



Fiber Optic Technical Notes

Email: TechSupport@SticklersCleaners.com

Different Fiber Optic Cleaning Swabs Compared

Many companies provide fiber optic cleaning swabs of different sizes, shapes, materials and purity. The Sticklers™ CleanStixx™ are among the best in the industry when compared in an apples-to-apples analysis. The attached chart is an effort to document the many differences in the cleaning swabs: sizes, materials, residues, and so on.

For more details, visit www.SticklersCleaners.com and search for “CleanStixx” and other terms in the Frequently Asked Questions.

MICROCARE CORPORATION

595 John Downey Drive, New Britain CT 06051 USA
Tel: 860.827.0626 Fax: 860.827.8105 In North America, dial: 800.638.0125
On the Web: www.MicroCare.com MicroCare Is ISO 9001:2000 Registered

Property	Sticklers™ CleanStixx™	Fabric-wrapped Swab	Foam Swab
Tip Construction	Molded, seamless, sintered polymer	Woven, double seamed micro-denier fabric	Wrapped, open-cell, expanded foam with exposed radial edge on length of sidewall
Conformability	Sintered material has inherent tip elasticity and pliability to permit conformance and uniform contact to all types of ferrule end geometries.	Woven fabric has internal solid elastic backing to permit fabric conformance and irregular contact to ferrule end face	Wrapping process compresses foam strip against handle end causing inconsistent contact to ferrule end face.
Cleans Entire End-Face (Not Just Contact Area)	Yes	Marginal	Erratic results from inconsistent shape
Active cleaning or absorbency capabilities by compression and recovery of tip pore structure	Strong	No	Weak
Material Purity	Cleaning tip contains no blowing agents, binders or adhesives. No outgassing	Cleaning tip consists of layers of woven fabric with adhesive binders	Cleaning tip consists of expanded foam made with blowing agents; residues commonly found
Absorbency	High	High	Medium
Abrasiveness	Low	Medium	Low
Dimensional Consistency	Excellent	Poor	Moderate
Handle Material	Clear polypropylene tube	Solid, rolled-fiber rod	Clear polypropylene tube
Tip Bonding Method	Mechanical Crimp	Adhesive/glue	Thermal/Heat set
Cleaning Tip Stand-off	Handle provides tip stand-off clearance, keeping tip away from potentially contaminated surfaces when set down	Tip has no stand-off and contacts directly with contaminated surfaces when set down.	Tip has no stand-off and contacts directly with contaminated surfaces when set down.
Does Handle Geometry Prevent Stick "Rollaway" When Set Down	Yes. Handle has tabs on both ends to prevent "rollaway" without contaminating cleaning tip.	No. Surface of cleaning tip serves as means of preventing "rollaway"	No. Surface of cleaning tip serves as means of preventing "rollaway"
Solvent Resistance	Excellent, no physical effect	Good, possible adhesive diffusion/decomposition	Possible outgassing and foam cell decomposition
Patented	Patented	Patented	Various
Cleans Ferrule Sockets	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cleans Ferrule Plugs	Yes	No	No
Shelf Life	No	No	Yes (Materials yellow with age)
Sizes Available	2.5, 2.0/1.6, 1.25mm	2.5, 1.25mm	2.5mm

Rev. 7/15/2003