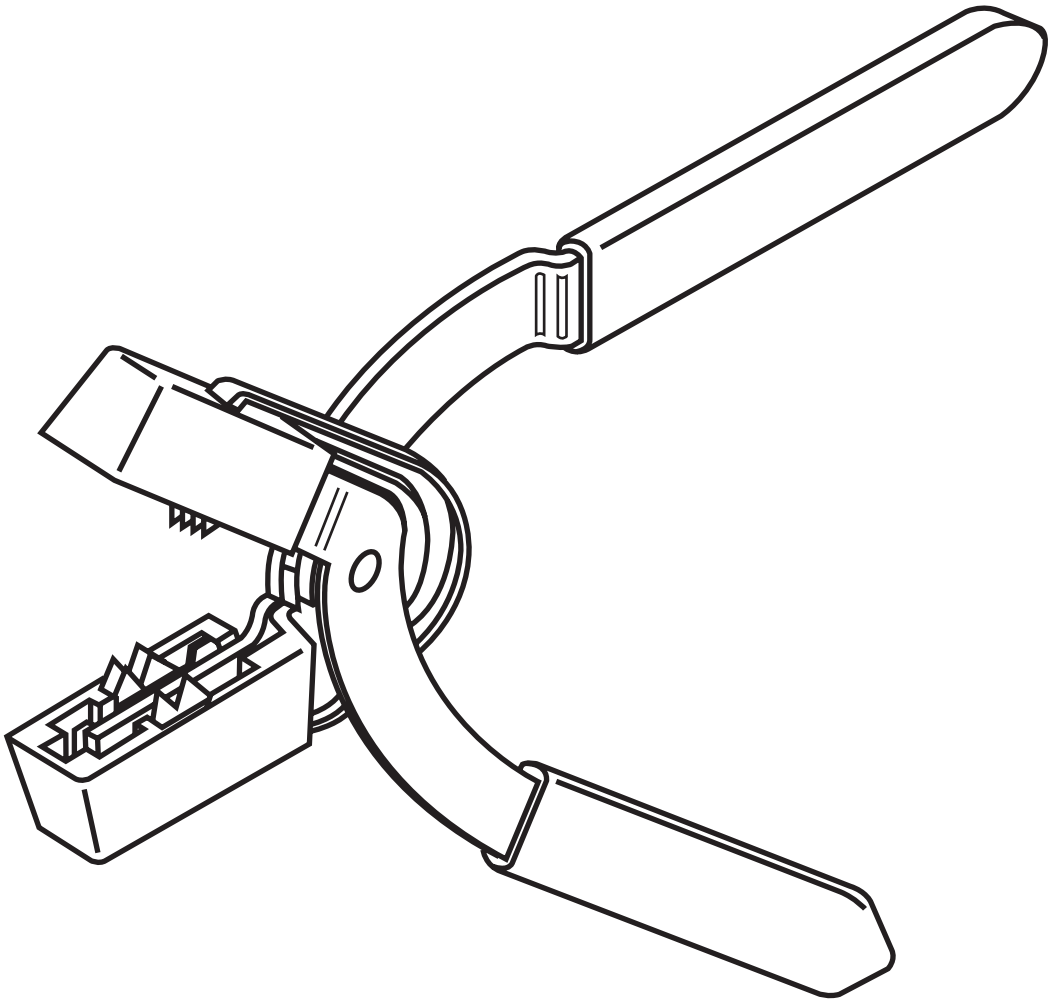
BLACK BOX®
NETWORK SERVICES

MARCH 1996
FT500
FT502

Fiber Stripping Kit 125
Fiber Stripping Kit 140



CUSTOMER SUPPORT INFORMATION

Order **toll-free** in the U.S. 24 hours, 7 A.M. Monday to midnight Friday: **877-877-BBOX**
FREE technical support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: Call **724-746-5500** or fax **724-746-0746**
Mail order: **Black Box Corporation**, 1000 Park Drive, Lawrence, PA 15055-1018
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1. Introduction

1.1 Description

If you're going to strip 50- or 62.5-micron core cable, you should have the Fiber Stripping Kit 125 (FT500).

If you're going to strip 100-micron core cable, use the Fiber Stripping Kit (FT502).

