How to use the optical cable laying reel



Overview

Insert the crank handle into the side of the reel and wind the cable onto the reel. Note: If equipped with the spring rewind or cable guide options, see special instructions below.

Key Takeaways

Operating an optical cable laying reel requires careful setup, controlled payout, and adherence to tension and safety guidelines to prevent cable damage.

Preparing the Reel

Inspect the reel and cable for any damage before use. Check flanges, bolts, and the cable itself, and contact the manufacturer if any defects are found. Position the reel on solid, level ground or a trailer.

Ensure the reel is upright and aligned with the direction of cable deployment. Do not lay the reel on its side or slide it with a forklift. Secure the reel using chains or a reel stand to prevent tipping.

If using a stationary reel, ensure it is firmly anchored.

Cable Payout

Follow the directional arrow on the reel flange when rolling or paying out cable to prevent unraveling. Remove the cable tail from the outer flange, leaving about one foot to allow smooth payout. Cut off excess as needed while maintaining this free length.

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Use a cable guide or capstan to control the cable path and prevent tangling. For duct installations, ensure the duct is proofed and the minimum bend radius is respected. Control tension during payout.

For outside plant cables, limit tension to the manufacturer's recommended maximum (e.g., 600 lbs for standard cables) and use a breakaway swivel if pulling through ducts. Adjust payout speed according to conditions. A person should monitor the reel and coordinate with the puller to maintain smooth deployment, reducing speed if necessary.

Reel Operation TypesHand-crank or spring rewind reels: Turn the crank or allow the spring mechanism to control cable retraction. Ensure the drum brake is adjusted to prevent uncontrolled spinning. Stationary reel method: The reel remains fixed while the cable is pulled through blocks or guides along the route.

Moving reel method: The reel is transported along the route, paying out cable as it moves, typically used when vehicles can follow the majority of the cable path.

Safety and Maintenance

Protect the cable from sharp bends, crushing, or excessive tension to avoid optical signal degradation. Store reels properly within the recommended temperature range and avoid exposure to moisture or direct sunlight for extended periods. Tighten reel bolts periodically during deployment, especially after pauses, to maintain structural integrity.

Use barricades or cones when laying cable on pavement to prevent damage from traffic. Inspect cable after installation for any kinks, twists, or damage before final connection. By following these steps, you can safely and efficiently operate an optical cable laying reel while minimizing the risk of cable damage and ensuring smooth deployment.

Article Content

Fiber Optic Cable Reel User Manual

Insert the crank handle into the side of the reel and wind the cable onto the reel. Note: If equipped with the spring rewind or cable guide options, see special instructions below.

How to use Tactical Optical Cable Reel Optic Fiber

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Cable Placing Checklist and Handling: Squirting, Tangling ...

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This Applications Engineering Note (AE Note) addresses common issues regarding cable pay-off during outside plant installations known as cable squirting, cable tangling during payoff, and

Optical Fiber Cable

All Fiber Optic Cable reels should be stored upright Laying the reel on its side may cause damage to the reel flange and/or cause the cable layers to shift – This may cause cable to snag during de-reeling.

Laying Optical Fibre Cable || Machines and Industry

In this video we show, how otical fibre cables are being layed underground and installed. Optical fibre cables are used to bring superfast internet to your home or office.

Lashed Aerial Installation of Fiber Optic Cable

Leave cable reel packaging on the cable reels until they arrive at the cable site. If the packaging has been previously removed, securely fasten the cable end(s) to avoid damage during transit.

GENERAL FIBRE OPTIC CABLE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

In the first place, the cable reel should be mounted on a reel carrier off a cable trailer or aerial line truck. Next, the reel carrier should be driven along the cable route.

INSTALLING OPGW—QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

AFL provides detailed installation instructions on proper techniques for installing OPGW cable. Please review the document (WI-0298 Rev 1) before proceeding with installation.

The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics -Outside Plant Construction ...

Inspect the cable reel for signs of excessive weathering and/or damage. Reels must be transported or stored with their battens intact. Do not accept delivery of an optical fiber cable if the reel is visibly

Handling, Transportation and Storage procedure for Optical Fiber

This procedure shows the complete information of how to handle, transport and store the “Optical Fiber Cable Drums”. These guidelines can apply to all types of Optical Fiber Cables.

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