

Prices of pigtails and fiber optic patch cords



Overview

12-Strand SC APC Singlemode Pigtail 1.2m, 4-Pack | 12F SC/APC singlemode fiber pigtails, 9/125um, low insertion loss.

Key Takeaways

Fiber optic pigtails are generally less expensive per unit than patch cords, but total cost depends on installation, splicing, and network requirements. Key Differences Affecting Price

Pigtails are short fibers with a factory-polished connector on one end and a bare fiber on the other, designed for fusion splicing into permanent network links. They are typically used in ODFs, terminal boxes, or closures and are thinner with a single connector, which makes them cheaper per unit compared to patch cords. Installation requires splicing equipment and skilled labor, which can add to overall deployment costs, but they save time and reduce loss in high-density setups. Patch cords are fully terminated cables with connectors on both ends, thicker protective jackets, and are ready for plug-and-play connections between devices or panels. They are used for device-to-ODF, ODF-to-ODF, or cross-connects and are more flexible for dynamic network changes. Patch cords are generally more expensive per unit than pigtails due to the dual connectors, factory testing, and protective materials.

Factors Influencing Cost

- Connector Type: LC, SC, ST, or E2000 connectors affect pricing; APC variants are usually more expensive than UPC.

- **Fiber Type:** Single-mode (SMF) fibers are typically more costly than multimode (MMF) fibers, especially for long-distance or high-speed applications .
- **Jacket Material:** LSZH, PVC, or armored jackets influence durability and price; patch cords often have thicker jackets than pigtails .
- **Length:** Patch cords are sold in standard lengths (1-10 meters or more), and longer cords increase cost, whereas pigtails are usually short (0.5-1 meter) and cheaper per piece .
- **Installation Costs:** Pigtails require splicing labor and equipment, while patch cords are plug-and-play, which can offset the lower unit cost of pigtails in total deployment cost .

Practical Pricing Insight

- **Pigtails:** Lower unit cost, ideal for permanent spliced connections, cost-effective in high-density ODFs.
- **Patch Cords:** Higher unit cost, essential for flexible, tool-free connections, and quick network reconfiguration. Summary: While pigtails are cheaper per unit, the total cost depends on splicing labor and equipment. Patch cords are more expensive upfront but reduce installation complexity and are better for dynamic networks. Choosing between them should consider network design, connector type, fiber type, and long-term maintenance .

Article Content

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Fiber-Mart provides fiber optic cables, patch cords, pigtailes and cable assemblies in singlemode & multimode. 15-year manufacturer,

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Fiber Patch Cords & Pigtaails: LC, SC, OS2/OM4 | PHILISUN

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