1.2 Package Contents

Your kit should include:

(1) Insulation stripper

(1) Heavy-duty shears

(1) Fiberoptic cable stripper

(1) Vinyl pouch to hold the tools

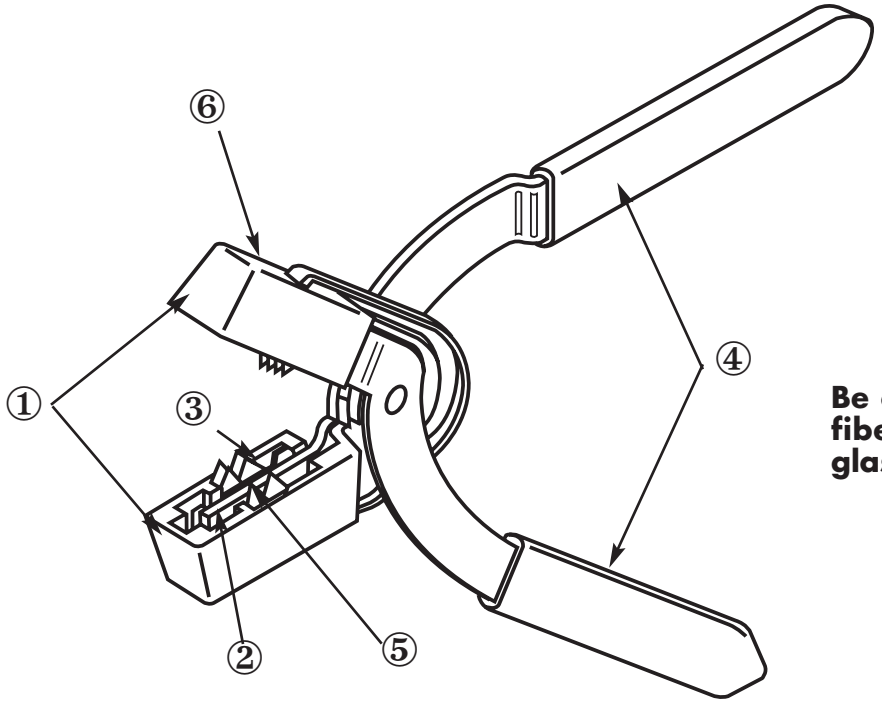
(1) User's manual

2. Using the Stripper

Before using the Fiberoptic Stripper, use the Insulation Stripper to carefully remove the outside jacket material. Once that's removed, trim the cable's Kevlar® fibers with the shears. The fibers should be cut to the length that your connector needs—usually about 1/4 inch.

The precision-made Fiberoptic Stripper removes buffers from optical fiber, to make it ready for fiberoptic connectors. Once you've had some practice, the tool will strip most optical fiber with absolute reliability. However, how well it works depends on your knowing how to use it. Read these instructions thoroughly before stripping any fibers.

As you can see in the figure, the Fiberoptic Stripper has plastic heads, a plastic head-centering device, cushion-grip handles, cutting blades, back-up blades, and a cutting-blade diameter marking and indicating arrow.

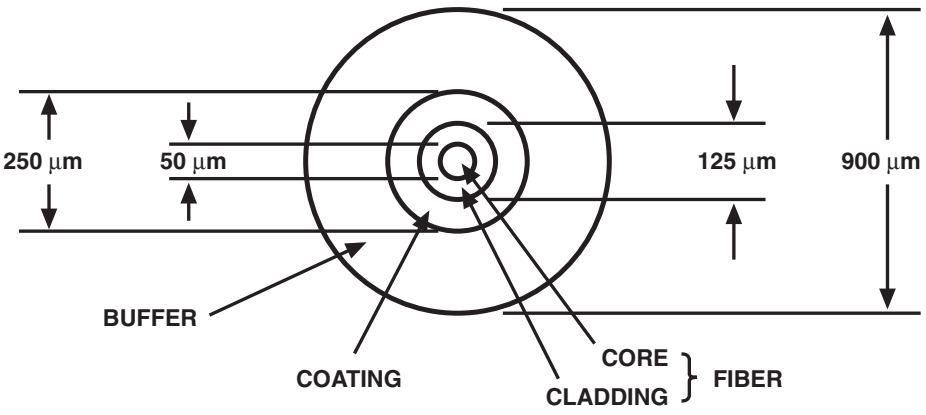


CAUTION

Be careful when handling fiber. Always use safety glasses.

1. **Plastic Heads** make contact with the fiber buffer, centering and supporting the fiber on both sides of the cutting blades.
2. **Head-Centering Device** centers the fiber to allow precise buffer scoring and removal.
3. **Back-Up Blades** support the cutting blades in a sandwich. They nest positively and lock up when the tool is closed, to keep the fiber centered perfectly.
4. **Handles** are cushioned for easy gripping.
5. **Cutting blades**, made from the finest razor-blade steel, score the buffer completely around the fiber. (Note that cutting blades should only score the buffer, and not cut completely through it, exposing the fiber.)
6. **Cutting-Blade Diameter Marking and Indicating Arrow:** The diameter of the cutting blade is clearly marked on the plastic head. The arrow indicates the direction in which pressure should be applied when stripping.

