

Multi-mode Visual Fiber Optic Tracer

Model FOTRACER
Document No. FOTRACER4397



General Description

The FOTRACER is a visible fiber optic tracing and troubleshooting tool for multi-mode optical fiber terminated in ST connectors. It uses a bright incandescent source to inject enough light into the fiber to allow visual tracing of fibers, finding splices, and performing continuity checks.

Assembly

Remove the flashlight from the plastic packaging, attach the carrying strap to the light and insert the battery. Push the circular end of the FOTRACER adapter onto the end of the flashlight and it is ready for use. See drawings below for assembly and use details.

Power On/Off

To turn the FOTRACER on, unscrew the connector adapter until the unit turns on. The light will be visible through the adapter, providing an indication that the unit is on. Screw it back in to turn the unit off.

Battery and Bulb Replacement

FOTRACER uses one AAA battery. To replace the battery, unscrew the base (opposite the connector adapter) and remove the battery. Replace with a fresh battery. Alkaline batteries are preferred for longer life.

A spare bulb is included in the base of the FOTRACER. Unscrew the base, gently pull the spring out, and tip the base over to allow the spare bulb to fall out. Replace the base. Completely unscrew the connector adapter and the bulb will be visible. Pull it straight out and replace with the spare bulb. Screw the connector adapter back on and the unit is ready to use.

Connecting Cables to FOTRACER

To connect a cable to the FOTRACER, insert the ST connector fully into the receptacle in the connector adapter. While it is designed for the ST connector, FC and SC connectors will fit also, but will not be held as securely.

Bare Fiber Attachment

Use the FOTRACER with bare fibers with the plastic adapter supplied with the unit. It will probably be necessary to cleave the fiber to get adequate light coupled into the fiber.

Tracing Fibers

To trace fibers using FOTRACER connect the fiber to be traced to the output connector of the unit. The white light output will be visible to the eye at the other end of the fiber. This allows finding particular fibers in multifiber cables easily for proper connection during installation. The low power output of the FOTRACER means there is no danger to the eye.

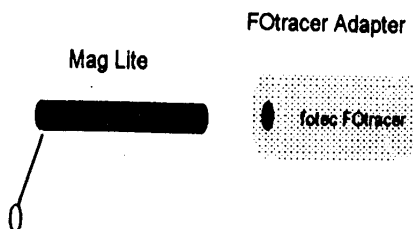
Continuity Testing

To test for continuity, attach the fiber to be tested to FOTRACER, and if light is visible at the far end, the fiber is not damaged. New rolls of FO cable can be checked for continuity before installation.

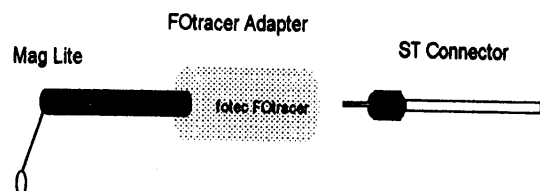
Finding Splices and Splice Optimization

Optical splices especially the mechanical type, will often be visible when light from FOTRACER is being transmitted through the fiber. If the splice is close to the connector, such as when a pigtail is spliced to a cable, one has enough light to allow optimizing the splice. Merely adjust the positioning and/or rotation of the splices until the light from the splice is minimized, indicating maximum transmission or minimum loss.

FOTRACER Assembly



FOTRACER Use



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