USE AND CARE OF THE OFS QUICK SPLIT TOOL

1. General

1.1 OFS Quick Split tools are used to remove sections of fiber buffer tubes in mid-span splicing applications. The tool is used to slit the buffer tube longitudinally without damaging the optical fibers.

1.2 Each Quick Split tool works on two different tube sizes providing the capabilities of two tools in one. The Quick Split tools are available for nominal tube diameters of 2.0 and 2.5 mm or 3.0 and 3.5 mm.

1.3 Accessing fibers at a mid-span location is easily accomplished using the OFS Quick Split tool. Select fibers in a single tube can be accessed for splicing or testing without disturbing the remaining fibers. Proper use of the tool can eliminate unnecessary fiber or cable cuts, prevent added splice loss, and minimize labor and material costs.

1.4 The Quick Split tool is typically used in branch-splice architectures where only a few fibers in the buffer tube are routed to another location. The tool is also used during emergency "hot cut" or roll-over applications to prevent unwanted fiber cuts

1.5 The following procedure describes the set-up, use, and care of the OFS Quick Split tool. For ordering information, please contact OFS customer service at 888-FIBER-HELP (888-342-3743).

2. Precautions

2.1 Buffer tubes are sensitive to excessive bending, pulling, and crushing forces. Care must be taken when handling the buffer tubes. Improper handling of the buffer tubes may result in broken fibers.

3. Tools and Materials

3.1 The following tools and materials are required to operate and maintain the Quick Split tools.

- 2.0/2.5 mm or 3.0/3.5 mm Quick Split tool
- Spare blades (supplied with Quick Split tool)
- Scissors
- Approved fiber cleaning solvent
- Lint free wipes

4. Tool Description

4.1 The Quick Split tool is comprised of upper and lower body sections (Figure 1). Each section contains a semi-circular groove that runs along the length of the tool. An injector-style razor blade is centered in the

groove and positioned at a preset depth to split the wall of a buffer tube.

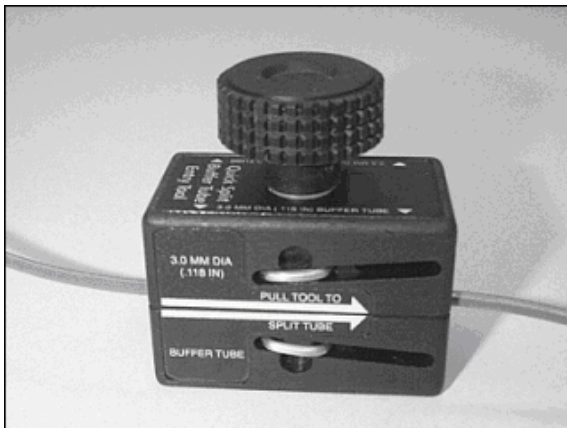

Figure 1 – Quick Split tool.

5. Buffer Tube Splitting Procedure

5.1 Mark the length of the buffer tube to be removed.

5.2 Open the Quick Split tool by turning the thumbscrew counter-clockwise as far as it will turn. Identify the proper slitting groove for your buffer tube as labeled on the side of the tool.

5.3 Position the Quick Split tool with the correct slitting groove facing you. The “pull to split” direction arrows on the side of the tool should be pointing to the right.

5.4 Place the buffer tube into the proper groove and align the tip of the razor blade over the buffer tube mark. Close the tool by rotating the thumbscrew clockwise.

5.5 Pull the Quick Split tool along the tube as indicated by the tool label to the second buffer tube mark (Figure 2).

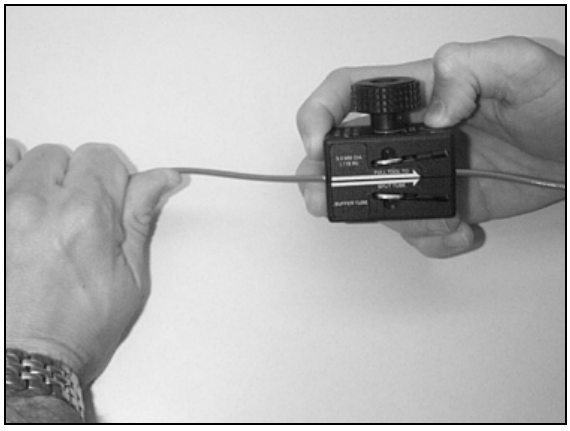

Figure 2 – Slit the buffer tube.

5.6 When the desired length of tube is opened, remove the tool by rotating the thumbscrew counter-clockwise.

5.7 Carefully separate the fibers from the two sections of buffer tube (Figure 3).

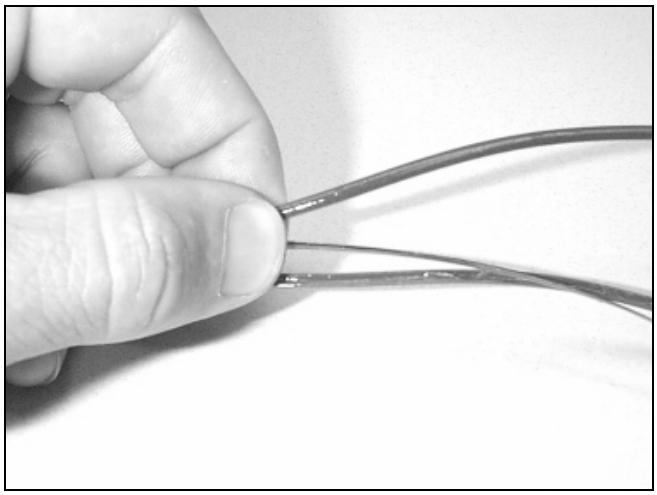

Figure 3 – Separate the fibers from the split buffer tube.

