

## COMMSCOPE TRI-SHIELD XPRESSPREP™ CABLES

CommScope’s new tri-shield XpressPrep™ cable significantly reduces the time normally required for cable end preparation of tri-shield cables. This is accomplished through an innovative process of bonding the outer tape to the inside of the cable’s jacket. There are slight differences in cable end preparation for the tri-shield XpressPrep cables compared to a standard tri-shield cable. This Tech Tip will provide a set of recommendations on prepping XpressPrep tri-shield to insure consistent results using both universal tooling as well as tri-shield specific tools.

The steps necessary to prep standard design tri-shield cables are shown in Figure 1. The combination of these four steps can nearly double cable preparation time compared to the time required to prepare a cable end of an equivalent XpressPrep tri-shield cable.

With XpressPrep tri-shield, the bond between the jacket and outer tape of the cable eliminates the additional step of tape removal as the tape is removed with the jacket, thereby simplifying the preparation process as shown in Figure 2.

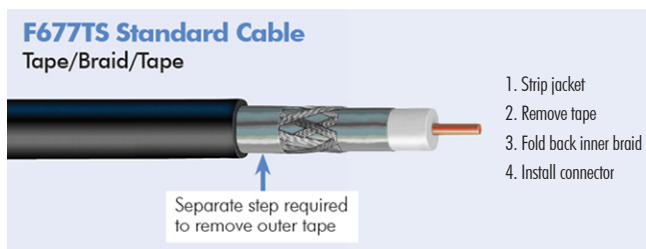


FIGURE 1

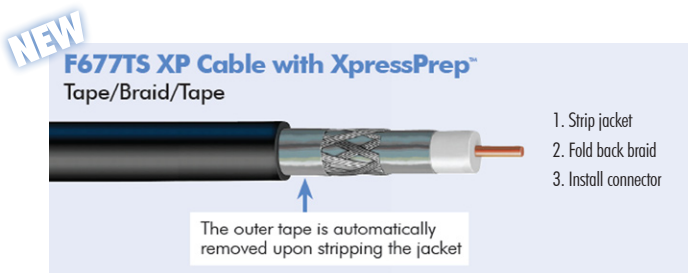


FIGURE 2

The same preparation tools used for standard tri-shield cables can also be used for the XpressPrep tri-shield cables. However, it should be noted that a majority of preparation tools on the market today accommodate cable sizes and constructions

ranging from a F59 series tape/braid to a F6 series quad-shield. This often requires some adjustment in the preparation method used with a tool to ensure the jacket is cut cleanly from the cable end. The XpressPrep tri-shield cable is no different.

Should an installer of a tri-shield XpressPrep cable find that the jacket/tape is not easily removed during cable preparation; the likely problem is a dull blade in the preparation tool. There are several solutions to resolve this:

### Prep Method

The tool is rotated four 360° rotations in one direction, then three 360° rotations in reverse. During the reverse rotations apply moderate pressure over the jaw of the tool instead of freely turning the tool. The illustration demonstrates the prescribed method.

This technique will delay cartridge replacement and effectively remove the jacket and tape. However, the blade will eventually become too dull to cut through both the jacket and outer tape and will have to be replaced.



### Install New Blade

The installer can replace the dull blade (i.e. cartridge) with the same model or type.

### Use of Tri-Shield Specific Blade

The installer can replace the dull ‘universal’ blade with a blade designed specifically for tri-shield cable applications. Tool vendors such as CablePrep (RBC 6590TS) and Ripley (RC EU 250) have replacement cartridges that will fit into the existing preparation tools (The preparation tool itself does not require replacement).

This Tech Tip should ensure that the installer can successfully prepare CommScope XpressPrep tri-shield cables for connectors without difficulty.

For more information, please contact the Broadband Resource Center  
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