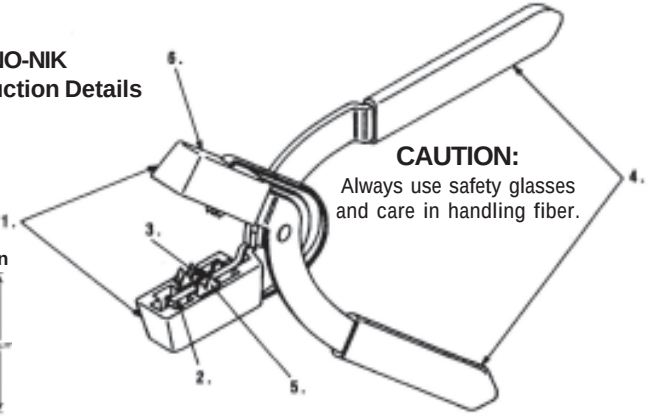
DESIGN FEATURES AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR

Clauss® NO-NIK® Fiber Optic Stripper

Read Carefully BEFORE Using This Tool

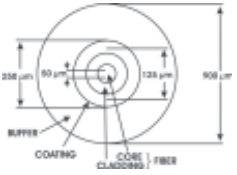
This precision-made Clauss tool will remove buffers from optical fiber before applying fiber optic connectors. NO-NIK Strippers will strip most sizes of optical fiber with absolute reliability. However, efficient fiber stripping is dependent upon the operators's understanding how the NO-NIK operates, selecting the proper tool for a given application and then using the tool correctly. Read these instruction thoroughly before stripping any optical fibers.

NO-NIK
Construction Details



CAUTION:
Always use safety glasses and care in handling fiber.

Figure 1.
Typical Fiber Construction



The NO-NIK Fiber Optic Stripper features color-coded handles, plastic heads, plastic head-centering device, cutting blades, back-up blades, a cutting blade diameter marking and indicating arrow, and handles that are color coded by cutter hole size for easy tool identification.

1. Plastic Heads: Make contact with the fiber buffer, center and support the fiber on both sides of the cutting blades.
2. Head Centering Device: Centers the fiber to enable precise buffer scoring and removal.
3. Back-Up Blades: Support cutting blades in a sandwich; nest positively and "lock-up" when the tool is closed to maintain perfect concentricity.
4. Color-Coded Cushion Grip Handles: Handles are color-coded by size of cutter holes for easy identification, and marked with cutting diameter.
5. Cutting Blades: Fabricated of finest razor blade steel, score the buffer completely around the fiber. (Note that the cutting blades should only score the buffer and NOT CUT COMPLETELY THROUGH IT exposing the fiber.)
6. Indicating Arrow: Arrow indicates direction pressure should be applied when stripping.

Fiber Optic Stripper Selection Chart

Part Number	Tool Cutting Min Diameter (µm)	Handle Color
NN102	102	Navy
NN127	127	Silver
NN152	152	Gold
NN175	175	Mustard
NN203	203	Red
NN254	254	Light Blue
NN305	305	White

Correct Tool Selection

To strip the fiber buffer properly, the operator should be familiar with the NO-NIK Fiber Optic Stripper's components and their functions. Also, the operator should be aware that the fiber construction and the strippability vary from fiber to fiber. The typical construction of a tight-buffer fiber is shown in Figure 1. While the buffer on some fibers may be loose and easily removed, other fibers may have a much tighter buffer, allowing only small lengths of buffer to be removed at a time. As the operator gains experience by using the NO-NIK Fiber Optic Stripper with a variety of fibers, removing the buffer will become easier. Proper utilitization of the NO-NIK Fiber Optic Stripper to not cause damage to the fiber requires first selecting the proper tool for your application using the following steps:

1. Determine the diameter of the fiber to be stripped, and then select a tool with a cutting blade diameter marginally larger in size using the chart on the opposite page.
2. Because the type of buffer material surrounding the fiber and its method of construction can affect proper tool selection, check your selection by inserting the fiber between the plastic head centering devices of your tool. Allow approximately 1/4" of fiber to protrude out the side of the tool.
3. Score the buffer by exerting light hand pressure on the tool handles. Very little pressure is required. DO NOT OVER SQUEEZE! (Through practice, you will obtain a "feel" for the tool and know just how much pressure must be exerted.) As the inner blade of the tool closes, the cutting blades score the buffer completely around the fiber while the plastic heads are held apart by the buffer. **NOTE:** that the plastic heads DO NOT COMPLETELY CLOSE!

The NO-NIK tool is designed in this manner and attempting to exert sufficient pressure to close them could bend the handles, rendering the tool useless.

4. Strip the buffer from the fiber while continuing to squeeze and pull in the direction of the indicating arrow on the head of the tool.
5. Carefully examine the fiber for any nicks or scratches. If any are found, or if the fiber has broken, the cutting diameter of the tool you used was probably too small. Try the next larger size NO-NIK and repeat steps 2-5 until you select the correct size NO-NIK.

Stripping Procedure

1. Open the tool and carefully pull each plastic head back to be sure that the cutting area is free of any foreign materiel. Perform this step frequently while the tool is in use.
2. After a visual inspection of the cutting area of the tool, hold the tool with the marking on the tool head facing up. The arrow on the tool head should face the fiber end.
3. Open the tool with one hand ONLY.
4. Hold the buffered fiber very tightly between the thumb and the forefinger. Place the tool on the fiber, making sure to insert the fiber though the "vees" in the plastic heads. The tool should be perpendicular to the fiber, and the fiber should extend through the other side of the tool approximately one-quarter inch.

NOTE: *If the buffer is very tight on the fiber, a small piece of lapping film, one-half inch wide by one inch long, held between the thumb and forefinger will give additional holding power.*

5. Gently squeeze the handles until the tool bottoms. Hold the handles in this position.
6. While holding the buffered fiber tightly, pull the tool along the fiber, toward the fiber end.

Operating Tips: If the fiber strips easily, longer strip lengths (up to 3/4") are possible. Given sufficient practice and skill, using the fiber-stripping tool will provide accurate stripping of optical fiber. To strip the fibers consistently:

- Hold the fiber tightly.
- Pull the tool as straight as possible toward the fiber end.
- Do not try to remove too much buffer at one time.
- Clean the tool after each strip by pulling back on each plastic head, then letting the head snap back into position. If the fiber breaks during the stripping procedure, check for debris in the plastic head. This debris may prevent proper tool operation.
- Be sure to clean the blade area of the tool thoroughly after each use. Before storing the tool, remove any debris that has accumulated in the cutting area.

Important

All metal and Kevlar® shielding must first be removed from buffer before using the NO-NIK fiber optic stripper. The cutting blades operated in a stationary or fixed position by pressure alone will not cut through certain types of materials. A Clauss Kevlar® Shears will remove the Kevlar shielding.

Also, if the fiber is not sufficiently concentric within the fiber, or the insulation itself has become distorted, satisfactory stripping results might not be possible. When used according to instructions, the NO-NIK will strip fiber precisely with no damage to the fiber.