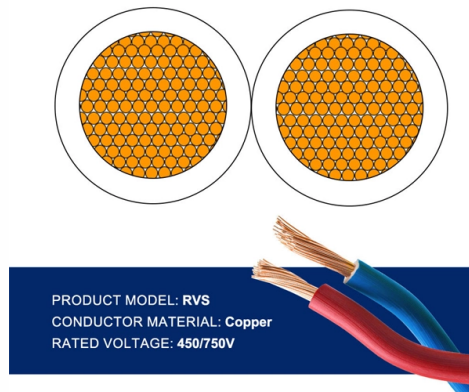


FTTH Dedicated OTDR Test Module Selection



Overview

Complete OTDR Testing Guide | ZION OTDR Learn how OTDR testing works and compare ZION OTDR models to choose the best tester FTBx-730D | PON FTTx | Splitter.

Key Takeaways

Selecting the right OTDR module for FTTH requires balancing wavelength support, dynamic range, pulse width, and modular compatibility to ensure accurate PON and fiber network characterization. Key Considerations for FTTH OTDR Modules



1. **Wavelength Selection:** For FTTH networks, an OTDR should support dual wavelengths of 1310 nm and 1550 nm for single-mode fiber testing. For live network monitoring, additional wavelengths like 1625 nm or 1650 nm may be required to avoid service disruption while testing active fibers . Multimode fibers for LAN or short-range links typically use 850 nm and 1300 nm. 2. **Dynamic Range:** Dynamic range determines the maximum measurable distance and signal clarity. For FTTH/PON networks, a 35–40 dB dynamic range is recommended to detect splices, connectors, and splitters accurately . Always select an OTDR with 5–8 dB headroom above the expected total link loss to ensure reliable measurements. 3. **Pulse Width and Resolution:** Pulse width affects the trade-off between distance and resolution. Short pulses provide high resolution and small dead zones, ideal for closely spaced events like splitters in PON networks. Long pulses allow testing longer distances but increase the dead zone, which may obscure closely spaced events . 4. **Dead Zones:** The event dead zone and attenuation dead zone are critical for FTTH, where splitters and connectors are closely spaced. Choose OTDR modules with short dead zones to accurately characterize each event without overlap . 5. **Modular and Handheld Platforms:** Modular OTDR platforms, such as EXFO's FTBx-700C/730C series, allow integration of additional modules like optical loss testing, chromatic dispersion, and inline power meters, providing flexibility for both installation and troubleshooting . Handheld OTDRs are preferred for field technicians due to lightweight, rugged designs and tablet-inspired interfaces for ease of use. 6. **PON Optimization:** For FTTH networks with splitters, select OTDR modules optimized for high-resolution splitter measurement (up to 1x128) and equipped with in-line 1490/1550 nm power meters to troubleshoot live networks without service interruption . 7. **Calibration and Maintenance:** Ensure the OTDR module is calibrated annually and supports automatic averaging and multiple pulse selection to improve trace quality and measurement repeatability .

Practical Recommendations

- Short-distance FTTH (

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There are a wide number of OTDR models available, addressing different test and measurement needs—from very simple fault

OTDR

An optical time-domain reflectometer (OTDR) can detect bends, breaks, or distortions in fiber cables by measuring the cable's length

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