Instructions for Using and Maintaining Jacket Stripping Tools from Cable Prep®

Cable Prep® Jacket Stripping Tools (JCS series) are used to strip the outer jacket from hard-line cables. Note that there are different tools in the JCS series for stripping different types of cables, including TX, PIII, T10, MC^2, CommScope double-jacketed, and QR. Tools for TX and T10 cables also work on PIII cables. The jacket stripper for QR cables is included with the Cable Prep SCT stripping/coring tool and need not be purchased separately.

Each tool comprises a tool body and a cutting blade. Note that the body, which is made of anodized aluminum to protect against the elements, has a smooth end and a knurled end that facilitates a firm grip. The blade has perpendicular cutting edges, a unique design feature that lifts the jacket as it cuts, ensuring a smooth, clean cut without scoring the underlying conductor.

The JCS tools include an integral guide sleeve, which, except for QR tools, is color-coded based on the size of the cable to be stripped. The color of the guide sleeve matches the guide sleeve of the corresponding Cable Prep stripping/coring tool. The part number stamped on the body of the tool identifies the type of cable for which the tool was designed. To match tools with types of cable, see the Ordering Information section of this website.

Note: The jackets on QR cables should be stripped only after the cable has been cored and the center conductor cleaned. Use the jacket stripper provided with the appropriate Cable Prep SCT-QR tool. See the "Strip/Core Tools for QR" page of this website for instructions on how to strip QR cables.

To strip the outer jacket of all non-QR cables:

1. Ensure that the JCS tool is clean and free of debris. Use BioChem Systems Cable ClearÂ® cleaning solution, available from Cable Prep, to clean the tool if necessary.
2. Mark the cable jacket at the point where the stripping operation is to stop - at approximately 4 inches.
3. Slip the smooth end of the tool (the end opposite the color-coded guide sleeve) over the end of cable.
4. With the end of the cable facing you, rotate the tool clockwise, using slight pressure to push the tool onto the cable until the blade engages and begins to cut the jacket. Continue to apply pressure and to rotate the tool in the same direction.
5. When you have reached the desired stop point, disengage the tool by rotating it in the same direction without applying pressure. The jacket will be cut off cleanly at this point.
6. Pull the tool back, and remove it from the cable.
7. If the cable jacket is flooded, clean off the floodant with the Cable Clear cleaning solution.

Now strip back the outer conductor and core the dielectric using a tool from the Cable Prep SCT series.

TECH TIP: An out-of-round cable may cause scoring of the outer conductor as you begin to strip the jacket. When this happens, use the hex wrench provided to loosen and remove the screw that holds the JCS blade to the tool body, and then remove the blade. Remove the spring washer from the top of the blade, and place it under the blade. Replace the blade, tighten the screw, and return to stripping the jacket. Be sure to place the spring washer back in its normal position when finished.

TECH TIP: As the tool approaches the point where the stripping is to stop, grab the cable with your free hand, which will act as a stop point for the stripper.

To maintain tools in the JCS series:

Keep your JCS tools free of debris and clean them regularly with the Cable Clear cleaning solution, available from Cable Prep.

Although Cable Prep blades are made of hardened tool steel for long life and easy cutting, they may need replacing after extended use. Order the Cable Prep JCS maintenance kit that includes a replacement blade, as well as a new screw, spring washer, and hex wrench for your convenience.

To replace blades in the JCS series:

1. Loosen the hex screw that secures the blade to the body. Remove the blade and discard it - along with the screw and spring washer - in a proper receptacle.
2. Insert the new screw through the new spring washer and through the hole in the new blade, such that the washer is on top of the blade and the "V" of the blade is facing out.
3. Place the blade into the tool body, and use the hex wrench provided to tighten the screw. No further adjustment is necessary.