How the fiber is made, and how easy it is to strip, will vary from fiber to fiber. The figure shows how a typical tight-buffer fiber is constructed.



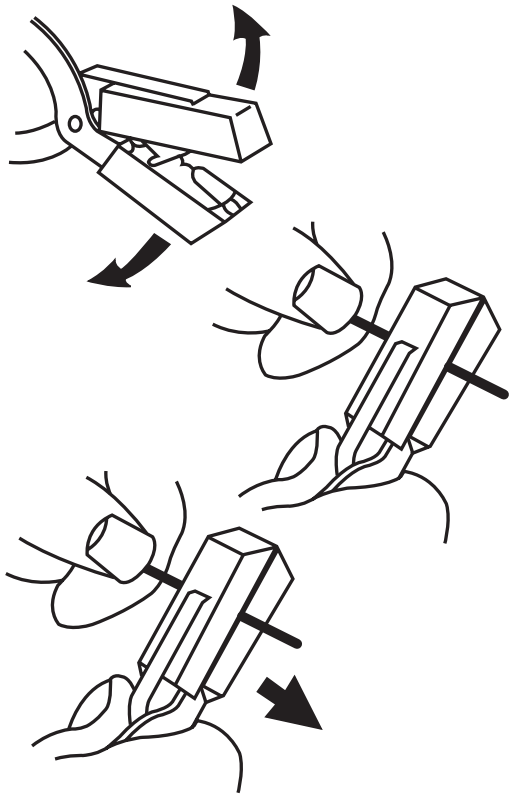
While the buffer on some fibers might be loose and easy to remove, other fibers might have a much tighter buffer, allowing only small lengths of buffer to be removed at a time. Expect to make a few mistakes as you learn; with practice, the whole process will become much easier.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Make sure any metal and Kevlar shielding is removed from the buffer *before* you use the Fiberoptic Stripper. The cutting blades might not be able to cut through them properly.

If the fiber is not centered well enough in the buffer, or the insulation itself has become distorted, it might not be possible to strip the fiber properly. The Fiberoptic Stripper has been carefully designed, manufactured, and inspected, but it cannot compensate for some cable defects.

1. Open the tool and carefully pull each plastic head back to be sure that the cutting area is free of any foreign material. You should perform this inspection often while the tool is in use.
2. Hold the tool with the marking on the tool head facing up. The arrow on the tool head should face the end of the fiber.
3. Open the tool with one hand *only*.
4. Hold the buffered fiber very tightly between thumb and forefinger. Place the tool on the fiber, making sure to insert the fiber through the “vees” in the plastic heads. The tool should be perpendicular to the fiber, and the fiber should extend through the other side of the tool about a quarter of an inch. (See the illustration on the next page.)



NOTE

If the buffer is very tight on the fiber, you can get a better grip by holding a small piece of lapping film—about half an inch wide and an inch long—around the buffer.

5. Gently squeeze the handles. *Don't squeeze too hard!* Very little pressure is required. (It will take some practice to be able to feel exactly how much pressure is necessary.)

   Note that the plastic heads do *not* completely close. That's the way the Fiberoptic Stripper is designed; *don't* try to squeeze hard enough to make the heads close all the way. Too much squeezing could bend the handles and ruin the tool.

6. Hold the buffered fiber tightly, and pull the tool along the fiber toward the end.

A few tips:

- Remember that it takes practice to learn how to strip fibers correctly every time. Don't be discouraged by a few mistakes at the beginning.
- Make sure you hold the fiber tightly.
- Do not bend the fiber cable—the glass fiber will break easily.
- Pull the tool as straight as possible toward the end of the fiber.
- Do not try to remove too much buffer at a time. How much you can remove depends on how easily it strips; if it strips easily, you can remove more—up to about 3/4 inch.

- Clean the tool after each strip by pulling back on each plastic head, then letting the head snap back into position.
- If the fiber breaks while you're stripping it, check for debris in the plastic head. Any debris there could keep the tool from working properly.
- When you're through using the Stripper, clean the blade area thoroughly. Make sure you remove any debris that might have accumulated there.

TRADEMARKS USED IN THIS MANUAL

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