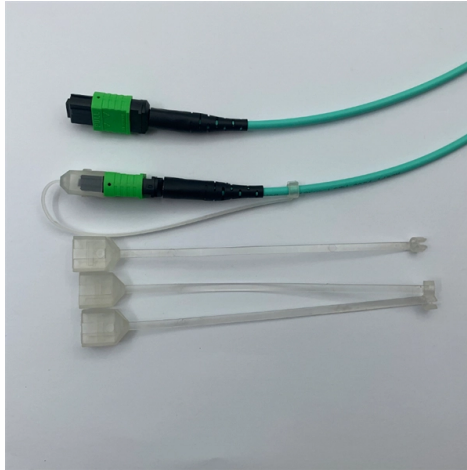


What are the tools for splicing fiber optic cables and what are their prices



Overview

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Key Takeaways

Fiber optic splicing requires specialized tools such as fusion splicers, mechanical splices, cleavers, strippers, and inspection equipment, with prices ranging from a few hundred to several thousand dollars depending on the tool and precision. Key Splicing Tools



1. **Fusion Splicer** A fusion splicer aligns two fiber ends and fuses them using an electric arc, creating a permanent, low-loss connection. Core-alignment models offer higher precision than cladding-alignment versions. Fusion splicers are essential for trunk builds, repairs, and high-capacity installations. Typical losses are around 0.01–0.03 dB. Prices for professional fusion splicers start at approximately \$2,000–\$10,000, depending on features like touchscreen controls, automatic heating, and splice record storage .

2. **Mechanical Splice Kit** Mechanical splicing uses a device to hold fiber ends in precise alignment with an index-matching gel. It is faster and less expensive than fusion splicing but has slightly higher loss (0.1–0.3 dB). Mechanical splicing kits can cost \$100–\$500, making them suitable for temporary or quick repairs .

3. **Fiber Cleaver** A cleaver produces a perfectly flat, perpendicular end face, critical for low-loss splicing. High-quality cleavers have diamond blades with lifespans exceeding 48,000 cleaves. Prices range from \$200–\$1,000 depending on precision and durability .

4. **Fiber Strippers** Strippers remove protective coatings without damaging the glass core. Adjustable, ergonomic models are available for different fiber diameters (250µm, 900µm, 2mm, 3mm). Prices typically range from \$20–\$150 .

5. **Kevlar Shears** Kevlar yarn in fiber cables requires specialized shears with hardened steel blades to cut cleanly. These cost around \$30–\$100 .

6. **Cleaning and Inspection Tools** Proper cleaning prevents signal loss. Tools include lint-free wipes, cleaning fluid, cassette cleaners, and inspection scopes. Prices vary: basic cleaning kits start at \$50, while advanced inspection microscopes can cost \$500–\$2,000 .

7. **Visual Fault Locator (VFL)** A VFL emits a visible red laser to detect breaks, bends, or bad splices. Field models cost \$100–\$400 .

8. **Splice Sleeves and Sleeve Heater** After fusion splicing, splice sleeves protect the joint. Sleeve heaters cost \$200–\$600, and sleeves themselves are inexpensive consumables, typically \$0.50–\$2 per sleeve .

Summary of Price Ranges	
Tool	Price Range (USD)
Fusion Splicer	\$2,000–\$10,000
Mechanical Splice Kit	\$100–\$500
Fiber Cleaver	\$200–\$1,000
Fiber Strippers	\$20–\$150
Kevlar Shears	\$30–\$100
Cleaning & Inspection Kit	\$50–\$2,000
Visual Fault Locator	\$100–\$400
Splice Sleeves & Heater	\$0.50–\$600

Investing in high-quality tools ensures low-loss, reliable splices and reduces the risk of fiber damage or signal degradation. Fusion splicing is preferred for permanent, high-performance connections, while mechanical splicing is suitable for temporary or quick fixes .

Article Content

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Complete list of tools and materials you need for fiber optic field work. All standards based on fusion splicing only — the industry

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Fiber Optic Splicing Equipment

Fiber Instrument Sales has a wide variety of fiber optic splicing equipment such as fusion splicers from AFL, Sumitomo, FITELE, and

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Selecting the right fiber optic splicing tools and kits can be challenging for many fibre optic engineers and installers.

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