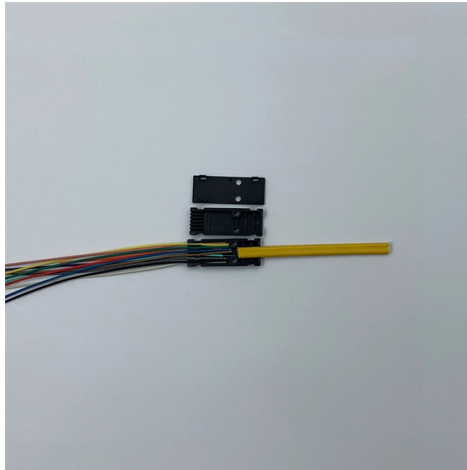


Is the FC fiber optic interface obsolete



Overview

When the technology was originally devised, it ran over optical fiber cables only and, as such, was called "Fiber Channel". Later, the ability to run over copper cabling was added to the specification. In order to avoid confusion and to create a unique name, the industry decided to change the spelling and use the fibre for the name of the standard.

Key Takeaways

The FC fiber optic interface is largely considered obsolete in modern networks, though it remains in use in some legacy and specialized applications. Current Status of FC Connectors

FC (Ferrule Connector) connectors were designed for high-vibration environments and are commonly used with single-mode and polarization-maintaining fibers. They feature a threaded body that ensures secure connections and precise alignment, which is particularly important for polarization-maintaining fibers and analog signal applications. Despite these advantages, FC connectors have been largely replaced by SC and LC connectors in most modern data centers and enterprise networks due to their smaller size, easier handling, and compatibility with high-density SFP modules.

Where FC Connectors Are Still Used

While mostly obsolete, FC connectors are occasionally found in:



- Older telecom networks where dust-proof and secure screw-thread coupling is valued .
- Measurement equipment and single-mode lasers that require precise alignment and low back-reflection .
- Specialized analog or RF-over-fiber systems, such as CATV, where APC-polished FC connectors minimize back-reflection .

Modern Alternatives

- SC connectors: Square-shaped, push-pull mechanism, widely used in FTTH deployments and enterprise networks .
- LC connectors: Miniaturized version of SC, ideal for high-density applications in data centers .
- UPC and APC polish types: Provide improved return loss and lower insertion loss, making them preferable for digital and analog signals .

Conclusion

Although FC connectors are not completely obsolete, their use is now limited to legacy systems, specialized equipment, and certain telecom applications. For most modern deployments, SC and LC connectors dominate due to their compact size, ease of use, and compatibility with current high-speed network equipment .

Organizations planning new installations or upgrades typically favor these newer connector types.

Article Content

Fibre Channel

OverviewEtymologyHistoryCharacteristicsTopologiesLayersPortsMedia and modules

When the technology was originally devised, it ran over optical fiber cables only and, as such, was called "Fiber Channel". Later, the ability to run over copper cabling was added to the specification. In order to avoid confusion and to create a unique name, the industry decided to change the spelling and use the British English fibre for the name of the standard.

What is SC, ST, FC, LC fiber connectors?

FC is an older fiber optic connector currently being phased out of industry standards. While single mode cables still use FC, it is

Fiber Connector Types: A Comprehensive Guide 2025

Understanding the different fiber connector types is essential for planning and maintaining efficient optical networks. In

FC Connector | Precision Fiber Optic with ACA Technology

The FC connector by DIAMOND SA is a robust, high-precision fiber optic solution with threaded coupling and ACA technology for low

Detailed Explanation of FC, ST, SC, and LC Fiber-Optic Interfaces

What are the classifications of optical fiber patch Cables? 4.1 Accableing to different optical fiber connectors, common

Fibre Channel Connectivity

Fibre Channel standards define the links and protocols that form storage area networks (SANs). The Fibre Channel protocol runs on

Fiber Connector Types • ST, FC, SC, LC, & MTP/MPO • JM Test

Often times when installing a fiber, you find yourself trying to select the most efficient fiber connector types for the application you are

The difference between ST, SC, FC, LC fiber optic connectors

ST, SC, and FC fiber optic connectors are standards developed by different companies in the early days. They have the same effect

The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics

NTT FC AT&T ST NTT SC The “FC” or “fiber connector” from NTT (Nippon Telephone and Telegraph) was the first connector to use

Obsolete Fiber Technology? Not in my Data Center!

Centralized Network Architecture (CNA) or “fiber to the desk” was a typical example of a future proof design using fiber optics and

FC | SC | ST | LC | MPO | Fiber Optic Connectors

Optical fiber connector is a device for detachable (movable) connection between optical fibers,It precisely connects the two end faces

Fibre Channel Protocol

Fibre Channel consists of the following layers: FC-0 -- The interface to the physical media FC-1 -- The encoding and decoding of data

Fiber Optic Connector Identifier

More than 100 fiber optic connectors have been introduced to the marketplace, but only a few represent the majority of the market.

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This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

