

Cleaning the Optical Ports on OWL Fiber Optic Test Equipment

This cleaning procedure applies to all optical ports on all OWL fiber optic test equipment, except for the DETECTOR ports on the following optical power meters:

- › Fiber OWL 4 series (all models)
- › Micro OWL 2 series (all models)
- › Wave Tester series (all models)
- › ZOOM 2 series (all models)
- › Silicon ZOOM 2 (all models)

The detector ports listed above have their own special cleaning procedure (see the included brochure).

The following accessories are necessary for this cleaning procedure:

- › Isopropyl alcohol (91% or better)
- › In-adapter fiber optic cleaning accessories, such as 2.5mm cleaning swabs or 2.5mm HUXCleaner™
- › In-adapter fiber optic inspection scope (200x magnification or greater recommended)
- › Compressed Air (optional)

Below are procedures for “wet” cleaning and “dry” cleaning. For best results, a combination of these cleaning methods is recommended.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE: WHEN INSPECTING AN OPTICAL PORT, NEVER LOOK DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INTO THE PORT WITHOUT SUFFICIENT EYE PROTECTION. THE OPTICAL PORT MAY BE ENERGIZED WITH POWERFUL INVISIBLE RADIATION THAT IS HARMFUL TO THE HUMAN EYE.



INVISIBLE LIGHT IS ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS SINCE THE EYE IS NOT AWARE OF EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL INVISIBLE ENERGY, AND BECOMES INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS WITH PROLONGED EXPOSURE.

TO AVOID ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE TO OPTICAL ENERGY, IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO POWER OFF EQUIPMENT BEFORE INSPECTING OPTICAL PORTS.

“WET” CLEAN PROCEDURE

- STEP 1** Wet the tip of a 2.5mm cleaning swab with isopropyl alcohol.
- STEP 2** Carefully insert the wet tip of the swab into the optical port.
- STEP 3** Clean out the optical port according to the directions provided with the swabs.
- STEP 4** Blow dry the optical port with the compressed air. If compressed air is not available, allow 2 minutes for the alcohol to evaporate.
- STEP 5** Inspect the optical port with the in-adapter fiber optic inspection scope to ensure the port is clear of obstructions.

If the port is still dirty, another round of cleaning will be necessary. You may also want to use a combination of “wet” and “dry” cleaning to achieve best results.

“DRY” CLEAN PROCEDURE

- STEP 1** Carefully insert a dry 2.5mm cleaning swab or a 2.5mm HUXCleaner™ into the optical port.
- STEP 2** Clean out the optical port according to the directions that came with the cleaning accessories.
- STEP 3** Inspect the optical port with the in-adapter fiber optic inspection scope to ensure the port is clear of obstructions.

If the port is still dirty, another round of cleaning will be necessary. You may also want to use a combination of “wet” and “dry” cleaning to achieve best results.

NOTE: this procedure can also be used to clean out the ports in a patch panel or the optical ports in active equipment. When cleaning these types of optical ports, ensure you have read and understand the safety warning shown above.