

# How to determine the reflection at the end of an optical cable



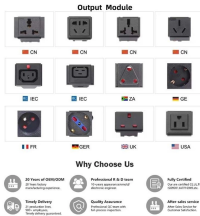
## Overview

An Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) injects optical pulses into a fiber and analyzes the returning backscatter and reflected light. From a single end of the link, it can determine the magnitude and location of loss, detect reflections, and visualize events along the fiber. Reflectance (which has also been called "back reflection" or optical return loss) of a connection is the amount of light that is reflected back up the fiber toward the source by light reflections off the interface of the polished end surface of the mated connectors and air. This is. It is the % of power reflected back in relation to forward power at a particular point in a light path. 8, OptiFiber is able to measure optical return loss.

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This document discusses the limitations on these optical return loss measurements. There is a limit to the range of values that can be measured for optical reflectance. The maximum optical reflectance is ...



Effect of Fiber Types  
Optical Connector ORL Performance  
System Performance Effects  
How to Test ORL  
Solutions to Back Reflections  
Practical Return Loss Testing and Problems  
To reduce back reflections: 1. Remove their source by using low reflection connectors (preferably APC polish) and low reflection (fusion) splices. 2. Do not forget the receiver, which may need a low reflection detector arrangement. 3. Control reflections by installing isolators. 4. There are now inexpensive transmitters available with built-in isol...  
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You will need to know how to isolate sections of a link (e.g. by bending loss using a mandrel, or other), and create a low reflection termination (index matching gel, angled cleave, crushed end, damp finger).



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Return loss quantifies how much optical power is reflected back toward the transmitter due to impedance mismatch along the optical path. In practice, reflectance events come from ...



When talking about fiber, optical return loss (ORL) is one of the key measurements tested in a fiber link. Optical return loss is the amount of light that is reflected back to the source, this ...



Optical Time-Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) is an optoelectronic instrument used to characterize an optical fiber. It can be considered as the optical equivalent of an electronic time ...



Fiber Optic Testing with OTDRs function by sending a short pulse of light into the fiber and measuring the amount of light that is reflected back. In turn, the amount of reflected light is used to determine ...

## Contact Us

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