

Instructions for Using and Maintaining Armor Removal Tools from Cable Prep®



Cable Prep® Armor Removal Tools (ART series) are used to strip the exterior armored jacket from CommScope® PIII, QR, and Cable Guard® direct-burial cables, leaving them in their standard unarmored form. Using these tools, which are designed only for CommScope cables, is much faster and safer than using a knife for this operation.

Each ART tool comprises a tool body and a cutting blade. The tool's part number is stamped on the body. There is a different tool for each cable type and size.

The tool body is made of anodized aluminum to help protect it from the elements and is color-coded to indicate use with specific sized cables. Note that the body has a knurled end to ensure a firm grip and a smooth end, where the cutter is located.

To strip armor from a CommScope cable:

1. Ensure that the tool is free of debris, floodant, and other foreign material. To clean the tool, use BioChem Systems Cable Clear^Å® cleaning solution, available from Cable Prep.
2. Place the knurled end of the tool onto the end of the cable, and grip the knurled end of the tool.
3. Applying slight pressure, pull the tool towards the cable and rotate the tool clockwise, such that the cutter engages and bites into the armor.
4. Continue to rotate the tool body until the desired amount of armor has been stripped from the cable. Note that the blades, which are made of hardened tool steel for long life, have perpendicular cutting edges. This unique design lifts the armor as it is being removed, ensuring a smooth clean cut, without scoring the underlying conductor.
5. To stop the strip-back action and cut the armor from the cable, place your free hand around the cable at the stop point and continue rotating the tool without applying pressure.
6. Remove the tool by sliding it back off the end of the cable.
7. Remove excess floodant from the cable using the Cable Clear solution.

At this point, you can continue preparing the cable with the appropriate SCT stripping/coring tool, together with the "Gator" tool, all from Cable Prep. See the corresponding Tech Guides on this website for proper use of these tools.

To maintain tools in the ART series:

Keep your Armor Removal Tool free of debris, and clean it regularly with the Cable Clear cleaning solution, available from Cable Prep.

Although Cable Prep blades are made of hardened tool steel for long use, the ART blade may need replacing after extended use. Order the Cable Prep ART maintenance kit that includes not only a replacement blade, but also a new screw, spring washer, and hex wrench for your convenience.

To replace blades in the ART 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.