

Maintenance of Precision Strip Stripping-Blades

Cleaning Procedure and Blade Life

Introduction

AFL's Precision Strip features interchangeable, replaceable stripping blades. These blades are precision formed from high-quality steel to exacting tolerances and insert-molded into a thermoplastic body for easy insertion into the handle assembly. Stripping blades are available in 18 sizes for single-fiber mechanical or thermal stripping and one standard blade size for thermal multi-fiber ribbon stripping. Blade sets are matched and color-coded for easy reference and come with color-coded blade size indicators.

Blade Function

The Precision Strip stripping blades 'score' the protective coating surrounding the fiber cladding. While holding the coating with the blade edge, the coating is removed as the user pulls the cable through the fiber channel of the stripping tool. The blade's 'scoring' action causes coating residue to adhere to the sharp edge. Users should maintain the following blade cleaning procedure to optimize stripping performance and blade life.

Blade Cleaning Procedure

Blade cleaning should be performed after every 10 to 20 uses, with the blade set still installed in the tool. The cleaning step should take about 5 to 10 seconds. Clean between stripping blade halves with the spiral cleaning brush provided. Dip the brush in alcohol to ensure any debris is dislodged and flushed. Dry the blade area with clean air if available (**NOTE:** Blades may also be cleaned with a dry brush after each strip, followed by daily cleaning procedures described above).

A periodic cleaning process (i.e., after every 100 strip operations) should involve removing the blades from the tool. With the blade-assembly tool provided, remove both blades by first removing the color-coded tube lock/blade size indicator with the shovel end of the assembly tool. With the pronged end, line up and insert into holes in the rear of the handle head, ejecting stripping blades from the tool.

Once removed, use the cleaning brush and alcohol to thoroughly clean both sides of each half of the blade plastic, as well as the steel cutting edge and stripping hole. This will dislodge any coating residue that may have built up on the stripping blade. If available, dry the blade area with clean air.

