

Slot Plugs - Recommended Handling Procedures

Application Note

AN3683

Issued: June 2009

Supersedes: April 2002

ISO 9001 REGISTERED

Corning Incorporated is a world leader in manufacturing optical fiber. We take pride in delivering a total quality product that meets our customers' requirements. In continuing the tradition of continuous improvement in fiber handling and manageability, Corning Optical Fiber has developed a small foam insert for the slotted-flange shipping spools to prevent the end of the lead meter from slipping through the spool's slot when processing conditions require removal of the lead meter. This insert will be applied by Corning Optical Fiber and will arrive as part of the package for all shipped fibers.

A number of customers use processing conditions that do not require removal of the lead meter. Leaving the lead meter in place may result in ejection of the slot plug if the lead meter fiber runs through the slot after the fiber is fully wound off the barrel. To avoid this, the slot plug may be removed prior to processing by following the alternate procedure on page 3 of this application note.

For removal of the lead meter, one of the two following procedures should be followed:

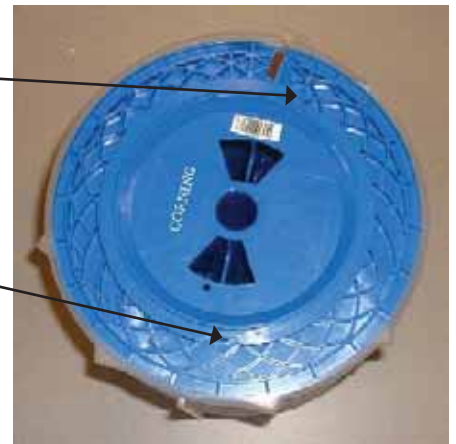
Procedure 1

Removal of the lead meter via "Opening 1" (closest to the slot) or via "Opening 2" (across from the slot).

Procedure 2

Unwrapping of the lead meter

NOTE: In order to protect the fiber from contamination and damage, the spool cover should always remain in place during spool preparation.



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PROCEDURE 1 (Removal of lead meter at Opening 1 or at Opening 2):

Using a sharp knife cut through the full width of lead meter fibers by pressing down on the lead meter ring.

DO NOT PULL UP ON THE LEAD METER

(this may dislodge the slot plug and render it ineffective)



Remove all lead meter fiber including the taped end.



Approximately one inch of lead meter fiber should protrude from the slot.



PROCEDURE 2 (Unwrapping of the lead meter):

Remove the taped end of the fiber and then unwind the fiber from the lead meter ring.



Carefully remove the remaining lead meter length such that only one inch of lead meter fiber protrudes from the slot.



Alternate Procedure –

For processing of the fiber with the lead meter intact, the plug may be removed using an appropriate tool. A rubber or plastic nosed set of pliers is recommended for removal (metal pliers are not recommended, because they increase the risk of damage to the fiber and/or the spool).

REMOVAL OF THE SLOT PLUG



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