5.8 Carefully cut and remove the two sections of split buffer tube (Figure 4).

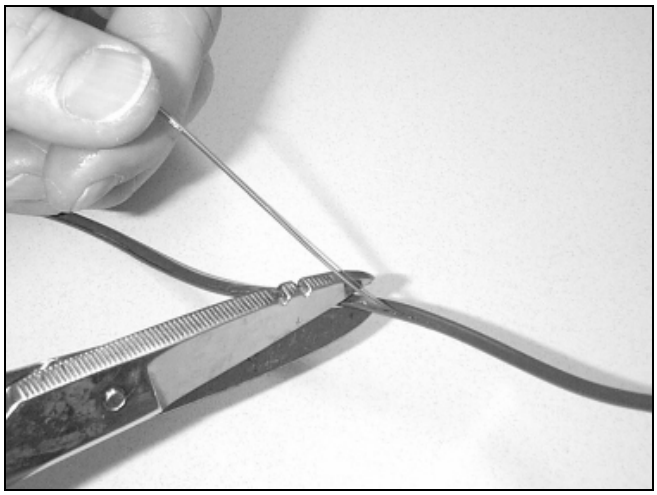

Figure 4 – Cut the two sections of split buffer tube.

5.9 Clean the fibers using lint free wipes and an approved fiber cleaning solvent. The fibers are now ready for testing and/or splicing.

6. Tool Maintenance

6.1 The cutting blades of the Quick Split tool can be removed for reversal or replacement by removing the “U” shaped locking clips on the side of the tool.

6.2 Remove the locking clip by placing a small screw driver behind the center of the clip and pry it out (Figure 5).

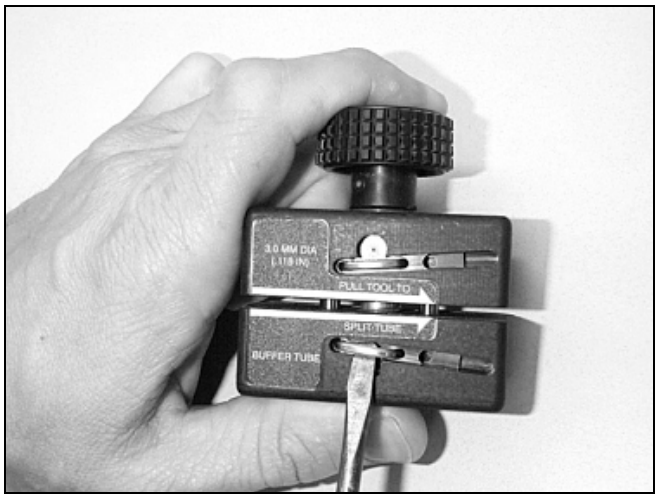

Figure 5 – Remove the locking clip.

6.3 Insert the tip of the locking clip into the elongated slot and push the cutting blade out of the tool (Figure 6).

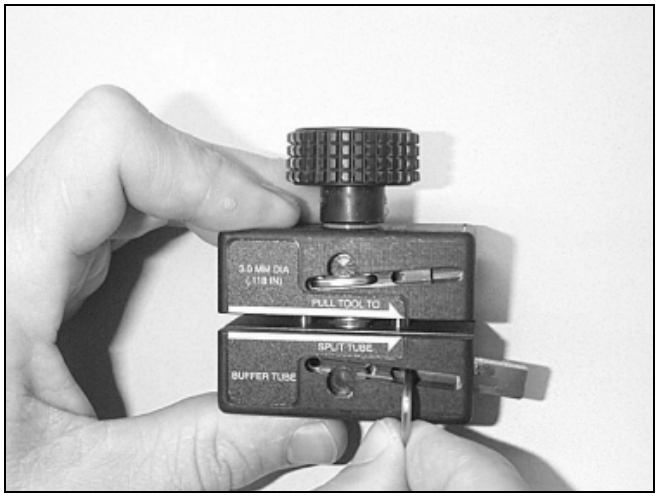

Figure 6 – Slide the cutting blade out of the tool.

6.4 Clean the razor blade grove by sliding a business card or similar item through the grove to remove any dirt or debris.

6.5 Slide a new blade into position in the groove. Position the blade so that the edge of the blade slots align with the locking clip holes.

6.6 Push the locking clip back into the locking clip holes and fully seat the locking clip. The locking clip should be flush with the side of the tool.

6.7 There are no adjustments or replaceable parts other than the cutting blades. The cutting blades are standard injector-style razor blades that can be purchased at most local drug stores.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact OFS customer service at 888-FIBER-HELP (888-342-3743).