

### Factory Stub Crimp Connector

*Time is of the essence.* You've probably heard that saying many times. The emphasis on getting things done faster and more efficiently has produced renewed focus on improving installation processes and procedures. One area that has received a significant amount of attention to reduce time and materials is the installation of fiber optic connectors.

Since the introduction of fiber optic cables, the most widely-used field-terminated connector has been the traditional anaerobic connector. Anaerobic connectors require a bonding agent, primer and polishing as part of the field termination process. In recent years, however, many companies have begun to offer an alternative to field-polished connectors. These new "no adhesive, no polish" crimp connectors feature a mechanical crimp to make fiber terminations faster. CommScope calls these Qwik-LC™, Qwik-SC™ and Qwik-ST™ Connectors.



#### Overview of Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC, and Qwik-ST Connectors

Both the anaerobic and Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors are designed for quick, easy and reliable terminations with a minimum of training. However, Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors do not require adhesive or polishing, and there are no consumables to maintain and no excess epoxy to remove after the installation. While this technology is certainly not new, it has vastly improved during recent years to help make the factory stub crimp connectors, like CommScope's Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors, a more viable option for field terminations.

Advancements in these technologies have improved the overall performance capabilities of "no adhesive, no polish" crimp connectors. In some cases, improvements rival traditional field-polished connectors. The Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors are best suited for indoor or controlled environments and can be used for behind the wall (BTW) applications, rapid repairs or in limited spaces where polishing may be difficult (i.e. fiber to the desk). However, CommScope still recommends that for patch cords, you should use factory-made cords for the best all-around performance.

With a factory polished endface, the CommScope Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors can provide a consistent insertion loss and return loss performance, which exceeds ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-B standards. The overall performance difference between the two types of connector installations depends more on the installer's proficiency than any other criteria. CommScope's Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors have the following characteristics:

- Requires less overall installer training
- Does not require a work surface
- Does not require a VFL for accuracy, which means no power or batteries needed
- Properly trained installers can get performance results equal to that of field-polished connectors
- Controlled end-face geometry for better insertion loss and return loss performance
- Utilizes a precision cleaving tool for consistent angles
- Small tool kit which terminates ST, SC and LC connectors
- No consumables needed for polishing
- No bonding agents needed
- Fast installation time, typically less than 1½ minutes per connection
- Available in 62.5µm, 50µm and single-mode fiber types
- Available in ST, SC and LC connectors
- Sold in convenient bubble packs of 25

### **Conclusion**

While the Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors are a good viable solution for field termination, they may not be the best option for all applications and environments. From a total installed cost standpoint the anaerobic connectors will still be the lowest cost termination, but the Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors are great for those quick 2-12 fiber terminations to the desk or small telecom rooms. The Qwik-LC, Qwik-SC and Qwik-ST Connectors have a good consistent factory polished endface and with moderately trained installers, can give great insertion loss performance. While both termination processes can yield good performance, with properly trained installers, all factors, like environment, longevity of infrastructure, total installation cost, future application support, etc. need to be considered when selecting a connector termination process.



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