Test Equipment



Cable Testing Tutorial

Cable Testing Explained

Cable testing and cable ratings are often not fully understood by those that purchase network grade patch cords and equipment. The type of testing performed and the frequency of that testing is the greatest factor in determining the cost of a cable that you purchase. Sometimes, patch cords that seem to be a good value may not be, due to the usage of low quality components and minimally compliant cable. An explanation of the four most common forms of testing conducted on patch cords can be found in the illustrations below. Each is explained so you can decide what best fits your application and budget. L-com strives



to provide a full selection of cable assemblies for all our customers. To make selection simple, we group our cables into one of three different categories to identify the type of testing done. Certified cables require a test report produced for each assembly. Qualified cables are controlled on a lot basis and do not feature an individualized test report. Rated cables feature all category rated components but only a continuity test is performed. If you need help with your project just contact one of our experts today.

Network Channel Testing

Network Channel Testing is a method used to verify performance from the workstation to the hub/switch including patch cords. Channel Testing is not accurate for individual patch cords. Both installers and IT professionals conduct this type of testing to insure that the entire cable system is capable of handling network traffic. Channel Testing differs from Permanent Link Testing in that it includes the patch cords on both ends of the installation. Often, patch cords are overlooked as the cause of network failures.

Link Testing Permanent

Permanent Link Testing is the preferred method used by installers to certify a cable installation at a customer site. This type of testing verifies the installation by measuring many factors such as cable lengths, NEXT, FEXT and Return Loss. Several certification testers exist on the market including Fluke Networks DSP4300 Series products. This type of tester features a Permanent Link adapter that connects from a workstation outlet to the telecom closet outlet.



Patch Cord Certification Testing

Patch Cord Certification Testing is the best method to insure that the cables will meet all of TIA/ EIA-568-B.2_ Standards for data transmission for Ethernet. The TIA/EIA-568-B.2_ Standard covers many details and requirements for cable quality and performance. This test involves the direct connection of patch cords to a certification tester such as the Fluke Networks DSP4300 Series. The tester will check many aspects of cable performance such as continuity, NEXT, FEXT, and Return Loss. This type of tester along with software provided by Fluke Networks can produce excellent reports for those requiring certification of their cable installation.



Continuity Testing

Continuity Testing is the most basic form of testing conducted on cables. These types of testers look for opens, shorts or crossed connections. For Ethernet, this type of testing does not confirm network transmission capability. The most common mistake in cable pin-out is an EIA568 A to B cross. A simple continuity tester such as L-com's DXB64A can easily find this error without the expense of a certification tester.



Cable Testing Terms

NEXT: Near End Cross Talk. A signal that crosses between twisted pairs or between conductors. NEXT is measured at the transmission end (near end). Measured in dB, failures for this measurement are often caused by termination problems.

FEXT: Far End Cross Talk. Crosstalk that is measured on the conductors that are not being used for transmission at the receiver or far end of the transmission. Measured in dB, failures for this measurement are often caused by termination problems.

Propagation Delay Skew: Used to define the difference in signal speed between the fastest and slowest pair within a cable. It can also define the delay within an individual pair. Must be <45ns for a 4-pair horizontal cable.

Impedance: Measure of the total opposition a circuit offers to the flow of alternating current. Target impedance for UTP and

STP cable is 100 Ohms. This can be affected by the twist of the conductors along with the thickness of the insulation around the conductors. Return loss failures are often caused by cable impedance problems.

Return Loss: The ratio of reflected power to inserted power. It is the measure of the signal reflections occurring along a network cable system. It is often caused by imperfections in the cable conductors, impedance mismatches or bad contacts in a plug or jack.



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"Andrea was a tremendous help to me yesterday, and was very patient and informative. A real pleasure to work with someone competent like her! I'll definitely return when I need more hardware like this." - Jim Hilton, Maximus Coffee Group, LP

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Tips Easy-to-understand tips to help with some of today's popular product applications. L-com.com/Tips

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The AEMC Fault Mapper is a hand-held, alpha-numeric, TDR (Time Domain Reflectometer) Cable Length Meter and Fault Locator, designed to measure the length of electrical and communication cables. It can also indicate the distance to a fault in the cable (open or short), given access to only one end of a two or more conductor cable. By incorporating fast-edge step TDR technology, the CA7024 measures cable length and indicates the distance to open or short circuit faults to a range of 6000 ft (2000m), on virtually any type of cable. The CA7024 indicates the cable length or fault distance and description alpha-numerically on a 128 x 64 graphical LCD. Includes soft carrying case, BNC pigtail cable with alligator clips, four 1.5V AA batteries and user manual AEMC-CA7024 TDR Fault Mapper