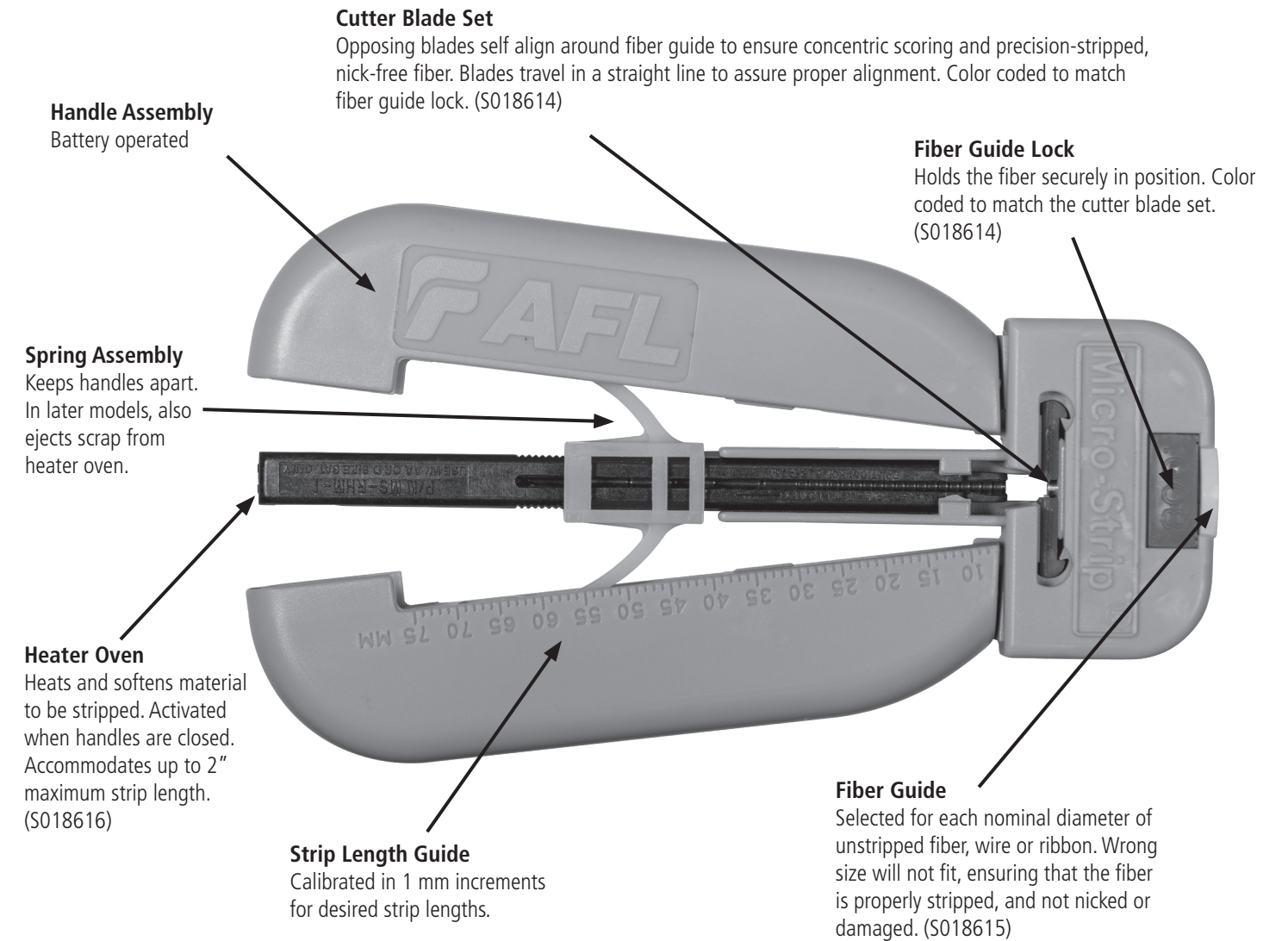
If, after repeated successful strips, the fiber breaks during the stripping operation, take the blades out of the Precision Strip and clean thoroughly. Insert the blade set back into the tool and begin stripping. If the fiber continues to break, the blades need to be replaced.

Blade Life

Blade life will be optimized with the blade and coating guide appropriately sized to the fiber and using the cleaning procedure described above. Blade life will also vary depending on the jacket or coating material being stripped. A blade might typically last several hundred stripping cycles, possibly less or more, depending on the material being stripped and whether the blade is properly cleaned and maintained.

Precision Strip Overview

AFL's Precision Strip is a battery-powered, handheld tool that quickly and easily strips coatings and insulations such as Mylar®, KAPTON®, TEFLON®, PVC and HYTREL® without damage. It features an integral heating element and requires less than a pound of force, ensuring no fiber damage and higher quality splices. Ideal for field splicing work, it offers efficient, precise stripping for optimal performance in fiber optic projects.



AFL's Precision Strip uses 2 AA batteries (traditional alkaline or rechargeable Nickel Metal Hydride) for power. This allows exceptional freedom of movement and portability when stripping optical fibers.

Ordering Information

AFL No.	Description
S018613	Precision Strip 125/900 μm Kit (Battery Powered)
S018614	Precision Strip Replacement 125/900 μm Blades
S018615	Precision Strip Replacement 900 μm Centralizer
S018616	Precision Strip Replacement Heater Cartridge
S018617	Precision Strip Push Out Tool
S018618	Precision Strip Cleaning Brush

Thermal Stripping Procedure

Setup

Install (2) AA batteries.

Heater Oven

Unit is activated when handles are closed. Close handles only when stripping. Check heater operation by closing handles firmly for no longer than 10 seconds. Nose end of heater should be warm to the touch.

After stripping operation, remove heater oven from tool and clean with brush provided. Reinsert, making sure that the heater oven is pushed completely forward toward the blade area and snaps into place. The 2" heater oven area should be visible at front of tool so operator can monitor positioning and preheating of coating.

