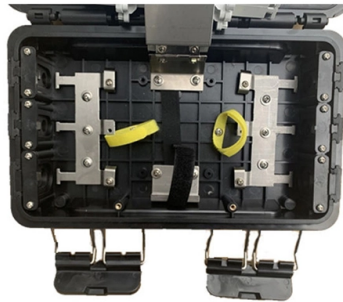


Optical Module Dual-Head vs Single-Head



Article Overview

Dual-head (duplex) optical modules use two fibers for separate transmit and receive channels, while single-head (BiDi) modules transmit and receive over a single fiber using different wavelengths.

Overview

Dual-Head (Duplex) Modules Dual-head optical modules, also called duplex modules, use two separate fiber strands: one for transmitting data and one for receiving data . This design simplifies signal separation and reduces crosstalk, making it easier to set up and maintain. They are widely used in traditional network deployments where fiber availability is not a constraint. Duplex modules are compatible with both single-mode and multi-mode fibers and are ideal for short- to long-distance links, depending on the fiber type . **Single-Head (BiDi) Modules** Single-head or BiDi (bidirectional) modules use a single fiber for both transmitting and receiving signals by employing different wavelengths for each direction . This approach saves fiber infrastructure and reduces cabling costs, which is particularly beneficial in data centers or existing networks with limited fiber availability. BiDi modules are more complex in design because they require wavelength multiplexing and demultiplexing, but they maintain reliable communication over short to medium distances .

Key Differences

Feature	Dual-Head (Duplex)	Single-Head (BiDi)
Fiber Usage	Two fibers (Tx and Rx separate)	One fiber (Tx and Rx on different wavelengths)
Setup Complexity	Simple, straightforward	Slightly more complex due to wavelength management
Cost	Higher fiber usage, potentially higher cabling cost	Lower fiber usage, cost-effective for limit...

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