

Price of Multimode and Singlemode Optical Cables



Article Overview

Singlemode fiber optic cables generally cost \$0.10–\$0.50 per foot, while multimode cables range from \$0.30–\$1.00 per foot, with prices increasing for higher strand counts and specialized constructions.

Singlemode Fiber Optic Cables

Singlemode cables, typically color-coded yellow, have a small core diameter (8–10 microns) and are designed for long-distance, high-bandwidth applications such as campus backbones, metropolitan networks, and telecom systems . Material costs for singlemode fiber range from \$0.10 to \$0.50 per foot for bulk purchases, with retail prices reaching \$1 to \$6 per foot depending on strand count, jacket type, and pre-termination . Singlemode cables require more expensive transceivers but allow transmission over distances of 40–100 km without amplification .

Multimode Fiber Optic Cables

Multimode cables, often color-coded orange (OM1/OM2) or aqua (OM3/OM4), have larger core diameters (50 or 62.5 microns) and are suitable for shorter distances, such as data centers and enterprise LANs . Multimode fiber costs \$0.30 to \$1.00 per foot for bulk purchases, with higher strand counts (12 or 24 strands) increasing the price proportionally . OM3 and OM4 are optimized for high-speed networks, supporting 10G, 40G, and 100G Ethernet, while OM5 supports wavelength division multiplexing for future-proofing

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