AEMC CA7026 Fault Mapper Pro Tele/Coax/Parallel Cable Tester

Description

The Fault Mapper Pro is a hand-held graphical TDR (Time Domain Reflectometer) designed for identifying and locating faults on power and communication cables, given access to one end only. The CA7026 measures cable length and indicates the distance to fault cables and terminations to a range of 11,700 ft (3500m) on virtually any type of cable of two or more conductors. The CA7026 shows a reflection profile of the cable under test as an oscilloscope-like trace on a 128 x 64 pixel graphical LCD. A movable cursor can be aligned with points on the trace; the distances displayed will automatically update the cursor position. Includes soft carrying case, BNC pigtail cable with alligator clips, four 1.5V AA batteries and user manual. AEMC-CA7026 Fault Mapper Pro Tele / Coax / Parallel Cable Tester

AEMC CA7028 Wire Mapper Pro LAN Cable Tester

The Wire Mapper Pro is a hand-held structured cable mapping and troubleshooting tester designed for use on UTP, STP, FTP and SSTP cabling equipped with RJ45 connectors and wired to either TIA568A/B (ISO 11801 and EN 50137), USOC or ISDN specifications. It detects open circuit pairs, shorts, crossed wires, crossed pairs, reversed pairs, split pairs and shield faults. The CA7028 has the ability to measure and indicate the length of the cable under test, using a Vp (Velocity of Propagation) set by the user, from a built-in library or manually. It will measure and report the length of all four pairs of wires in the cable under test. It also generates an audible tone that is transmitted into all four pairs on the cable under test. Includes soft carrying case, remote ID (#1), two patch cords, four 1.5V AA batteries and user manual. Wire Mapper Pro LAN Cable Tester

AEMC-CA7028

Item #

AEMC CA7024 TDR Fault Mapper

Fluke Networks MicroMapper[™] Network Tester

The MicroMapper quickly and easily tests twisted pair cabling, giving you visibility of opens, shorts, crossed, reversed and split pairs. Just push the TEST button and MicroMapper will automatically scan all wire pairs for any existing faults in your cable. MicroMapper's built-in tone generator works with the IntelliTone Probe allowing you to trace cable through walls, floors, and ceilings. The MicroMapper also includes a remote unit that allows one person to test installed cabling or patch cords. The MicroMapper kit includes: MicroMapper and MicroMapper Remote, patch cable, 6-volt alkaline battery and user guide.

FNMT8200-49A FNMT8200-53A Fluke Networks MicroMapper Network Tester Fluke IntelliTone 100 Probe

Fluke Networks IntelliTone 100 Toner and Probe Kit

The Fluke Networks IntelliTone 100 Toner and Probe Kit allows users to quickly identify network ports and cables using digital signaling methods. Simply attach the IntelliTone Toner to a cable and set the sensing mode on the IntelliTone Probe. IntelliTone technology energizes cable conductors with a smart, synchronized digital signal. Multiple tone types occur in the signal that help you to locate, isolate and validate a cable. Includes: IntelliTone 100 Toner and 100 Probe, coax F connector adapter, RJ11 and RJ45 patch cables, test leads with alligator clips, lanyards, owners CD and quick start guide, (2) 9 volt batteries

FNMT8200-50A

Fluke Networks IntelliTone 100 Toner and Probe Kit

Fluke Networks NetTool[™] Inline Network Tester

Fluke Networks NetTool Inline Network Tester comes packed with the features IT professionals need. The NetTool can be connected inline between two network devices, listen to the traffic between them and detect common connectivity problems. The NetTool can also automatically ping key devices to verify connection to routers, servers and printers. Users will be able to spot available network resources by seeing MAC and IP addresses, subnet and services offered by active servers, routers and printers. The NetTool Tester can also look for the common wiring problems by testing for cable length, shorts, split pairs or opens, including pin-to-pin wiremap. Users will be able to download test results to document network performance and generate network resource reports. Includes 4 AA batteries and a 1-year manufacturer's warranty. Fluke Networks NetTool Inline Network Tester

ENT-PRO

Fluke Networks Microscanner2 Cable Verifier

The MicroScanner2 Cable Verifier presents a revolutionary change in voice, data and video cable testing. It starts by taking results from what was four different test modes and displaying them all at once - graphical wiremap, pair lengths, distance to fault, cable ID and far end device. What's more, its integrated RJ11, RJ45 and coax test ports support virtually any type of low-voltage cable testing with no need for awkward adapters. The end result is reduced test time and technician error. That makes high-guality installations more efficient than ever. MICROSCANNER2 Fluke Networks Cable Verifier

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<u>TLS2200</u> 200 system offers the lightweight of a hand-held printer (2.75lbs), while providing the superior capabilities of thermal transfer printing. The Brady printer features a two-line liquid crystal display and produces smear proof, ultra clear print quality and faster output than most other printers on the market. Useful for printing barcodes as well as text and numbers with crystal clear accuracy on labels up to 2 inches wide. This means you can now print labels for wire markers, patch panels, circuit boards, cable markers and more, faster and easier than ever before. Includes a 6-month manufacturer's warranty.									TYPE	FASTER	AND
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