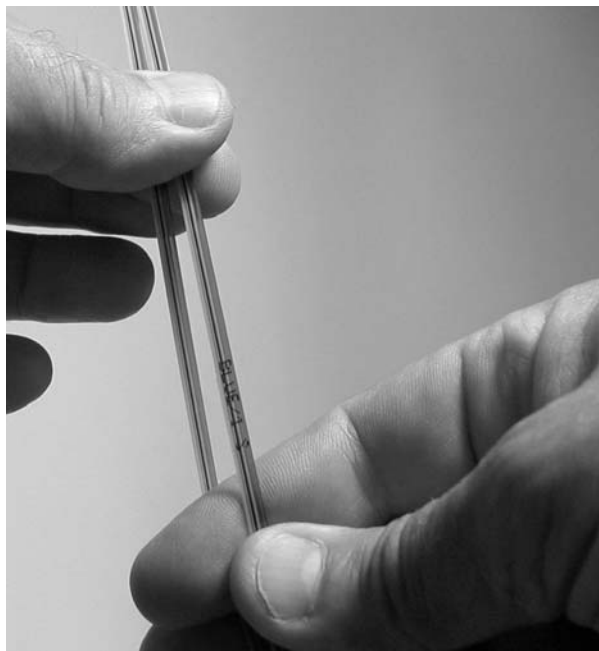




Procedure For Splitting Prysmian 24 Fiber Ribbons



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The practices contained herein are designed as a guide. Since there are numerous practices which may be utilized, Prysmian has tested and determined that the practices described herein are effective and efficient. The recommended practices are based on average conditions.

In addition, the materials and hardware referenced herein appear as examples, but in no way reflect the only tools and materials available to perform these evaluations.

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1.0 GENERAL

This procedure provides information on a method that should be used to separate Prysmian's 24 fiber ribbon into two 12 fiber ribbons. Prysmian's 24 fiber ribbons are designed to be separated without the use of any tools. The procedure described in this document describes both end and mid-span access.

2.0 PROCEDURE FOR END AND MID-SPAN ACCESS

Fold the ribbon in half using the technique illustrated in Figure 2.1. For end access, fold the ribbon about 1" to 3" from the free end. For mid-span access fold the ribbon at the point mid-span access is required. This operation is critical to the separation procedure so make certain that the ribbon is folded exactly in the center between the blue and aqua fibers.

Once the ribbon has been folded, grasp the folded section between the thumb and forefinger of one hand as shown in Figure 2.2. Do not attempt to split the ribbon apart at this time.

Now, place the thumb and forefinger of the other hand on the section of the ribbon that is already folded and fold the ribbon for the total length that must be split (Figure 2.3). This will crease the 24 fiber ribbon in the center and ensure a smooth separation. In fact, at this point the ribbon may already be fully split through part of its length.

Take a split section of the ribbon and position it so that one of the 12 fiber ribbons is below and one above the forefinger of one hand and held in place by the thumb (Figure 2.4). (If the ribbon is not split at this point, a quick reverse bend will split it.) Then grasp the ribbon between the thumb and forefinger of the other hand. Slide the forefinger down the length of folded ribbon to the end of the original crease. The ribbon will separate cleanly on either side of the forefinger (Figure 2.5).

The 12 fiber units are now ready for splicing or single fiber access.



Figure 2.1: Folding the 24 Fiber Ribbon



Figure 2.2: Grasping the Folded Ribbon

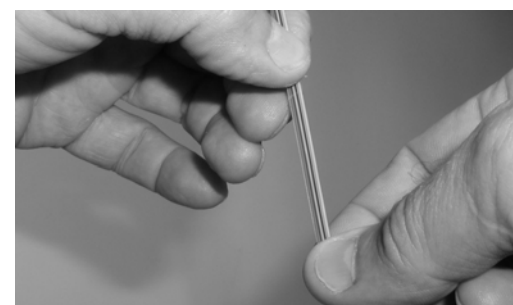


Figure 2.3: Folding the Complete Ribbon Lengthwise

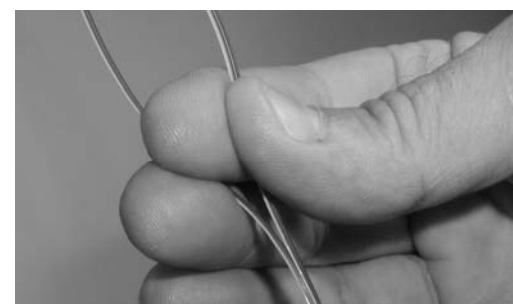


Figure 2.4: Positioning the Slit Ribbon Around the Index Finger



Figure 2.5: Separating the Ribbon