Stripping Procedure

1. Insert fiber through fiber guide and into heater oven's cartridge slot to desired strip length. Be sure buffered fiber is flat in the oven channel. Otherwise, heater oven movement will cause fiber to buckle up and out of the heating zone (Figure 1).
2. Close handles completely. Blades are precisely aligned for concentric scoring without cladding, core or conductor damage. Heater oven is automatically activated to start softening process. (Figure 2).
3. Keep handles closed 5-10 seconds for optimum softening. Then begin to pull the fiber, slowly increasing pull force until coating releases from the fiber. Remove the fiber from the tool with a smooth, even motion. (Figure 3).

* **NOTE:** Heater unit heats continuously when handles are closed. Do not hold handles closed for longer than 20 seconds. Overheating can damage the tool. Do not touch heater oven while in operation. Allow to cool before removal and cleaning.

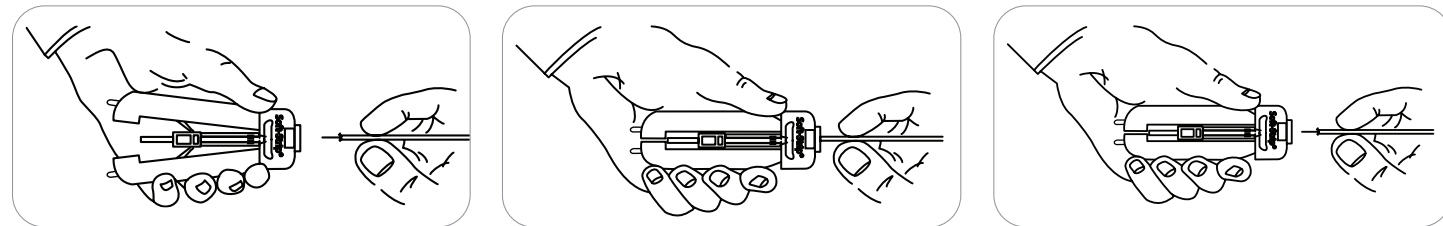


Figure 1

Figure 2

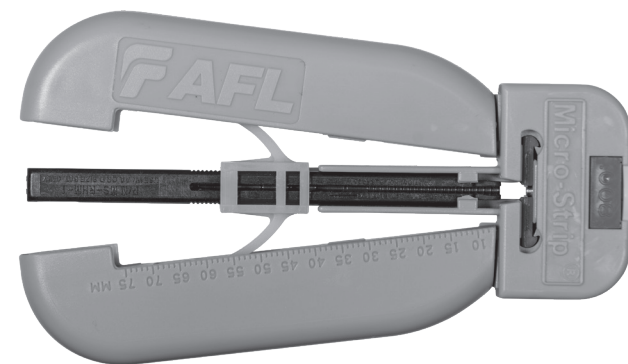
Figure 3



Cutter Blade Set

Fiber Guide

Fiber Guide Lock



For more Precision Strip information and replacement parts, visit www.AFLglobal.com.

Precision Strip Cutter Blade Replacement

To Remove Installed Blades

1. Using flat end of push tool, remove fiber guide lock by pushing out from the back side of tool head.
2. Remove Fiber guide from tool.
3. Using prong end of push tool in small holes on back side of tool head, eject blade set.

* **IMPORTANT!** Do not remove cutter blades while fiber guide is still in tool.

To Install New Blades

Blades are furnished in a matched set for blade precision. Snap apart before installation.

1. Install with "ears" pointing toward top of tool and recess marks visible. Push firmly with flat end of push tool until both blades are seated.
2. Insert fiber guide through hole in top of tool until it stops.
3. Insert fiber guide lock through slot in front of tool head.

* **NOTE:** Blades are color coded and matched to diameter and color of fiber guide lock. Replace or install fiber guide and fiber guide lock as needed. Always test strip fiber after installing new blade set. Remove blades periodically and clean with brush provided and alcohol.

